

ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE RAPTURE

a.) The Word “Rapture” Isn’t in the Bible

- ✓ The word “Bible” isn’t in the Bible, either! But you’re holding one. (You won’t find the words “sovereignty” or “trinity” in the Bible. Those words may not appear, but the concepts are there.)

1 Thess. 4:17 – “... we which are alive and remain shall be caught up.”

- ✓ Latin: “Rapere”. Greek: “Harpazo” – to be snatched away ... (13x)

b.) The Early Church Didn’t Teach It

- ✓ They Say: “The Rapture is a very new idea. No one even *heard* of it, until it was introduced by John Darby in the 1830s.”

Irenaeus (100’s) – “In the end, the Church shall be suddenly caught up, and then there shall be tribulation such as has not been since the beginning ...” (*Against Heresies* 5:29)

Bishop of Carthage (200’s) – “Do you not give God thanks ... that by an early departure you are taken away, and delivered from the shipwrecks and disasters that are imminent? Let us greet the day which assigns each of us to his own home, and snatches us out, and sets us free from the snares of the world.” (*Treatises of Cyprian*)

Ephraim (300’s) – “For all the saints and the elect of God are gathered, prior to the Tribulation that is to come, and are taken to the Lord, lest they see the confusion that is to overwhelm the world.” (*The Byzantine Apocalyptic Tradition*, p. 210)

Matthew Henry (1704) – “At, or immediately before this rapture into the clouds, those who are alive will undergo a mighty change.” (*Complete Commentary*, Note at 1 Thess 4:17)

c.) It Just Doesn’t Sound Like Something God Would Do

- ✓ Enoch – Heb. 11:5 – “Enoch was caught up and transferred to heaven

without experiencing death; and he wasn’t found, because God took him.”

- ✓ Paul – 2 Cor. 12:2 – “I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knows;), such an one caught up (harpazo) to the third heaven.”
- ✓ John – Rev. 4:1 – “After this, I looked and saw a door that opened into heaven. Then the voice that had spoken to me at the first, that sounded like a trumpet said, ‘Come up here!’”.
- ✓ The Two Witnesses – Rev. 11:12 – “And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up here. And they ascended ...”

d.) The Rapture is “Escape Theology”

- ✓ You say that like *escaping* is a bad thing! There are many positive “escapes” in Scripture:
- ✓ Missing Hell – Matt. 23:33 – “You serpents, you brood of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?”
- ✓ Noah’s Ark – Gen. 7:7 – “Noah and his family entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood.”
- ✓ Lot Leaving Sodom – Gen. 19:22 – “Run there quickly and escape!”
- ✓ Paul’s Shipwreck – Acts 27:44 – “... it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land.”
- ✓ Temptation – 1 Cor. 10:13 – “God will ... make a way of escape ...”
- ✓ The Tribulation – Luke 21:36 – “Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things ...”

e.) Why Do You Think That *YOU* Shouldn’t Be Persecuted?

- ✓ The Rapture isn’t about escaping *persecution*, it’s about escaping

God's wrath! (The Tribulation is God pouring out His wrath on a Christ-rejecting world, and we haven't been appointed to wrath – 1 Thess. 5:9-10, Nahum 1:2)

The Most Important Things About the Rapture

1.) What Happens at the Rapture?

- ✓ My mom passed away 16 years ago. She's been in Heaven with Jesus, ever since (2 Cor. 5:8). If the Rapture happened today, how would it look from her perspective?

1 Thess. 4:13-14 – “Now, brothers, we want you to know the truth about those who have died; so you won’t mourn like others who don’t have any hope. We believe that Jesus died and was raised to life. We also believe that when Jesus comes back, he will bring with him all those who had faith in Jesus before they died. (CEV)

I can tell you this directly from the Lord: that we who are still living when the Lord returns will not go to meet him ahead of those who are in their graves. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise first. (Resurrection)

Then we which are alive and remain will be caught up together with the resurrected ones, to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” (1 Cor. 15:51-52)

2.) The Speed of the Rapture

1 Cor. 15:51 – “Behold, I show you a mystery; We will not all sleep (die), but we shall all be changed, In a **moment**, in a twinkling of an eye ...”

- ✓ **Greek** – “A moment of time so small that it can’t be further divided.”
(Well then, how far can time be divided?)
- ✓ **Millisecond** – a thousandth of a second, **Microsecond** – millionth of a

second, Nanosecond – a billionth of a second, Attosecond – a quintillionth of a second, Zeptosecond – a sextillionth of a second, Yoctosecond – one septillionth of a second, Planck Time – 10^{-44}

- [illegible]

3.) How Will the World Explain the Disappearances?

- ✓ Short answer: We don't know. All we can do is speculate. 2 Thess. 2:11 talks about a "strong delusion" that causes people to believe "the lie". So, there's a lie – a story they spin – to explain it away. If I was to make an educated guess, I'd say it will probably have something to do with UFO's and aliens.

*"... for many years now, many among the New Age movement have received messages from aliens and spirit guides that **Mother Earth will soon cleanse herself by "ejecting" all those with bad vibratory patterns to another realm** ..." (New World Order: Prophecies from Space, Channeled by the Ashtar Command.)*

"Many beings must move on, for their thought patterns are of the past. They hold on to these thoughts that keep Earth held back." (Kay Wheeler, "The Time is Now", Connecting Link Magazine, Spring 1994, Issue 23, p. 34.)

"Our rescue ships will be able to come in close enough in the twinkling of an eye to set the lifting beams in operation in a moment. This will be the method of evacuation. Mankind will be lifted, levitated shall we say, by the beams from our smaller ships. These smaller craft will in turn taxi the persons to the larger ships overhead, high in the atmosphere, where there is ample space and quarters and supplies for millions of people. The Great Evacuation will come upon the world very suddenly."
(Project World Evacuation, Thelma Terrell.)

"The people who leave the planet during the time of Earth changes do not fit here any longer ... When the time comes, millions of people leave the planet at one time ..." (Bringers of the Dawn, Barbara Marciniak.)