

“Seven years that will change the world!”

Part 2: “The Rapture!”

Matthew 24:29-31; Revelation 7:1-17;
I Corinthians 15:50-58; I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Introduction: The words “caught up,” in I Thessalonians 4:17, are from the Latin word, “*raptura*,” from the Greek word, “*harpazo*,” which means to “snatch or take away.”

Matthew 24:15, 21-22, 29-31:

The Church will endure the Great Tribulation that will take place from the middle of the last seven years until the Rapture.

As certainly as Jesus has already delivered believers from the wrath of God against sin by His death and resurrection, He will gather His people to Himself BEFORE the “Day of the Lord!”

There is a better option than fear and anxiety! Seeing your life in the context of God’s plan and rejoicing in your Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ!!

I. The certainty of the Rapture ...

I Thessalonians 4:13-18: “*Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air ...*” (vs. 17).

Matthew 24:29-31:

These passages should be enough to correct the idea that the “Rapture” is either imminent or secret.

I Corinthians 15:50-57:

Titus 2:11-14: “*... waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ...*” (vs. 13).

II. The purpose and timing of the Rapture ...

The purpose of the Rapture is simple: deliverance from the wrath of God! (I Thessalonians 5:9)

Revelation 3:10:



The Rapture must occur AFTER the great tribulation, but BEFORE the pouring out of God’s wrath ... and that is precisely the order of events in **Revelation 6-8!**

Matthew 24:29 ... Revelation 6:12-17: “*When He opened the sixth seal ... the sun became black ... the full moon became like blood, and the stars of the sky fell to earth ...*” (vss. 12-13).

I Thessalonians 5:1-4:

It is “*the Day of the Lord*” that is the time of God’s wrath.

Isaiah 13:6, 9-13; Ezekiel 30:1-3; Joel 1:15, 2:1-2, 11; Amos 5:18-20:

Zephaniah 1:14-18: “*The great ‘day of the Lord’ is near ... a day of wrath is that day ...*” (vss. 14-15).

Revelation 6:16-17: “*... ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come ...’*”

Revelation 7:1-8 ... 9-17: “*After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude ... standing before the throne and before the Lamb ...*” (vs. 9).

The Rapture takes place AFTER the opening of the sixth seal, but BEFORE the opening of the seventh seal.

Matthew 24:27, 30:

The unmistakable sign of Jesus’ coming for His Church: LIGHT!!!

Matthew 24:36-41, Luke 17:26-30:

Matthew 24:32-35:

III. The preparation for the Rapture ...

Matthew 24:42-51: “*Who then is the faithful and wise servant ...? Blessed is that servant whose Master will find so doing when He comes*” (vss. 45-46).

A true profession of faith in Jesus Christ will be accompanied by a godly way of life ... an obedient way of life, for Jesus is Lord!!

II Peter 3:11-14: