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THE RAPTURE
What and When? – Part 8



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What is the Rapture?




1. An important doctrine
2. Distinct from the Second Advent
3. Catching away of all living believers (1 Thess 4:17)
4. Reunion (1 Thess 4:14-16)
5. Resurrection (1 Cor 15:50-54)
6. Exemption from death (1 Cor 15:51, 54-56)
7. Instantaneous (1 Cor 15:52)
8. Mystery (1 Cor 15:51)
9. Imminent (1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)
10. Traditional doctrine now being recovered

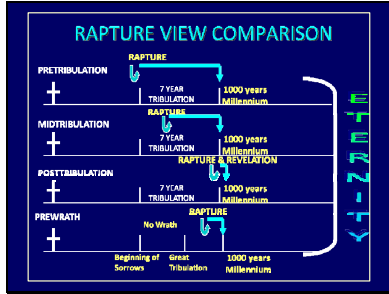
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When Will the Rapture Take Place Relative to the Tribulation Period?

- Pre-tribulation rapture theory
- Mid-tribulation rapture theory
- Post-tribulation rapture theory
- Pre-wrath rapture theory
- Partial rapture theory



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- ### When is the Rapture?
- 7 Arguments Favoring the Pre-Tribulation View
1. Tribulation's purpose concerns Israel (Jer 30:7; Dan 9:24)
 2. No biblical reference to the church on earth during the Tribulation period (Rev 4-22)
 3. Church is promised an exemption from divine wrath (1 Thess 1:10; 5:9; Rom 5:9; Rev 3:10; 6:17)
 4. Rapture is imminent (1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)
 5. Rapture is a comfort (1 Thess 4:18)
 6. Antichrist cannot come to power until the restrainer is removed (2 Thess 2:6-7)
 7. Symbolic parallels (2 Peter 2:5-9)

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Promised Exemption from Divine Wrath


- The promise (1 Thess 1:10; 5:9; Rom 5:9; 8:1; Rev 3:10)
- Tribulation = divine wrath/anger (Rev 6:16-17; 11:18; 14:10; 15:1, 7; 16:1, 19; 19:15)



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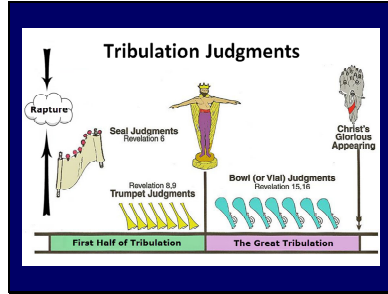
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God's Role in Redemption (Rev 5)

- Seven sealed scroll (5:1)
- John weeps (5:2-4)
- Christ is qualified to open the scroll (5:5-6)
- Christ takes the scroll (5:7)
- Christ praised by various entities (5:8-14)



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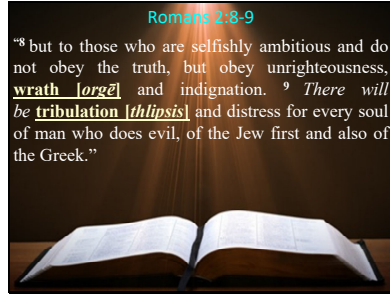
- 1st Six Seals (Revelation 6)
1. 6:1-2 – Advent of antichrist
 2. 6:3-4 – War
 3. 6:5-6 – Famine
 4. 6:7-8 – Death
 5. 6:9-11 – Martyrdoms
 6. 6:12-17 – Cosmic disturbances
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Rev. 6:16-17
Robert L. Thomas, *Revelation 1-7: An Exegetical Commentary*, ed. Kenneth Barker (Chicago: Moody, 1992), 457-58.

"Mankind in his rebellion correctly analyzes the cosmic and terrestrial disturbances as a part of the great end-time day of wrath from the one sitting on the throne and from the Lamb. The verb *ēlethen* ("has come") is aorist indicative, referring to a previous arrival of wrath, not something that is about to take place. Men see the arrival of this day at least as early as the cosmic upheavals that characterize the sixth seal (6:12-14), but upon reflection they probably recognize that it was already in effect with the death of one-fourth of the population (6:7-8), the worldwide famine (6:5-6), and the global warfare (6:3-4). The rapid sequence of all of these events could not escape notice, but the light of their true explanation does not dawn upon human consciousness until the severe phenomena of the sixth seal arrive."

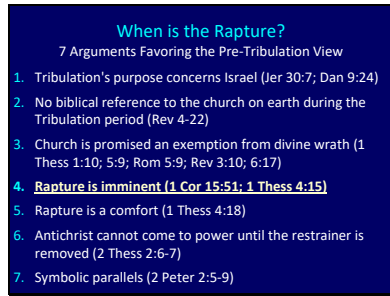
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Imminent
(1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)

- Imminency definition
- James 5:8; 1 Thess 1:10; 1 Cor 1:7; Philip 3:20
- We are to be looking for Jesus Christ; not the Antichrist!
- Motivator (Holiness, Evangelism)

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1 Thessalonians 4:13-18


¹³ "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who . . .



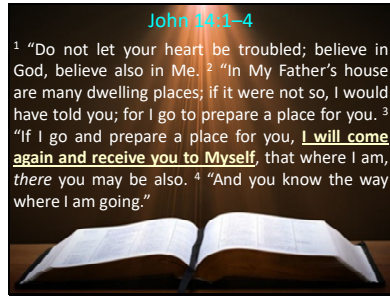
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1 Corinthians 15:51

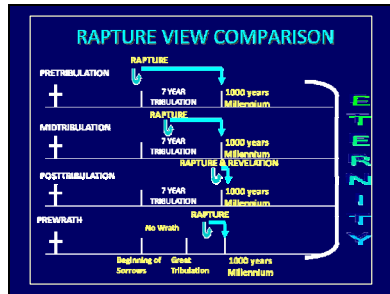
"Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed."



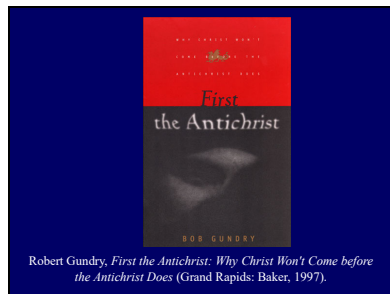
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John 14:1-4


¹ **“Do not let your heart be troubled;** believe in God, believe also in Me. ² “In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³ “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also. ⁴ “And you know the way where I am going.”



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¹³ “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who . . .



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1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

... have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words."



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Titus 2:13


"Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus."



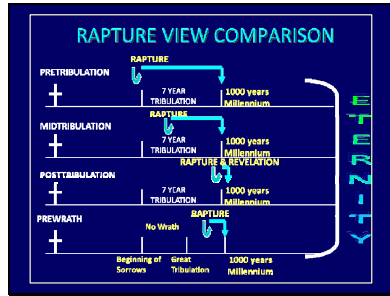
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Comfort


- John 14:1; 1 Thess 4:18; Titus 2:13
- Other rapture views are not comforting since they place the church into divine wrath



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Donald Grey Barnhouse
Cited in Mark Hitchcock, "An Overview of Pretribulation arguments," online www.pst-trib.org, accessed 27 August 2013, 29-30.

"Jesus may come today, Glad day! Glad day!
And I would see my friend; Dangers and troubles would end
If Jesus should come today. Glad day! Glad day!
Is it the crowning day? I'll live for today,
nor anxious be, Jesus, my Lord, I soon shall see;
Glad day! Glad day! Is it the crowning day?"

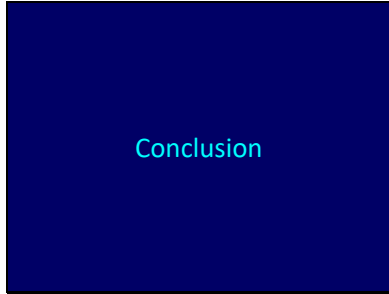
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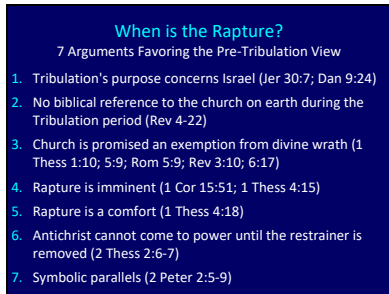
Donald Grey Barnhouse
Cited in Mark Hitchcock, "An Overview of Pretribulation arguments," online www.pst-trib.org, accessed 27 August 2013, 29-30.

By way of parody, Dr. Barnhouse also pointed out that if the midtrib or posttrib advocates sang this song, it would instead have to say: "Jesus can't come today, Sad day! Sad day!
And I won't see my friend; Dangers and troubles won't end
Because Jesus can't come today. Sad day! Sad day!
Today is not the crowning day? I won't live for today,
and anxious I'll be, The Beast and the False Prophet I soon shall see,
Sad day! Sad day! Today is not the crowning day?"

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3

1 Thess. 1:10- and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who rescues us from the **wrath** to come.

1 Thess. 5:9- For God has not destined us for **wrath**, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom. 5:9- Much more then, having now been justified [a]by His blood, we shall be saved from the **wrath** of God through Him.

Rom. 8:1-Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Rev. 3:10-Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

Rev. 6:16-17- and they *said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the **wrath** of the Lamb; ¹⁷ for the great day of their **wrath** has come, and who is able to stand?”

Rev. 11:18- And the nations were enraged, and Your **wrath** came, and the time *came* for the dead to be judged, and *the time* to [k]reward Your bond-servants the prophets and the [l]saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth.”

Rev. 14:10-he also will drink of the wine of the **wrath** of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

Rev. 15:1-Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels who had seven plagues, *which are* the last, because in them the **wrath** of God is finished.

Rev. 15:7- Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the **wrath** of God, who lives forever and ever.

Rev. 16:1- Then I heard a loud voice from the ^[a]temple, saying to the seven angels, “Go and pour out ^[b]on the earth the seven bowls of the **wrath** of God.”

Rev. 16:19- The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the ^[l]nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of ^[m]His fierce **wrath**.

Rev. 19:15-From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce **wrath** of God, the Almighty.

Rev. 5:6-7-And I saw ^[g]between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a **Lamb** standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. ⁷ And **He came and took the book** out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

Rev. 6:1-Then I saw when **the Lamb broke one of the seven seals**, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, “Come^[a].”

John 16:33- These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have **tribulation**, but take courage; I have overcome the world.

2 Tim 3:12- Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be **persecuted**.

Rev. 2:10-Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will

be tested, and you will have **tribulation** for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Eph 6:11-12- Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For our **struggle** is not against ^[a]flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

John 15:18-19--¹⁸ “If the **world hates you**, ^[a]you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.

4

James 5:8-You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is **near**.

1 Thess. 1:10- and to **wait for His Son** from ^[a]heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

1 Thess 4:15-For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that **we** who are alive ^[a]and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

1 Cor 1:7-so that you are not lacking in any gift, **awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ**.

1 Cor 15:51-Behold, I tell you a mystery; **we** will not all sleep, but we will all be changed.

Philip. 3:20-For our ^[m]citizenship is in heaven, from which also we **eagerly wait for a Savior**, the Lord Jesus Christ.

5

John 14:1-Do not let your heart be **troubled**; ^[a]believe in God, believe also in Me.

1 Thess 4:18- Therefore **comfort** one another with these words.

Titus 2:13-looking for the **blessed hope** and the appearing of the glory of ^[a]our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.