

What about the “Rapture”???

Introduction

It seems there is disagreement among just about every Bible scholars, preacher, teacher, pew dweller, etc ..., whether the rapture is pre, mid, or post tribulation; and also, whether there is, or shall be such a thing as “a rapture”.

In my mind the Scripture support at least two raptures that have already occurred, even if we discount the ascension of Jesus. God provided Enoch and Elijah of the Old Testament, their personal, “rapture”. Call those two incidents by any name; if we believe (not prove or disprove) Scripture to be the word of God, then those individuals were taken out of their respective societies, in a way that was not consistent with any others of their day.

Now it is a completely different matter if we do not believe the Scripture to be the inerrant word of God, and decide for ourselves which parts are true; which results in a different/ another approach to the subject of “God”. And there are those that take this approach! But, for the true believer it must be that Scripture verifies Scripture like nothing else, anywhere. And our task is to do all we can to comprehend it with the help of the Holy Spirit. Produce as many reference materials as are available; the Scriptures/ the Word of God/ the Judeo-Christian Holy Bible, rightly divided, should be the believer’s final authority.

Otherwise, the individual will be continually looking for verification, or as the Apostle Paul put it, “carried about with every wind of doctrine” (Refer to Ephesians 4:14), although there is nothing inherently wrong with reference materials. But the Scriptures must have final authority, Amen!

The “Rapture” of the Saints before Tribulation from God

When we think of tribulation, we need to understand that there are two sources. The one source is that which the race of man experiences continually because of Satan, sin, the world, and evil. The other, not so common source is the tribulation we see from God in the Book of Revelation, when God brings His wrath to bear upon Satan, the world, and unrepentant sinners of the human race (i.e., not saved by the blood of the Lord Jesus). These entities oppose the right authority of God in His universe/ creation. His authority is “right/ righteous” because He created everything, but Satan and those with him want their authority above that of God!

Now, there are Scriptures that tells us the saints of God shall not experience the wrath of God!!!

Rom 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Rom 5:2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Rom 5:3 And not only *so*, but we glory in tribulations (*commonly caused by Satan, sin, the world, and evil*) also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

Rom 5:4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

Rom 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Rom 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

Rom 5:7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

Rom 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Rom 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him (*Jesus*).

1Th 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

1Th 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

Therefore, when tribulations come upon the world as a result of the wrath of God talked about in the Book of Revelation, we would expect that the saints would have been taken out of the way?? Thus, the need for “the rapture”!!!

1Th 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep (*or died committed to Jesus*), that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

1Th 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him (*Jesus*).

1Th 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

1Th 4:16 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:

1Th 4:17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up (*rapture*) together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1Th 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Tribulation(s) Resulting from the wrath of God

Rev 6:12 And I beheld when he (*Jesus the Lamb*) had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

Rev 6:13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

Rev 6:14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

Rev 6:15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

Rev 6:16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

Rev 6:17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

The opening of this sixth seal reveals the beginning point of tribulations and the wrath (anger) of God. Therefore, true followers/ believers of the Lord Jesus Christ are taken “the rapture” out of the way that they should not experience the wrath of God.

After the rapture, remaining inhabitants on earth recognize that the events of 6:12 through 6:17 are due to the anger of God and there is no place of escape. These are they that rejected the love of God according to John 3:16.

The Saints are now seen praising before the Throne of God

At this time the Church has been taken up since Revelation 6:12; likely, under cover of that “great earthquake”, and saints are now in the throne room in heaven praising God, which means a rapture has taken place.

Rev 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

Rev 7:10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

Rev 7:11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and *about* the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

Rev 7:12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, *be* unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Rev 7:13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

Rev 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came (*escaped?*) out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Rev 7:15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

Rev 7:16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

Rev 7:17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Harvest of Converts to Christ Jesus after the Reign, and Mark of the Beast

This suggests a rapture in addition to that of Revelation 6:12. Let’s just look at Revelation Chapter 14:

Rev 14:6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

Rev 14:7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Rev 14:8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

Rev 14:9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive *his* mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

Rev 14:10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

Rev 14:11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

Rev 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here *are* they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Rev 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed *are* the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Those dead or living that were converted to the Lord Jesus Christ during the tribulations period from Revelation Chapter 8 unto this Chapter (14), and did not receive the mark of the beast (the man of sin) are reaped/ harvested unto heaven. These are caught up/ rapture to heaven at this time; and yes, this would indicate another rapture taking place.

There is disagreement among just about every Bible scholars, Preacher, Teacher, etc ... whether the rapture is pre, mid, or post tribulation; and also, whether there is such a thing as "a rapture". I believe we should consider both the pre-tribulation rapture in Revelation 6:12 and a mid-tribulation rapture here in Revelation 14:14 through 14:16 because:

Pre-tribulation -

The saints are in heaven before the throne of God in Revelation 7:9 through 7:17. Then the seven trumpets of judgment takes place in Revelation Chapters 8 through 13 and;

Mid-tribulation -

We see here that converts/ saints are reaped from earth just prior to execution of the great winepress of the wrath of God, which are the seven last plagues upon earth (see Revelation Chapters 15 and 16).

Rev 14:14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud *one* sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

Rev 14:15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him (*Son of man, Jesus*) that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

Rev 14:16 And he (*Son of man, Jesus*) that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped (*of the saints*).

Next ...

The angels of God reap/ harvest those not converted to the Lord Jesus Christ into the great winepress of the wrath of God as described in Revelation Chapters 15 through 20:3, and Revelation 20:7 through 20:15.

Anyone that is in the earth at that time shall be in the great winepress of the wrath of God.

Rev 14:17 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

Rev 14:18 And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.

Rev 14:19 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast *it* into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

Rev 14:20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand *and* six hundred furlongs.

Finally ...

The safest approach to whether there shall, or shall not be a rapture is to say, Lord help me to see the truth. But, even if I miss the mark, I trust you according to your mercy by Christ Jesus to keep me safe.