

## I. Let’s get some quick perspective

A. The anticipation of a bodily resurrection after life on earth pervades the entire Bible.

In the oldest book of the Bible, Job declares: “I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; And after my skin is destroyed, I know that in my flesh I shall see God; Whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!” **Job 19:25-27**

- B. Bible Teaches us to Expect Him at ANY Moment – This is the **DOCTRINE OF IMMINENCY** (Not to be confused with “immanent” or “eminent”). **THE Next event on prophetic calendar THE RAPTURE**  
**1Ths 4:13-18** Trump God / Voice Archangel / “WE” includes Paul / See also **1 Ths 5** and note the pronouns: The Holy Spirit has given us a *very clear distinction* between “you, us, we, etc.,” versus “they, them, those, etc.” **Rom 11:25**  
 Then Israel’s eyes w/b opened following the Rapture of the Church / Only Jews and Gentiles left – both unsaved
- C. Since the Medieval Church (Roman Catholic & Protestant), many have held to the view that the “Rapture” of the Church and the “Second Coming” of the Church are somehow the same. Yet there seem to be *many* indications that these are distinct and separate. The Primary matters of confusion and debate over the what and when of the Rapture, Second Coming and Millennial Kingdom, seem to hang on **differences of understanding over Ecclesiology more than matters of Eschatology**

Rapture & Second Coming Passages

| <u>Rapture</u>   | <u>Second Coming</u> |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Jn 14:1-3        | Dan 2:44-45          |
| Rom 8:19         | Dan 7:9-14           |
| 1 Cor 1:7-8      | Dan 12:1-3           |
| 1 Cor 15:1-53    | Zech 14:1-15         |
| 1 Cor 16:22      | Mt 13:41             |
| Phil 3:20-21     | Mk 14:62             |
| Col 3:4          | Mt 24:15-31          |
| 1 Thess 1:10     | Mt 26:64             |
| 1 Thess 2:19     | Mk 13:14-27          |
| 1 Thess 4:13-18  | Lk 21:25-28          |
| 1 Thess 5:9      | Acts 1:9-11          |
| 1 Thess 5:23     | Acts 3:19-21         |
| 2 Thess 2:1 (3?) | 1 Thess 3:13         |
| 1 Tim 6:14       | 2 Thess 1:6-10       |
| 2 Tim 4:1        | 2 Thess 2:8          |
| Titus 2:13       | 2 Pet 3:1-14         |
| Heb 9:28         | Jude 14-15           |
| Jas 5:7-9        | Rev 1:7              |
| 1 Pet 1:7, 13    | Rev 19:11-20:6       |
| 1 Jn 2:28-3:2    | Rev 22:7, 12, 20     |
| Jude 21          |                      |
| Rev 2:25         |                      |
| Rev 3:10         |                      |

## II. “Pattern is Prologue” – The Jewish wedding model establishes an important pattern for understanding the Rapture of the Church vs. Christ’s Second Coming.

- \*\*The Betrothal (*ketubah*) – Bride price paid / Bride was set apart (sanctified) / Typically 1-year of betrothal (Isa 61:1,2)  
 \*\*Bridegroom departs to Father’s House – / builds an addition to Father’s House / Bride prepares for His *imminent* return  
 \*\*All this preceded the imminent return of Bridegroom immediately prior to Bridal Chamber (*huppah*). Prior to entering the huppah, the Bride was kept from seeing the Bridegroom face-to-face / 7-day Marriage Supper followed

- A. But Israel will be preserved Mk 13:14-31; or Mt 24:15-35 Not written to church (we’ll be gone) / Very Jewish Israel preserved in PETRA Zech 12:10 Israel will accept Messiah Remember that “Pattern is Prologue” in the study of Jewish Scriptures and literature
- B. Great world leader (antichrist) w/b revealed after rapture 2Ths 2:6-8 Don’t bother trying to figure out who he is. He’ll confirm covenant with Israel for 7 years Dan 9:27a Temple will be rebuilt / Then short, relative peace Rev 6
- C. After 3½ years, he’ll declare himself to be God Dn 9:27b 2 Ths 2:3,4  
 Enters tmpl / declares himself to be God / demands to be wshpd Begins the “Time of Jacob’s Trouble” Jer 30:7  
 Mt 24:21 “Gfct Tribulation – unequaled from the beginning of earth until now / NEVER to be equaled again.”

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IV. People ask: “Where’s word ‘rapture’ in Bible? It’s not in English Bible

English wd is Caught up / Greek wd is Harpazo / Latin is Raptus – rapturo

Enoch 1<sup>st</sup> man raptured Jude 14,15 Enoch gave 1<sup>st</sup> rcrdd prphcy @ the coming judgment  
 Prophesied @ coming flood / Also @ final jgmt (1000’s His holy ones)

Purpose of the Judgment: 1 To judge everyone 2 To convict the ungodly

## V. 2 Peter 3 “Scoffers in the Last Days”

1. Nonbelievers who reject it all as fantasy
2. “Christians” who deny the truth of the Word

**PRINCIPLE:** Scripture says God *has judged* and also that He *will judge*.

**v5,6** “By **God’s Word**... earth was destroyed....”

**v7** “By **God’s Word** ... earth is reserved for fire....”

**CONCLUSION:** God’s Word demands the coming judgment... “of ungodly men...”  
**NOT THE RIGHTEOUS!**

## VI. Noah’s Flood 3 Classes of People

Those destroyed in the flood Wicked, completely obliterated  
Those preserved thru the flood Protected... God provided for them  
Those taken out before the flood Removed entirely from the earth – alive

## VII. Seven HARPAZOs in the Bible (Wd *harpazo* used in 4 of them\*\* implied in Rev 4:1,2)

Enoch (Gen 5); Elijah (2Kg 2);

Philip\*\* (Acts 8:39); Paul\*\* (2Cor 12:4); John (Rev 4:1,2); Jesus\*\* (Rev 12:5); Church\*\* (1Ths 4:17)

Rapture is a concept God has used at least 7 times in Scripture, and also promised many times more

## VIII. Promises of the Rapture in the Old Testament:

**Isaiah 26:20,21** **Cp to Jn 14:1-3** Believers only – Judas was gone

**Zeph 2:3** **Psalm 27:5**

## IX. Pattern is Prologue Hosea 12:10 “I’ve spoken to my prophets in similitudes (figures of speech)...”

**Let’s get back to Enoch for a minute...**

Some people says “He’s only one person!”

So is the Church, aren’t we?

**TALMUD:** Enoch born 6<sup>th</sup> Sivan Translated same day

/ Church born on Pentecost **Rapture?**

### Pattern is prologue Daniel & friends

Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego

Nebuchadnezzar

Fiery furnace

Makes for great preaching... Question: Where’s Daniel?

**Ruth & Boaz** Gentile bride of Boaz, her kinsman redeemer

Where is she during the threshing floor scene?

**Type of Israel in Tribulation**

**Type of Antichrist**

**Type of Tribulation**

**Type of the church?**

@ feet of her redeemer, Boaz

**Lot’s family** Gen 19 Angels couldn’t do work until Lot & family were removed from Sodom

## X. The Great Tribulation Much more than the wrath of the world or wrath of satan (persecution)

It’s the wrath of God!

**1 Thes 5:9**

**God has not appointed us to suffer wrath...**

**Rom 5:9**

**We shall be saved from wrath through Him**

## XI. Let’s define our terms... At rapture, believers will be “caught up” to clouds... to meet the Lord in the air.

When Lord comes for His church, there will be a generation alive at that time: **1 Corinthians 15:51-55**

**We stand on brink of eternity**

We are the generation that will experience the rapture of the church

The return of Jesus Christ

We stand on brink of the Kingdom of God