

RAPTURE FAILURE

THE ROUTINE DERISION OF DISPENSATIONALISM

*“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout...
Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them
in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air...”*

~ 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

1. Rapture Failure

- a. The rapture did not happen on Tuesday. It wasn't the first time it didn't happen.
- b. Over 300,000 posts on #RaptureTok, starting from one man's claim to see Jesus.
- c. Of course, no man knows the day and hour - Mark 13:32, Matt 24:36 ← not the rapture
- d. Date setters should be marked, shamed, and silenced – but they never are.
- e. Instead, the routine response is to deride dispensationalism and the rapture.
- f. This lesson not for date-setters or deriders, but to correct rapture misunderstanding

2. Rapture Defined

- a. The word comes from Latin in 1 Thess 4:17, English is “caught up”.
- b. The idea of rapture in the Bible does not define dispensationalism, nor is it unique to it.
- c. Even non-dispensational Bible readers believe in rapture, raptures are real.
- d. 1 Thess 4 is a resurrection and a translation (a sudden change of form or location)
- e. 1 Cor 15:51-54 describes the change even Reformers believe.
- f. This rapture is the immediate translation of living people to be with the Lord.
- g. There are other raptures – Gen 5:24, 2 Kings 2:11, Eze 3:12, Acts 8:39, 2 Cor 12:2-4, Rev 4:1-2, 11:12, 12:5 (Acts 1:9)

3. Bad Reasons for a Pretribulation Rapture

- a. These reasons are often caricatures, but sometimes parody becomes reality.
- b. Anyone online that tells you without a Bible verse that updates Acts 1:7
- c. Left Behind – Jenkins have a family history of fiction, Kirk Cameron nor Nicolas Cage.
- d. You want to get out of here (escapism) – Don't be derelict of your duty, till he come.
- e. “It's getting bad out there” – a wicked world is not a sign of Christ's return. 2 Tim 3:1-8
- f. Matt 24:37-42 – Misinterpreting verses that do not speak of Church - Rev 4:1
- g. Single verse proofs rarely ever persuade – be careful of reading your belief onto them.
 - i. “Delivered from the wrath” – could also refer to judgment/salvation - 1Th 1:10
 - ii. “Looking for that blessed hope” – All Christians believe Christ will return - Ti 2:13
 - iii. 1 Thess 4:16-17 tells you what but not when.
 - iv. “falling away” does not equal “going up” - 2 Thess 2:3

4. Strongest Proof of the Rapture

- a. The best proof of a special rapture of the church is separating Prophecy from Mystery.
- b. Bible teaches raptures and resurrections – John 5:29, 1 Cor 15:23-24, Rev 20:5
- c. The issue for a special rapture of church is timing and God's operation ← dispensational
- d. 1 Th 5:1-10 is a dispensational explanation of times and seasons – “no need”, Gal 4:10
- e. The “great tribulation” is part of Israel's prophesied last days – Matt 24:21,29, Jer 30:7
- f. The reason our rapture is pretribulation is due to the prophetic nature of that tribulation
- g. We live during a mystery dispensation of God's grace, not a day of the Lord - Col 2:16
- h. Before wrath begins, grace stops. Before working thru Israel, he ends peace talks
- i. Conclusion: the rapture of 1 Thess 4 (of the Church), is different than Israel's.