**The King is Coming**

 **Part 1 - The Rapture**

October 12, 2025

 Biblical references to the Second Coming of Jesus:

OT:

* 1,845 references in 17 OT books.
* 333 prophecies about Jesus: 109 have been fulfilled in his first coming; 224 are yet to be fulfilled in his second coming.
* 46 OT prophets, 36 spoke of Jesus’ second coming while fewer than 10 prophets spoke of his first coming.

NT:

* 23 of 27 NT books refer to the second coming of Christ.
* Of four NT books that do not refer to it, three are one-chapter books: the fourth book implies it.
* In the 260 chapters of the NT there are over 300 references to the second coming.
* Jesus referred to his second coming 20 times.
* Jesus’ followers are commanded 50 times to be ready.

 **God’s Timeline:**

1. The first coming of Christ - AD 3 or 4
2. The Church Age: The birth of the Church – Acts 2 to current.
3. The Rapture of the Church (Pre-Trib view)
4. The Tribulation / Great Tribulation
5. The Second coming of Jesus
6. The Millennium Period
7. Eternity begins: New Heaven and New Earth

**The Rapture**

Def: The snatching away of the church to meet Jesus in the air.

**Multiple Views on When the Rapture Occurs**

Pre-Tribulation view: the church is raptured just before the seven-year Tribulation begins.

Mid-Tribulation view: the church is raptured half-way through the seven-year Tribulation period – 3 ½ years in.

Pre-Wrath view: the church is raptured in the final quarter of the Tribulation before God pours out his wrath in the Seventh Seal of Rev. 8:1-7.

Post-Tribulation view: the church is raptured after the Tribulation period, just before the return of Christ.

Most evangelical scholars hold to the Pre-Tribulation Rapture view (and so do I).

 **Pre-Trib View**

1. The **Rapture** of the Church.
2. The seven-year **Tribulation** period.
3. The **Second Coming/Return** of Christ.

 **Two of the: 6 Reasons for the Pre-Tribulation Rapture**

 (Dr Mark Hitchcock)

1. **God’s Promise to Keep His Church from His Wrath**

Rom 5:9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! NIV

(1Thess 5:9; Rev 3:10; 1Thess 1:10)

1. **The Rapture and the Return of Christ are Two Separate**

**Events**

“I view Jesus Christ’s coming as a single event in two stages; these stages are separated by at least seven years, during which the Tribulation happens.” (Dr. Mark Hitchcock)

* Scriptures referring to the Rapture:

Jn 14:2-3; 1 Cor 15:51-53; 1Thess 4:16,17

(1 Thess 1:10; 2:19; 5:9,23; 1 Cor 1:7,8;16:22; Rom 8:19; Phil 3:20,21; 4:5; Col 3:4; 2 Thess 2:1,3; 1 Tim 6:14; 2 Tim 4:1,8;Titus 2:13; Heb 9:28; James 5:7-9; 1 Pet 1:7,13; 5:4; 1 Jn 2:28-3:2; Jude 1:21; Rev 3:10)

* Scriptures referring to the Return/Second Coming of Christ:

Matt 24:27,30; 2 Thess 2:8; Rev 1:7

(Matt 13:41; 26:64; Mark 13:14-27; 14:62; Luke 17:20-37; 21:25-28; Acts 1:9-11; 3:19-21; 1 Thess 3:13; 2 Thess 1:6-10; 1 Pet 4:12,13; 2 Pet 3:1-14; Jude 1:14,15; Rev 19:11-20; 22:7; Dan 2:44,45; 7:9-14; 12:1-3; Zech 12:10; 14:1-15)

 **Comparison Between the Rapture vs The Return**

 The Rapture The Return\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 1. JC comes in the air. JC comes to the earth.

 (1Thess 4:16,17) (Zech 14:4)

 2. JC comes *for* saints. JC comes *with* his saints.

 (1Thess 4:16,17) (1Thess 3:13; Jude 1:14)

 3. Believers depart. Unbelievers are taken.

 (1 Thess 4:16,17) (Matt 24:37-41)

 4. JC *claims* his bride. JC *comes* *with* his bride.

 5. Christ gathers his own. Angels gather the elect.

 (1 Thess 4:16,17) (Matt 24:31)

 6. JC comes to reward. JC comes to judge.

 (1 Thess 4:17) (Matt 25:31-46)

 7. Not in the OT. Predicted often in the OT.

 8. No signs: imminent. Predicted by many signs.

 (Matt 24:4-29)

 9. Blessing/comfort. Destruction/judgement.

 (1Thess 4:17,18) (2Thess 2:8-12)

 10. Believers only. Israel and Gentile nations.

 (Jn 14:1-3; 1Cor 15:51-55 (Matt 24:1-25:26)

 1Thess 4:13-18)

 11. Occur in a blink Visible to the entire world.

 of an eye. His own (Matt 24:27; Rev 1:7)

 will see him.

 (1 Cor 15:51,52)

 12. Tribulation begins Millennium begins

 13. JC comes as the bright JC comes as the sun of

 morning star (Rev 22:16). righteousness (Mal 4:2).

**The Time Gap Between the Rapture and the Second Coming**

1. The Judgement Seat of Christ (BEMA Seat- 2 Cor 5:10)
2. The Preparation of Christ’s Bride (Rev 19:7-18)
3. The Sheep and the Goats (Matt 25:31-46)
4. The Removal of the Restrainer (2 Thess 2:1-8)
5. Imminent Rapture (1Thess 5:2; Rev 3:11a; Phil 3:20; 1Cor 1:7;16:22; Titus 2:13; Heb 9:28; Jms 5:7-9; Matt 24:36,40; 1Thess 5:2, 4; Rev 3:3; 16:15

Mark 13:32)

* **We Are Called to Be Ready**

Matt 42:44

Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 43But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. NIV

Rom 10:9

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. NIV

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