

The Rapture Isn't in Matthew 24

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The Rapture and Second Coming are different events separated by a gap in time. Both pre-tribbers and post-tribbers wrongly look for the Rapture in Matthew 24. It's not there.

POST-Tribulation rapture is not in Matthew 24:29-31.

"But immediately after the tribulation...the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky...and He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other." (Matt. 24:29-31).

Although this event is SIMILAR to the Rapture, this is not the Rapture or a resurrection. Remember, the Rapture is a resurrection (see 1 Thess. 4:15-17, 1 Cor. 15:51-52). After Jesus was resurrected, He didn't need the angels to help Him ascend into the sky (Acts 1:9-11). In His resurrected body Jesus was able to appear in the room with His disciples even though the doors were shut (John 20:26). When we receive our resurrected bodies at the Rapture, we will have a supernatural body like Jesus (1 John 3:2). We will also have the same capabilities as the angels. "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are **like the angels.**" (Matt. 22:30).

Why would Jesus send forth angels to gather people who are in powerful resurrection bodies? Why would angels need to gather resurrected people who have the same capabilities? The answer is these believers are in **non-resurrected** bodies. These are people saved after the Rapture, who are still in their natural bodies and will populate the earth during the millennial reign of Christ on earth.

At the Second Coming, the angels will also be sent forth to **gather the wicked** (Matt. 13:41-42). These unbelievers are also in their natural bodies and will need the angels to gather them together for judgment. The resurrection of the lost will not occur until a thousand years later at the end of the Millennium (Rev. 20:7, 11-15).

PRE-Tribulation rapture is not in Matthew 24:40-41.

"Then there shall be two men in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left." (Matt 24:40-41).

Many people who believe in a pre-tribulation Rapture mistakenly believe this verse is proof of the Rapture. However, the ones "taken" in these verses are unbelievers—they are not Christians. In the preceding verses, those taken away in Noah's flood were unbelieving people. "They did not understand until the flood came and took them all away" (v.39). In the parallel passage (Luke 17:34-37), the disciples asked where they would be taken. Jesus replied, "Where the body is, there also will the vultures be gathered." These are unbelievers and not believers.

The Rapture is not found in Matthew 24. It's also not found in Revelation 19 or Zechariah 14, the other chapters describing the Second Coming. The Rapture of the Church will come at a time only known by God but it won't be at the Second Coming.

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