

The Rapture

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Intro: Premillennialism - (Many different varieties)

- A. God sent Jesus to set up kingdom, but. Jews rejected Jesus thwarting His plans.
 1. Because of rejection, Jesus failed (!) to set up kingdom
 2. Set up church as substitute 'til later time.
- B. Jesus will at some point rapture the church. (2nd coming)
 1. The dead saints will be raised also then will commence 7 years of tribulation
 2. Nation of Israel restored, temple worship
- C. After 7 years Jesus will return to earth with saints (3rd coming)
 1. Will defeat enemies at battle of Armageddon, then establish earthly kingdom at Jerusalem, rule 1,000 years, Satan bound
- D. After 1000 years, Satan released to try to defeat saints
 1. Satan defeated, thrown into lake of fire, wicked dead raised, then judgement at great white throne
 2. Heaven or hell
- E. Have dealt with misconception of kingdom in previous lesson.
 1. Let's talk about the rapture.
- F. ***Many are familiar with term "the rapture"***
 1. Personally, have no problem with the term, depending on what meaning is poured into it. Much false religious teaching that involves it.
 - a. May have seen bumper sticker: *"In case of rapture, this car will be driverless!"*
 - b. Hardly a denomination that doesn't teach it.
 - c. It is a major tenet of the pre-millennial doctrine
 2. What is it?
 - a. Taken from **1 Thess. 4:13-17**
 - b. "Caught up" (Vs 17) from Gr. "harpazo", rendered "rapare" in Latin Vulgate. Hence, English "rapture"
 - c. "*Harpazo*" - "To be caught away, seize, pulled up, taken by force, snatched away" (Vine's)

- I. **Rapture Doctrine: There will be two comings of Christ**
 - A. Premill says Jesus will return to rapture the church & dead saints prior to 7 years of bad luck, then return again to set up His kingdom on earth.
 - B. **Bible:** There is only ONE Second Coming.
 1. **1 Cor. 15:23-28**
 2. **1 Thess. 5:1-4**
 - a. There is no mistaking the tone and sense of finality in this passage!
 3. **2 Thess. 1:6-10**
 - a. Notice the following: **God will:**
 - Repay tribulation to those who caused affliction
 - Give relief to those who have been afflicted
 - Deal out retribution to those who haven't obeyed the gospel.

When?

- *"When the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire"* (Vs 7)

THIS IS THE JUDGEMENT!

- II. **Rapture Doctrine: Raptured for 7 yrs, then 1,000 yrs of Christ reigning on earth.**
 - A. From a misreading of Matt. 24 & Rev. 20
 - B. **Bible:** Christ's 2nd Coming will be final and irrevocable!
 1. **1 Thess. 4:16-17**
 - a. We shall ALWAYS be with the Lord.
 - b. There will be nothing else to look forward to...except eternity with Him!
 2. **1 Cor. 15:23-24**
 - a. Then comes the END!
 - b. Jesus DELIVERS the kingdom up to God.
 - c. That means it is already existing!
 - d. NOT the beginning of tribulation or earthly kingdom!

III. **Rapture Doctrine: Christ's Coming Will Be Quiet,**

Mysterious

- A. Pre-mill points to some mysterious, instantaneous, quiet event that no one will see coming.
 - 1. Suddenly people will noiselessly disappear.
 - a. *“In case of rapture, car will be driverless!”*
 - b. Man & wife in bed, he turns & she’s gone!
 - c. Planes crash, no sign of pilots!
- B. **Bible:** Christ’s coming will be a noisy affair, seen by all!
 - 1. **1 Thess. 4:16**
 - a. *“a shout, voice of the archangel, trumpet of God”*
 - 2. **2 Peter 3:10**
 - a. *“The day of the Lord”* - This is seen by nearly all commentators as Christ’s return.
 - b. Notice the finality: *“heavens pass away, elements destroyed, works burned up”*
 - c. *“with a roar”* (“Great noise” - KJV, NKJ)
 - 3. His coming will be seen by all.
 - a. **2 Thess. 1:6-10**
 - b. *“When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.” Col. 3:4*
 - (1) “Revealed” speaks of an uncovering, something that is manifested and can be seen.
 - (2) *“Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who have pierced Him: and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be.” Rev. 1:7*

Conc. *The rapture doctrine is an alarmist belief with no firm foundation in the Bible.*

- A. It is based on misinterpretation and assumption.
 - 1. Jesus did not teach His disciples to be ready for a rapture, but to be ready for His coming to judge.
- B. He told us what we will be judged by.
 - 1. *“He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings has that which judges him. The word I spoke is what will judge him on the last day.” John 12:48*
 - 2. The word He spoke instructs us to believe Him, be baptized in His name, and live faithfully to Him.
- C. Will you? **INV**