



HE'S COMING

Rapture of the Church and Return of Jesus

3 Comings of Jesus Christ – 1 Past, 2 Future

Past

1. Jesus came the first time – born as the Christ child

Future

2. Jesus will come to get His bride, the Church (Rapture)

3. Jesus will come with His bride (Second Coming)

What is the Rapture?

- Latin term *rapio*, which means to “snatch away” or “carry off,” is the source of the English word Rapture
- Greek *harpadzo* ἄρπάζω
- Hebrew *lakakh* לקַח
- English word “rapture” is not found in your Bible
- The rapture event is God’s taking the Church out of the world instantaneously.

8 Examples of rapture in the Bible

6 in the past, 2 in the future

1. Enoch (past)

Genesis 5:18-24

2. Moses (past)

Deuteronomy 34:1-8, Jude 9

3. Elijah (past)

2 Kings 2:1-15

4. Jesus (past)

Acts 1:9-11

5. Philip (past)

Acts 8:26-40

6. Old Testament saints (past)

Matthew 27:50-53

7. The Church (future)

1 Thessalonians 4:17

8. The Two Witnesses (future)

Revelation 11:1-13

The Rapture of the Church

Apostle Paul wrote, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

John 14:1-3

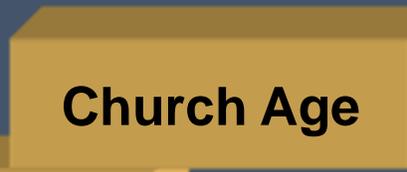


Rapture

1 Thess. 4:16-17
1 Cor. 15:51-58



Glorious
Appearing
Matt. 24:30
Rev. 19:11-21



Church Age



3 1/2 years

Great Trib



Millennium

2 Thess. 2:6-10

Future
Ages

Pre-Tribulation Rapture View

Rapture Passages

John 14:1-3 2 Thess 2:3
Romans 8:19 I Tim 6:14
I Cor. 1:7-8 2 Tim 4:1
I Cor. 15:51-53 2 Tim 4:8
I Cor. 16:22 Titus 2:13
Phil 3:20-21 Heb 9:28
Phil 4:5 James 5:7-9
Col 3:4 I Peter 1:7,13
I Thess 1:10 I Peter 5:4
I Thess 2:19 I John 2:28
I Thess 4:13-18 I John 3:2
I Thess 5:9 Jude 21
I Thess 5:23 Rev 2:25
2 Thess 2:1 Rev 3:10

Second Coming Passages

Daniel 2:44-45 Luke 21:25-28
Daniel 7:9-14 Acts 1:9-11
Daniel 12:1-3 I Thess 3:13
Zech 12:10 2 Thess 1:6-10
Zech 14:1-15 2 Thess 2:8
Matt 13:41 I Peter 4:12-13
Matt 24: 15-31 2 Peter 3:1-14
Matt 26:64 Jude 14-15
Mark 13:14-27 Rev 1:7
Mark 14:62

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Differences between Rapture and Second Coming

Rapture/Blessed Hope

1. Christ comes in the air for His own
2. Rapture/translation of all Christians
3. Christians taken to Father's house
4. No judgment on earth at Rapture
5. Church taken to Heaven at Rapture
6. Rapture imminent
7. No signs for Rapture
8. For believers only
9. Time of joy
10. Before the Day of Wrath
11. No mention of Satan
12. The Judgment Seat of Christ
13. Marriage of the Lamb
14. Only His own see Him
15. Tribulation begins

Glorious Appearing

1. Christ comes with His own to earth
2. No one translated
3. Resurrected saints do not see Father's house
4. Christ judges inhabitants of earth
5. Christ sets up His kingdom on earth
6. Can't occur for at least 7 years
7. Many signs for Christ's physical coming
8. Affects all mankind
9. Time of mourning
10. "Immediately after Trib."
11. Satan bound/bottomless pit for 1000 years
12. No time or place for Judgment Seat
13. His bride descends with Him
14. Every eye shall see Him
15. 1000 year kingdom of Christ begins

Last week...

What are the signs of the Second Coming of Jesus?

Matthew 24

14 Signs of the Second Coming of Jesus

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Rebirth of the nation of Israel | Gen. 17:7, Isa. 66:8 |
| 2. Re-unification of Europe | Daniel 9:26-27 |
| 3. Rise of radical Islam | Ezekiel 39:4 |
| 4. Revealing of the antichrist | Revelation 13:7-8 |
| 5. One-world government and religion | Revelation 13:8 |
| 6. Rebuilding of the Jewish Temple | Daniel 9:27 |
| 7. Gospel will be preached in the whole world | Matthew 24:14 |
| 8. Ease of worldwide travel, technological advances | Daniel 12:4 |
| 9. Increase in deadly diseases | Luke 21:10-11 |
| 10. Worldwide earthquakes | Luke 21:10-11 |
| 11. Possession of Jerusalem disputed | Zechariah 12:3 |
| 12. Return of Jews to their homeland | Ezekiel 36:24 |
| 13. Worldwide Famines | Matthew 24:7 |
| 14. All of the signs coming together | Luke 21:28 |

His Return – Second Coming of Jesus

Jesus said, “But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and **they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.** 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.” Matthew 24:29-31



The Second Coming of Jesus

The Glorious Appearing

Revelation 19

Bible passages referring to Christ's Second Coming

- Psalm 2:1–9; 24:7–10; 96:10–13; 110
- Isaiah 9:6–7
- Jeremiah 23:1–8
- Ezekiel 37:15–28
- Daniel 2:44–45; 7:13–14
- Hosea 3:4–5
- Amos 9:11–15
- Micah 4:7
- Zechariah 2:10–12; 12; 14:1–9
- Matthew 19:28; 24:27–31; 25:6, 31–46
- Mark 13:24–27
- Luke 12:35–40; 17:24–37; 18:8; 21:25–28
- Acts 1:10–11; 15:16–18
- Romans 11:25–27
- 2 Thessalonians 2:8
- 2 Peter 3:3–4
- Jude 14–15
- Revelation 1:7–8; 2:25–28; 16:15; 22:20)

After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; BECAUSE HIS JUDGMENTS ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS; for He has judged the great harlot (pagan, worldwide religion) who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and HE HAS AVENGED THE BLOOD OF HIS BOND-SERVANTS ON HER (martyrdom of Tribulation saints).” And a second time they said, “Hallelujah! HER SMOKE RISES UP FOREVER AND EVER.” Revelation 19:1-3

And the twenty-four elders (representing the church) and the four living creatures (angels) fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, “Amen. Hallelujah!” And a voice came from the throne, saying, “Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great.” Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.” It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Revelation 19:4-8

Then he said to me, “Write, ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’” And he said to me, “These are true words of God.” Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony (witness) of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” Revelation 19:9-10

Marriage Celebration

Groom = Jesus the Savior Bride = the Church

Invited Guests = Old Testament saints

The Bride and Groom

“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way where I am going.” Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”

John 14:1-6

And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse (military triumph), and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire (judgment of sin), and on His head are many diadems (crowns – His right to rule); and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

Revelation 19:11-13





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It was also about these men that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones, to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”

Jude 14-15



And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty (coming judgment). And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.” Revelation 19:14-16

Jesus said, “And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.” Matthew 24:30

Names Given To Jesus At His Return

- Faithful and True – Revelation 19:11
- The Word (logos) of God – Revelation 19:13
- King of kings and Lord of lords – Revelation 19:16

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1

Coming judgment for those who continue to reject Jesus

For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed. 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

Why is God judging people on the earth?

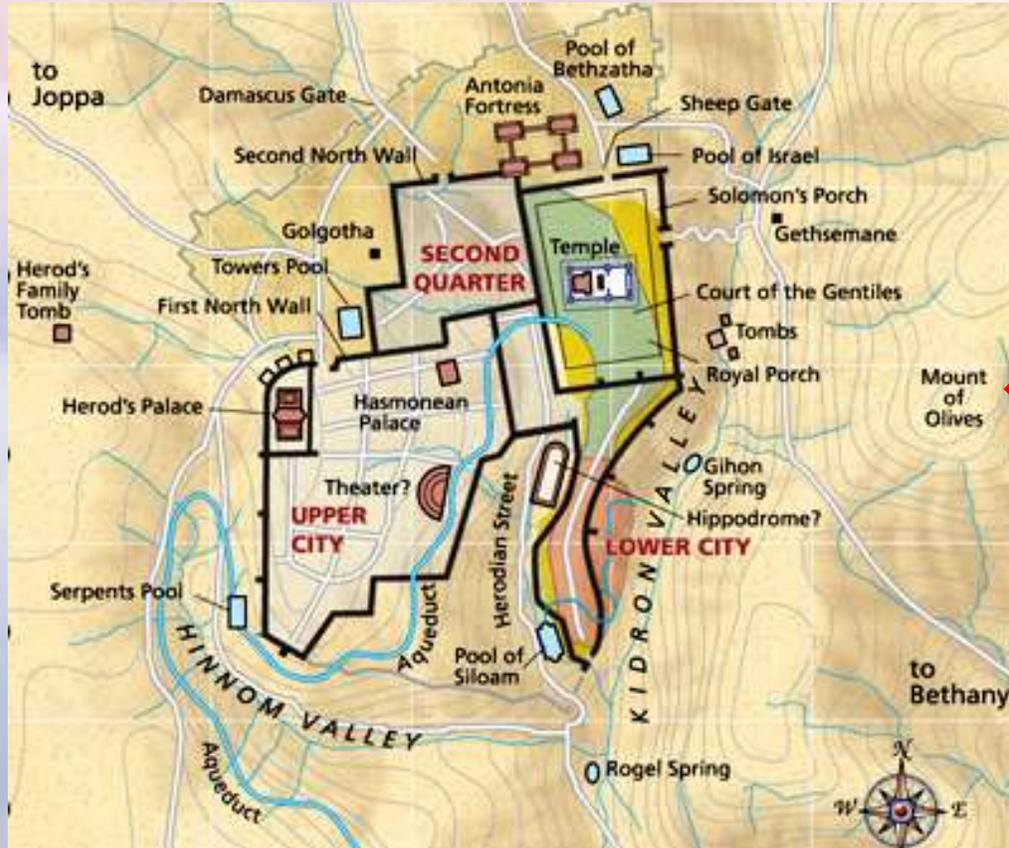
- Jesus came to earth at His first coming (as the Christ Child) to bring salvation
- For 2,000 years, He has been offering salvation to all who would believe in Him
- He will offer salvation again after the Rapture of the Church in the Tribulation
- Many will refuse to believe in Jesus even after His words are proven true
- These people have chosen their own eternal future

Jesus said, “He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.” John 12:48

How and where will Jesus return?

So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.” Acts 1:6-11

In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. Zechariah 14:4



Does it matter how I live as I wait for Jesus' return?

“It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.” Revelation 19:8

* “given to her” ... holiness is the gift of God

What shall we do as we wait?

As I wait for Jesus' return...

Jesus said, “But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6:20-21

As I wait for Jesus' return...

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.” Matthew 16:24-27

As I wait for Jesus' return...

Jesus said, "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will."

Matthew 24:42-44

As I wait for Jesus' return...

For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord. Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.

1 Corinthians 4:4-5

As I wait for Jesus' return...

Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 2 Corinthians 5:9-10

Apostle Paul affirmed that all Christians will be evaluated at the judgment seat of Christ (cf. Rom. 14:12), which will follow the Rapture of the church. Believers will be recompensed for the things they have done in their earthly lives. Salvation is not the issue here. One's eternal destiny will not be determined at the judgment seat of Christ. Salvation is by faith (Eph. 2:8–9), but deeds issuing from that faith (1 Thess. 1:3) will be evaluated.

– Bible Knowledge Commentary

As I wait for Jesus' return...

Apostle Paul wrote, “So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.” Philippians 2:12-13

As I wait for Jesus' return...

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3:20

As I wait for Jesus' return...

Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you; and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you; so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

As I wait for Jesus' return...

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

Titus 2:11-14

As I wait for Jesus' return...

Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

1 John 2:28-29

It matters how we live as we wait

- It matters to the Savior who died to forgive us of sin and grant us eternal life
- It matters to our own hearts because we rob ourselves of the earthly joy found in serving the King of kings
- It matters to the hurting world around us who desperately needs hope and forgiveness
- It matters to the people around us who do not yet know Jesus as Savior but are looking for spiritual answers

He's Coming... We need Jesus to keep His promises

- But He kept silent and did not answer. Again the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, “Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?” And Jesus said, “I am; and you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.” Mark 14:61-62
- Jesus said, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.” John 3:16-17



Next Sunday...

The Battles of Armageddon

HE'S COMING

Rapture of the Church and Return of Jesus

Why should I care about the Second Coming of Jesus?

- Jesus promised in John 14 that He was going to return.
- We have all been let down by people who fail to keep their promises.
- Do you need a God who keeps His promises?
- If Jesus the Savior promises eternal life, will you accept His offer of salvation?
- Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” John 14:6
- Are you ready for His Return?