

**PART 1. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.** First phase in the clouds, commonly called the "RAPTURE" = being carried away. cp. Acts 1:11

**THE RAPTURE IS SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED.** (reason the truth of it is seen by few)

- I Corinthians 2:14 foolishness to the natural mind
- John 3:3 must be born again to perceive (see) the Kingdom of God. The Rapture is exclusively for those of the K.O.G.
- A doctrine understood from knowing other Bible doctrines. Thus obscure to those who privately interpret the scriptures, according to their own systematic theology.

**CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF MAJOR BIBLICAL EVENTS YET TO OCCUR.**

- (1) END OF GENTILE OR NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH AGE: ended by the Rapture.
- (2) GREAT TRIBULATION PERIOD - 70th week of Daniel's prophecy, ending with the return of Christ to deliver Israel from annihilation by the Beast and his United Nations army, resulting in the Battle of Armageddon.
- (3) MILLENNIUM: Christ the Victor, binds Satan in the bottomless pit by an angel, judges the nations (Matt. 25:31-46) and then rules with a rod of iron for 1000 years.
- (4) AT CLOSE OF MILLENNIUM, SATAN LOOSED FOR A SEASON, he again deceives the nations, who again come up against Jerusalem where Christ is reigning; fire devours them, Satan is cast into the lake of fire; White Throne Judgment & lake of fire for the unsaved.
- (5) DESTRUCTION OF OLD UNIVERSE (2 Peter 3:8-13, Rev. 21) NEW HEAVENS AND NEW EARTH.  
All things made new; the eternal kingdom of God & His saints; God's eternal glory never to be opposed by sin again = The Restitution of All Things!

**I. THE "RAPTURE" IS PRECEDED BY THE "LAST DAYS".**

- A. The Ending Of The Gentile Age, Matt. 24:4-14, 36-41 Luke 21:24
- B. Perilous Times, 2 Timothy 3:1-7

**II. THE "RAPTURE" IS THE NEXT SCHEDULED EVENT.**

- A. To Receive His Own Unto Himself, John 14:1-3
- B. Occurs By The Miraculous Power Of God: I Thessalonians 4:13-18
  1. Coming in the clouds to rapture the saved, v13-17.
    - (a) Souls & spirits of dead brought back with Him, 14, 15
    - (b) Their bodies raised first, 16. (first resurrection, of the just)
    - (c) Then living saints changed & all saved caught up together (raptured) in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, 17. (to be with Him forever more)
  - NOTE: This phase of Christ's second coming is just Him coming to the clouds & returning to heaven with all His saints; At the second phase of His second coming, He will descend upon the Mount of Olives, at the close of the Tribulation. Zechariah 14:3, 4
  2. Our hope & consolation, 18.  
victory over sin, death, hell.

- C. The Miracle Of The Resurrection, I Cor. 15:35-57.
  1. Changed from an earthly to a heavenly body, 35-49.
  2. Incorruptible & immortal, 50-54. far superior to flesh & blood
    - (a) Like Christ's body: I John 3:2, 3 cp. Luke 24:30-43 Jn. 20:19, 20, 27
    - (b) Far greater perception & awareness: I Cor. 13:12 2 Cor. 5:16
  3. The swiftness of the occurrence, 52. this call will be to take out the few (Mt. 7:13, 14) who are saved.
    - (a) The watchmen didn't see Christ resurrect, but when the angel rolled back the stone he was no longer in the tomb- Matt. 28:1-6
    - (b) Will be as a thief in the night, I Thess. 5:1, 2

**III. THE RAPTURE WILL BE THE BRINGING OF THE SAVED TO THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.**

- Romans 14:10-12 I Cor. 3:11-15 2 Cor. 5:9-11 I Jn. 2:28 2 Pet. 3:14
- A. The Importance Of Faithfulness & Being Wise In Doing The Will Of God Will Be Realized At This Judgment: Matt. 24:45- 25:30
  - B. God's Saving Grace Teaches Us To Live By Faith: Titus 2:11-15  
Where ever grace releases of condemnation, it energizes & quickens one to separation- Eph. 2:8-10

**IV. PRETRIBULATION, PREMILLENNIAL RAPTURE.** The rapture must occur before the Tribulation to fulfill God's Word.

A. Essential For The Beginning Of The End, I Cor. 15:23-28. After the Rapture, then the end comes when all things are fulfilled & subdued according to Bible prophecy.

B. The Removal Of The Saved From The Earth Before The Coming Of God's Judgments Upon The Earth: Luke 17:26-30 cp. v29,30 & Gen. 18:23 & 19:22

1. The eternal separation: Matt. 24:36-41

C. The Rapture Of The New Testament Church Must Occur Before The Tribulation Can Take Place: the promise- Matt. 16:18

1. During the Tribulation, the gates of hell will prevail to overcome those saved during that period, Rev. 13:6-10 (reign of the beast)

2. Order of events in scripture: Matthew 24

v14. end of church age with the rapture

v15-28. Great Tribulation

v29-31. Christ returns with saints from heaven to reign.

v36-41. Conditions prevailing before the rapture- same as they are now: worldly pleasure, sensationalism, materialism, spiritual indifference, apathy.

-Altogether different conditions than they would be if the Tribulation occurred before the rapture, cp. v21,22 Daniel 12:1

3. The Holy Spirit must be taken out of the way of His present role as Comforter to the New Testament Church (this will never occur as long as the N.T. Church remains upon the earth) before the Wicked One (Beast) can set up his kingdom:

2 Thessalonians 2:7,8

-Beast will reign with those as his power base, who have rejected Christ & who have strong delusion sent from God, 9-12. (This is not true of the rejectors during the Church age, before the Rapture; they can still be saved before the rapture, as this delusion is not yet sent from God)

D. The Bride Of Christ (N.T. Baptist Church) Is Married To The Lamb, In Heaven, Before The Close Of The Tribulation, At Which Time Christ Comes Back To Earth With The Saints With Him, Rev. 19:6-15

1. The second phase of His coming will be to the Mount of Olives & Unto The Battle of Armageddon: Zech. 14:1-9 Rev. 19:16-21

2. Thus the saved are already raptured & in heaven, in order to return to earth with Christ.

3. The ones saved & killed during the Tribulation are changed & caught up to heaven, Rev. 6:9-11 7:13-17 11:3-12

E. The First Resurrection Has Already Occurred Before The Millennium; The Saints Have Their Rewarded Position Allotted Them For The Millennium, Rev. 20:4-6 (thus the rapture, the judgment seat of Christ & the marriage of the Lamb & His Bride, have already occurred before the Millennium)

1. The resurrection of the saved occurs long before the resurrection of the lost, Rev. 20:7-15

2. The resurrection of the body: believed by O.T. saints: Heb. 11:19 Luke 20:37,38 Job 19:25-27 Isaiah 26:19 Daniel 12:2,3,13 Hosea 13:14

**V. WHY THE DOCTRINE OF THE RAPTURE IS HATED & MOCKED.**

It refutes the false teaching of a general resurrection & general judgment, in which is taught that then all will be judged by their good & bad to determine whether they will go to heaven or to hell.