

## The Rapture and The Second Coming

One of the things that we need to understand as we look at The End According to the Experts is that there is a difference in “The Second Coming” (when Jesus returns and places His feet back on the earth) and “The Rapture of the Church” (when Jesus comes in the air and catches up, or raptures His church, His Bride unto Himself). The Book of Revelation, we believe, teaches that these are two separate events and the Apostle Paul describes it that way as well in THE END According to Paul.

### The Rapture

*Jesus stated in John 14:3 that He would return for the church and Paul gives us more details.*

#### The Dead in Christ

**1 Thessalonians 4:13** Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

- **2 Corinthians 5:8** “away from the body and at home with the Lord.”

**1 Thessalonians 4:14** For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that **God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.** (The saints will come with Jesus at the second coming.) (Also see 1 Corinthians 15:22-24)

**1 Thessalonians 4:15-16** According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are **still alive**, who are **left until the coming of the Lord**, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep (dead).

**16** For the Lord himself will **come down from heaven**, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and **the dead in Christ will rise first.**

- **1 Corinthians 15:50-55** I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.  
**51** Listen, I tell you a mystery: **We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed** —  
**52** in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. **For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed** (our new glorified bodies). **53** For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.  
**54** When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” **55** “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”

#### The Living in Christ

**1 Thessalonians 4:17** After that, we who are **still alive** and are left **will be caught up together with them in the clouds** to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

“**Caught up together with them**”: This is the main text for what we call The Rapture – the catching away to heaven of those, dead or living, who have trusted in Christ as savior and await His return.

**The exact word “rapture” does not occur in Scripture:** it was formed from a word in the Latin translation of the Bible, which, for this phrase reads “simul rapiemur cum illis”. (Rev 4:1 “Come up here...”)

**The doctrine of the rapture and eternal life with Jesus should encourage us all.**

**1 Thessalonians 4:18** Therefore encourage each other with these words.

### The Day of The Lord

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-5** Now, brothers and sisters, about **times and dates we do not need to write to you**, **2** for you know very well that **the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.**

**3** While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. **4** But you, brothers and sisters, are not in

darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. 5 You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.

The day of the Lord is when God establishes his justice and righteousness on the earth, as well as judgement as sinners are punished and the faithful are rewarded. (See Online Notes for more.)

### In 2 Thessalonians Paul Makes a Clear Case for Pretribulation Rapture

#### 1) The Rapture - 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (when Jesus returns and places His feet back on the earth) and our being gathered to him (Jesus comes in the air and catches up, or raptures His church, His Bride, unto Himself.), we ask you, brothers and sisters, 2 not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter —asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. (False teachings)

#### 2) Then the man of sin, man of lawlessness is revealed. - 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. 4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

Paul refers to the antichrist with a descriptive term, man of lawlessness, but also refers to the antichrist destiny, doomed to destruction! Other names for the antichrist: The Man Doomed to Destruction / KJV & NKJ Titles - The Man of Sin / Son of Perdition.

#### 3) The lawless one is destroyed by the brightness of the glorious appearing of Jesus.

2 Thessalonians 2:8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

This agrees with our understanding of John's sequence of events in Revelation.

- The Rapture (Rev 4:1-3)
- The Seven Year Tribulation (Rev 6-18)
- The Glorious Appearing (Rev 19:1-20)

### The Man of Lawlessness, The Beast Out of The Sea (The Antichrist)

Revelation 13:1-2 The dragon (Satan) stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. 2 The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion (three world powers).

The dragon (Satan) gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.

Revelation 13:3 One of the heads of the beast (1 of 7 heads) seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast.

Revelation 13:4 People worshiped the dragon (Satan) because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast (Antichrist) and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against it?" They worshiped Satan and they worshiped the beast, the Antichrist.

Who is the Antichrist and What will the Antichrist do?

- Probably a European and will bring lasting peace in the Middle East and make everyone happy.
- He will be able to explain away the rapture to those that remain and stabilize the economy.
- He will be a charismatic leader, a man of great power, and many will worship him.
- This is a dream come true for Israel. They never accepted Jesus Christ as their lord and savior, so they love the antichrist because he is allowing them to go back the Old Testament sacrificial system, rebuild the Temple, and worship in the temple like they did in Old Testament times.

Now, throughout history people have always tried to guess who the antichrist is.

- In the Roman Empire many thought it was Nero. He wanted to eliminate Christianity. *Not him.*
- In our times some said Hitler (due his horrible crimes). *Not him.*
- Some said Henry Kissinger just because he was striving to make peace. *Not him.*
- Ronald Reagan, because his name was Roland – Wilson – Reagan and each of those names have 6 letters and the mark of the beast is 666. *Not him.*
- And many Georgia fans used to believe it was Nick Saban! (LOL) *Not him!*

**After 3 ½ years the Antichrist will desecrate the temple and set himself up as God.**

**Matthew 24:15** “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—(Last week)

“This king (the antichrist) will make a seven-year treaty with the people, but after half that time, he will break his pledge and stop the Jews from all their sacrifices and their offerings; then, as a climax to all his terrible deeds, the Enemy shall utterly defile the sanctuary of God. But in Gods time and plan, his judgment will be poured out upon this Evil One.” Daniel 9:27 (TLB)

**2 Thessalonians 2:4** He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

### **The Reign and the Worship of The Beast**

**Proud Words** *Revelation 13:5* **The beast** (The Antichrist, a world power, and the person himself) *was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months.* Prophesied in Daniel 7:8, 20,25. The “little horn” speaks boastfully and wages war against God’s people for 3.5 yrs. (or 43 months).

**Blasphemy** *Revelation 13:6* **He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name** (Christ Jesus) *and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.*

*Blasphemy is irreverent speech that includes calling what is human “divine” and what is evil “good,” and what is good “evil”.*

*Revelation 13:7-10* **It was given power to make war against the God’s holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.**

**8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast-- all whose names are not written in the Lamb’s book of life, the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.**

**9 Whoever has ears, let them hear. 10 If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed.**

***This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God’s people.***

- The refusal to go along with this world system the antichrist establishes will cost the lives of those who take a stand for God and His Messiah (cp. 15:2; 12:11; 7:14)
- “Patient endurance” and “faithfulness” is what we and all Christians need (cp. Gal. 5:22; Rom. 5:3, 4; Rev. 14:12).

### **The Restrainer 2 Thessalonians 2:5-7**

Before the Antichrist can be revealed, a restrainer will hold him back until God’s perfect timing. This restrainer is mentioned nowhere else in the Bible. (See Extra Online Notes)

### **The Lawless One is Revealed and Destroyed**

**2 Thessalonians 2:8-12** **And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.**

*Revelation 19:11* **I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war.**

*Revelation 19:19-21 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army.*

*20 But the beast was captured, and with it **the false prophet** (a 2<sup>nd</sup> beast out of the land, Rev. 13) who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them (the antichrist and false prophet) were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. 21 The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.*

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you 7 and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. **This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.** 8 He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might 10 on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. **This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.**

### The Work of Satan

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with **how Satan works.** He will use all sorts of displays of power through (counterfeit) signs and wonders that serve the lie, 10 and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. **They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.**

11 For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie 12 and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

### What Are We to Do Considering The End?

#### 1. Be Thankful for Salvation.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17 But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.

#### 2. Continue to Believe and Holdfast to the Truth. Verse 13 "...through belief in the truth."

#### 3. Enjoy Walking in the Glory of Christ Jesus. 2 Thessalonians 2:14 He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### 4. Stand Firm, Hold fast to Good Teaching.

2 Thessalonians 2:15 So then, brothers and sisters, **stand firm** and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.

#### 5. Know You Are Loved, Walking in Grace with Eternal Encouragement and Hope. (Not just encouragement and hope for this life.)

2 Thessalonians 2:16 May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope,

#### 6. Allow Jesus to Encourage Your Hearts and Strengthen You as You Walk in Good Deeds and Words.

2 Thessalonians 2:17 encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

# Extra Online Notes:

THE END According to the Experts, Jesus, Paul, Peter. and John

The End According to Paul

Believers Statesboro 10-08-23

## The Judgement to Come

The end and the coming judgement were one of the topics that Paul liked to talk about.

Paul before Felix: **Acts 24:25** As Paul talked about righteousness, self-control and **the judgment to come**, Felix was afraid and said, "That's enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you."

**2 Corinthians 5:10** For we must all appear before **the judgment seat of Christ**, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

## The Day of The Lord (Paul) 1Thessalonians 5:1-5

**This Day of The Lord** signals that time when God will destroy this old sin-cursed earth. We know that a world catastrophe (the Flood) separates our present world from the previous one, and Peter uses this as a sign that another catastrophe will end this present order and usher in a new one, which he calls the "new heaven and a new earth: (verse 13).<sup>1</sup>

**The coming of the Day of the Lord or The Day of Christ.** This "Day" **is a time period** to which both the Old Testament and New Testament continually look forward (Joel 2:31; Mal. 4:5; Isa. 2:12; Jer. 25:15; Dan. 2:28, 44).

The Day of the Lord is not just one day only, but it is like "Christmas"- it is "one day", but also a season. The Day of the Lord encompasses the rapture, the tribulation, the glorious return of Christ Jesus to this earth, and God destroying this old sin-cursed earth to usher in a new one. The New Heaven and New Earth!

*Joel 2:31 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of **the great and dreadful day of the LORD.***

*Malachi 4:5-6 "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and **dreadful day of the LORD** comes. 6 He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction."*

*Isaiah 2:12 The LORD Almighty has **a day in store for all the proud and lofty,** for all that is exalted (and they will be humbled).*

This is the time of the final establishment of justice and righteousness on earth. Sin will be punished and the nations will know God's sovereignty and His Messiah.<sup>2</sup>

## The Day of The Lord (Peter)

**2 Peter 3:10** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

Even with God's patience and desire to see people repent and live, the majority of mankind will reject Him, even during the Tribulation. Therefore, when **Jesus comes in power**, "the day of the Lord", He will destroy all those who rejected His offer of free salvation and the gift of righteousness.

## The Restrainer

**2 Thessalonians 2:5-7** Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? **6** And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. **7** For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way

<sup>1</sup> Tim LaHaye, Thomas Ice, Charting The End Times (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2001), p. 42

<sup>2</sup> David R. Shepherd, SHEPARDS NOTES, Revelation (Nashville: B & H Publishing House, 1999), p. 35

Before the Antichrist can be revealed, **the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.** 2 Thess. 2:7 This restrainer is mentioned nowhere else in the Bible.

#### Interpretations of The Restrainer

- Paul's ministry completion
- The Holy Spirit
- God
- The Jewish state at the time
- Human Government.
- Still others have hinted at Michael, the archangel who is frequently implicated in the end-time events. It is clear that Michael has been the appointed angelic guardian and champion of Israel (Dan. 10:13, 21; 12:1; Jude 9). It is also significant that he is specifically mentioned in the battle with Satan and his fallen angels before they are cast to the earth.

If Michael no longer “stands up” for Israel (Daniel 12:1), then there is nothing to restrain Satan from the repulsive actions as “the man of sin” described in 2 Thess. 2:3 as a part of the great apostasy of the end times.<sup>3</sup>

**Daniel 12:1 "At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people-- everyone whose name is found written in the book-- will be delivered.**

#### The Falling Away or “Departure”

**2 Thessalonians 2:3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.**

**II Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; (KJV)**

The rebellion, a falling away, the Greek word *apostasia* (falling away).

Previously interpreted as “**Departure**”.

Does this refer to physical departure (the rapture) or a metaphorical meaning (departure from the faith) or rebellion as seen here in NIV.

646 *apostasia* (ap-os-tas-ee'-ah).

feminine of the same as 647; defection from truth (properly, the state) ["apostasy"]:

KJV-- falling away, forsake.

Of course, if “departure” is the more accurate translation, this passage would have no doubt regarding a pretribulation Rapture, for it places the Rapture prior to the revelation of the man of sin.

1384 Wycliffe Bible – “Departynge first”

1526 Tyndale Bible – “Departynage first”

1535 Coverdale Bible- “Departynage first”

1539 Cranmer Bible - “Departynage first”

1576 Breeches Bible – “Departing first”

1583 Beza Bible – “Departing first” 1608 Geneva Bible – “Departing first”<sup>4</sup>

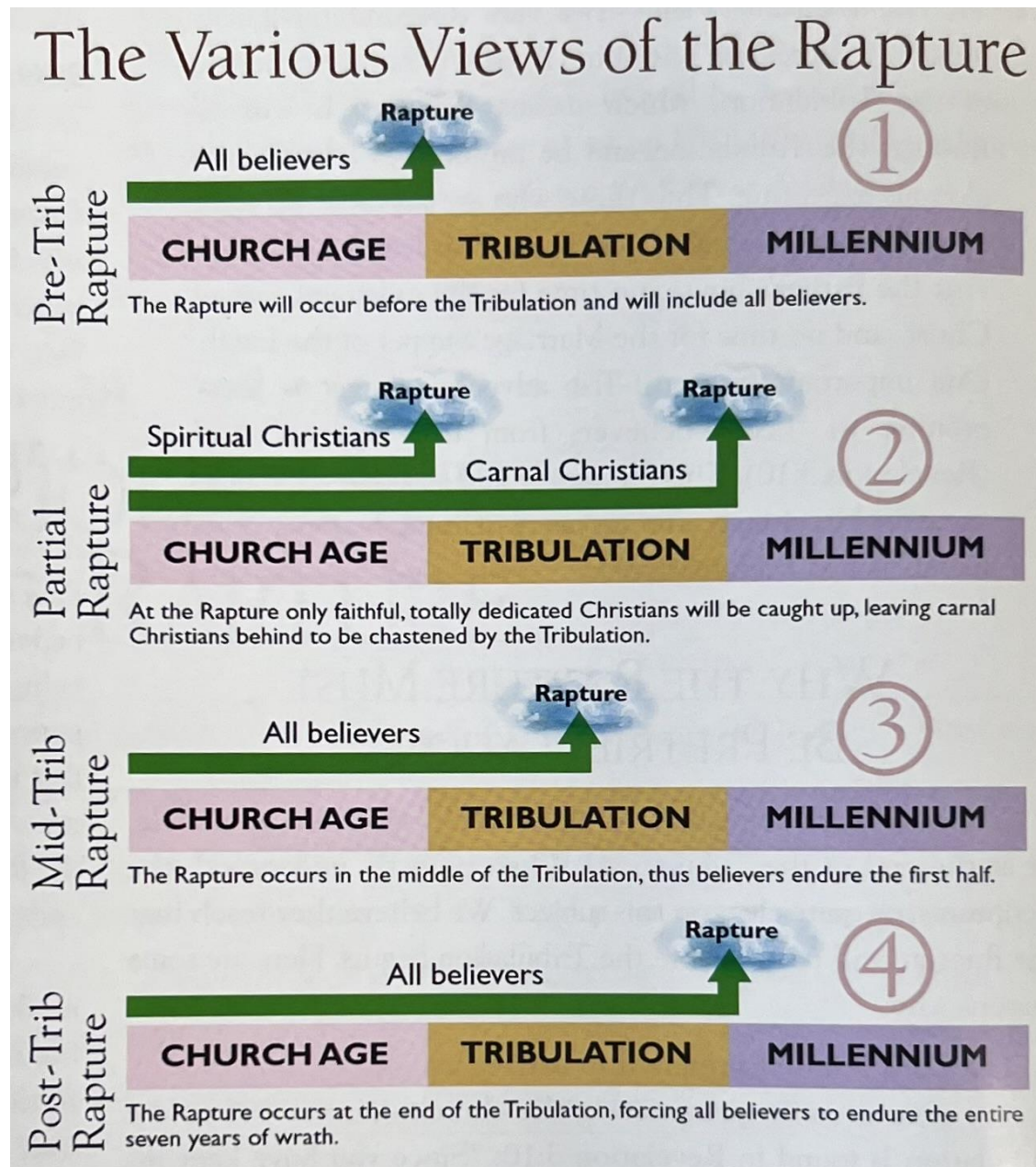
The King James Version changed it to “falling away”.

Regardless the truth here is “that day,” or the glorious appearing, will not occur until the “son of perdition” has been revealed (see Revelation 12-13).

<sup>3</sup> Jack W. Hayford, *Until The End of Time, Revealing the Future of Humankind, A Study of Daniel and Revelation* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Pub, 1994), p. 127

<sup>4</sup> Tim LaHaye, Thomas Ice, *Charting The End Times* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2001), p. 38-39

## Different Views of the Rapture



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We at Believers Teach Pre-Tribulation Rapture

### The Last Enemy Death Will Be Destroyed

**1 Corinthians 15:24-28** Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 27 For he “has put everything under his feet.” Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. 28 When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

<sup>5</sup> Tim LaHaye, Thomas Ice, Charting The End Times (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2001), p. 108