

Prophetic Fall Feasts of The LORD

May 1, 2019 Lesson #17 Purpose Of The Rapture

Seven Essential Building Blocks For A Solid Foundation

1. The Sequence of Major End Time Events
2. The Destiny of the Three Components of Humanity
3. The Purpose and Length of the Great Tribulation
4. The Purpose of the Rapture
5. The Conditions Surrounding the 2nd Coming
6. The Purpose and Length of the Millennium
7. Eternity

These seven essentials will help you avoid the mistakes that have thrown others off the track. This combination of facts will give you the ability to put all the prophetic verses in the Bible into their proper context.

Building Block Of Prophecy: E. The Purpose Of The Rapture

Consider: Many teach the Rapture and the Second Coming of Christ are one and the same event.

II Tim. 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Questions: Is the Church destined for the 7 year Tribulation Period or Heaven?

Is the term "rapture" in the Bible?

The N.T. was written in Greek. The earliest Greek texts used the Greek word "harpazo."

The Greek was translated into Latin. The only Bible used in most civilizations for 1200 years was the Latin Vulgate. The term Rapture, is derived from the Latin word, *rapere*, rapturo, which appears in this Bible. The word "rapere" was translated into several English phrases.

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Take it by force | Matt. 11:12 | 2. Catcheth Away | Matt. 13:19 |
| 3. Pluck them out | John 10:28 | 4. Caught Up | I Thess. 4:17>NAS; KJ; NIV |
| 5. Gather Together | Eph. 1:10 | | |

Early Church Fathers' Writings:

1. The Shepherd of Hermas - 96 - 150 AD - 1900 years ago, he wrote, "go, therefore, and tell the elect of the Lord His mighty deeds, and say to them that this beast (Roman Emperor) is a type of the great tribulation that is coming. If then ye prepare yourselves, repent and turn to the Lord, it will be possible for you to escape it."

2. Irenaeus - 130-202 AD - Studied under Polycarp who studied under the Disciple John. 1800 years ago, he said, "When in the end the Church shall be suddenly caught up from this, it is said, "There shall be tribulation such as has not been since the beginning neither shall be."

3. Ephraem the Syrian - 306-373 AD - 1600 years ago, he said, "For all the saints and elect of God are gathered, prior to the tribulation that is to come, and are taken to the Lord lest they see the confusion that is to overwhelm the world because of our sins."

Consider: The concept of the Rapture was NOT revealed to the OT prophets because it is a promise to the New Testament CHURCH and not to the saints of God who lived before the establishment of the Church.

The Old Testament Saints will be resurrected at the end of the 7 year Tribulation period - NOT at the Rapture of the Church. Daniel revealed this fact in Daniel 12:1-2 when he states that the saints of that age will be resurrected at the end of the "time of distress."

1st Clear Mention & Promise of the Rapture:

John 14:1-4 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; (promise to believers) that where I am, there you may be also. (purpose of His coming >Take Believers To Heaven) ⁴ And where I go you know, and the way you know."

Note: There is NO mention of Jesus coming to earth as He will do at the 2nd Coming.

No One Knew Of The Doctrine Of The Rapture Of The Church Until It Was Revealed By The Lord To Paul.

The Rapture was a "mystery" revealed by God to him alone which he then was charged with teaching the Church. Its existence was kept secret until then just as its exact timing is secret to this day. Many of the mistakes made about the timing of the rapture come from futile attempts to find Gospel passages that teach it.

Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians was written in 51 AD and contains the very first clear mention of the Rapture ever given. Neither Jesus nor the Disciples ever taught it.

I Thess. 1:9-10 They tell how you TURNED TO GOD from idols TO SERVE the living and true God, AND TO WAIT for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, who rescues [delivered] us FROM the coming wrath.

Greek word "serve" = Strong's #1398 douleou = to serve as a slave, having all personal ownership & rights assigned to the owner; to be devoted

Note: The Bible speaks of 2 types of tribulation.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

- ❖ Our world was hostile to Christ. If you follow Him, you should EXPECT it to be hostile to you. The world inflicts tribulation on the true Church.

I Thess. 1:10 speaks of a Great Tribulation that God will bring on this evil world.

Throughout the NT, God makes promises that He will spare His true Church this judgment.

- ❖ We are subject to the world's tribulation, but spared God's tribulation on the world.

Greek word translated "from" = apo = keep the subject [us] away from the time, place or any relation to the event being referenced, = the coming wrath

Purpose: Hide the Church safely out of the way before God visits His wrath upon the Earth.

Paul portrays Jesus as coming FOR His Church, to DELIVER believers from the "wrath that is to come." He is coming to claim the righteous.

Rom. 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood "we shall be Saved From The Wrath of God through Him (Jesus)."

I Thess. 5:9 - For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [context = tribulation period; the Day of the Lord]

Salvation = soteria = #4991 deliverance, salvation

Usage: welfare, prosperity, deliverance, preservation, salvation, safety.

I Cor. 15:51-52 "Behold, I shew you a MYSTERY: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." *The Rapture*

Mystery: new truth given for the 1st time; not before given in the past

The Rapture was a "mystery" revealed by God to him alone which he then was charged with teaching the Church.

Nearly every Bible chronology places the date of the writing of Matthew at around 35 AD, of I Thessalonians around 51 AD and the writing of I Corinthians around 55 AD.

Why is this important? Because if no one knew of the doctrine of the Rapture of the Church until Paul, then Matthew 24 and 25 cannot be, under any circumstances, referring to the Church and the Rapture because no one knew of any Rapture. At the time of Matthew the Church itself was not even formed. If Matthew knew and wrote about the Rapture of the Church, then Paul was lying when he said it was a MYSTERY that he was revealing for the first time in Corinthians.

The Rapture is perhaps the single most important component of End Times prophecy, and for believers of the Church Age, it is. Why didn't Jesus ever mention it?

I Cor. 2:6-10 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are mature: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: ⁷ But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto Our Glory:

⁸ Which none of the princes of this world knew: For Had They Known It, They Would Not Have Crucified The Lord Of Glory. ⁹ But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

¹⁰ But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God.

- ❖ The phrase princes of this world or "rulers of this age" refers to Satan & Co.
- ❖ Had they known the astonishing abundance of blessings the Lord would shower down upon those who accept His death as payment for their sins, they would have done everything in their power to prevent the crucifixion.

- ❖ We're called Kings and Priests, given incalculable wealth and influence, made heirs with Christ of God's estate.
- ❖ This realization came to Satan after it was too late to prevent it and turned what should have been his greatest victory into an agonizing defeat.

Col. 2:15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Rev. 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

Rev. 1 Things John had seen

Rev. 2 & 3 Letters to the 7 churches

Rev. 4-22 Things which will be hereafter [The age of the church]

Note: After Revelation 3 the church is not seen on Earth again until we come back with the Lord in Rev. 19:14.

In Rev. 4:1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. [After The Church Age]

Rev. 1:10-11a I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,¹¹ Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last:

Instantly John finds himself in the spirit, standing before the throne of God at the end of the Church age. He's been transported to the time after the Rapture.

He sees 24 elders seated on thrones of their own around the throne of God.

They're dressed in white with crowns of gold on their heads. They bow down before the Lord and place their crowns at His feet giving honor and glory to Him.

Rev. 5:9-10 they call themselves Kings and Priests as they sing praises to God. Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

¹⁰ And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

By their titles, clothing, crowns, thrones, and activities it's clear that they represent the newly raptured church.

There are four Old Testament views of the Throne of God.

Those in Isaiah 6:1-4 and Ezekiel 1 and 10 don't include these 24 elders.

Daniel 7:9-10, an end of the age vision, hints at multiple thrones but offers no detail.

In Revelation, the 24 elders are mentioned 12 times. Some group has arrived in Heaven that wasn't there in Old Testament times. 12 is the number of government.

It's the Church, come to rule and reign with Christ.

So the Church is Raptured in Rev. 4, and is shown in heaven in Rev. 5, while on earth, God's wrath is loosed in Rev. 6 as the passage below clearly states.

Rev. 6:15-17 Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who can stand?"

Many Believe The Rapture Is The Fulfillment Of The Feast Of Trumpets.

I'm not an advocate of a Feast of Trumpets rapture.

1. The LORD'S Feasts were entrusted to the nation of Israel.
2. Is there anything in any of the feasts that speak of Israel suddenly being whisked off the planet to dwell in Heaven with Jesus? No.
3. The rapture was uniquely created for the Church, so why would it be fulfilled on a Jewish feast day?

I believe the Second Coming is a much more likely fulfillment of the Feast of Trumpets.

1. Study Romans 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

The phrases "full number" and "come in" point to the Rapture of the Church.

- ❖ In Paul's day, they were often used in a nautical context.
- ❖ The "full number" was the number of crew members a ship needed before it was authorized to set sail. As soon as the full number of crewmen had been contracted the ship immediately left the harbor to begin its journey.
- ❖ The phrase "come in" means to arrive at the ship's scheduled destination. People talk about how different life will be for them when their ship "comes in."

It appears the Church has a full number: the number of believers necessary for the Rapture. Reaching that number frees us from the constraints of this world and we'll immediately "come in" to our scheduled destination—Heaven.

John 14:2-3 Jesus told the disciples He was going to His Father's house to prepare a place for us, and then He'd come back for us to take us there.

Once He's done that, Israel's time of hardening will come to an end and the time of their reconciliation will begin.

Acts 15:13-18 Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. ¹⁵ And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, ¹⁶ After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:

¹⁷ That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.

¹⁸ Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.

"Take out" comes from a Greek word that means to take hold of something for the purpose of carrying it away. It refers to the Rapture of the Church.

All the dozens of End Times prophecies concerning Israel center around the promise: God Will One Day Return To Dwell With Them In The Land He Promised Them [Ezek. 43:7, etc.].

Conclusion:

- I believe the rapture is a number specific event, not a date specific one. It will come on the day when the church has reached its full number, no matter what day that happens to be.
- Therefore, I think the rapture can happen on any day.
- The rapture cannot be both imminent (happen at any moment) and scheduled to take place on a certain day that only comes once each year.
- 2. There are many trumpets on Feast of Trumpets, but only one at the rapture.
- 3. I think saying the rapture of the Church will occur on a Jewish Feast day is like saying the Church has replaced Israel in God's plan. That is called replacement theology and it's a provably false teaching.
- 4. The rapture is a secret, signless event. 2nd Coming has many events yet to be fulfilled.

- I see no Biblical support for any kind of warning that would alert us to its coming.
- I see no Biblical support for the Rapture happening on the Feast of Trumpets.
- The Rapture will happen at a time no one on Earth could have predicted in advance, although as believers we should be living in a constant state of expectation.

I believe Jesus will fulfill the fall feasts in order and on the day of their observance, but it won't involve the rapture because it's not an event that involves Israel, for whom the feasts are significant.

Doctrine of Imminence: The primary thought expressed by imminence is that something important is likely to happen and could do so without delay. While it may not be immediate nor necessarily soon, it is next on the program and may take place at any time.

The term imminence normally implies three important truths concerning our Lord's coming:

(1) While no one knows the time of Christ's return, He may come at any moment and it is possible that He might come today. In the midst of all the trials and sorrows of life, it is the hope of Christ's imminent return which never fails to encourage the troubled heart.

(2) The Rapture is sign-less and will be unannounced and largely unexpected.

(3) No clearly prophesied event must transpire prior to the Rapture, for this might date the time of His coming. If the return of Christ for His Church is imminent, then obviously it will be before the coming period of Tribulation with its clearly predicted signs and judgments.

In theological language, the Rapture of the Church must be Pre-tribulational.

1. Are we to look first for an invasion of the Holy Land by Russia or some other northern confederation?
2. Are we to look for the revelation of Antichrist and his godless ambitions?
3. Are we to look for the predicted Battle of Armageddon with its vast devastation?

We are exhorted to be looking for the coming of Christ from heaven to take His own to the Father's house (John 14:1-3). The Bible calls this our "blessed hope."

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;

Scripture teaches believers to expect the Savior from heaven at any moment.

Therefore, we are to always be READY for His return.

Phil. 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

I Thess. 5:6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.

I Peter 1:13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

The Doctrine Of Imminence Should Have A Definite Bearing On Your Christian Walk.

Think back over this past week. How much of what you did was motivated by your conscious awareness of the coming of the Lord?

Rom. 13:11-12 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

The night is far spent, the day is at hand.

Therefore, let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

Salvation: soteria = #4991 deliverance, salvation

Usage: welfare, prosperity, deliverance, preservation, salvation, safety.

God's rescue which delivers believers out of destruction *and into His safety.*

3 Tenses of Salvation:

- ❖ Justification: I have been saved: Deliverance accomplished in the past
Declared righteous
- ❖ Sanctification: I am being saved: Deliverance in which God's Spirit is daily delivering me from the temptations and snares of the world, flesh & devil
- ❖ Glorification: I will be saved: Deliverance from this body > Redeemed & glorified

Consider: The salvation here is eschatological rather than soteriological > This salvation is viewed as FUTURE. Our deliverance from this present world is nearer. Our glorification is closer now than when we were justified. As each day ends, it brings the believer 1 day closer to the time when the Rapture may occur. Due to imminence, it is time for believers to awaken out of sleep and to live a life consistent with the position of being *sons of light*.

Consider: Rom. 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Question: Where is sanctified? Sanctification takes place as I yield to Him and allow the Holy Spirit and the Word of God to transform me into the image of Jesus Christ.

It takes my cooperation and obedience.

Lutzer: Preparing for our eternal future should be our highest priority.

I John 3:2-3 > Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Lutzer: Preparing For Our Eternal Future Should Be Our Highest Priority

I John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

Consider: A bride in waiting yearns to be married to her Beloved.

As we grow in the Lord, we not only LOOK for His appearing, but we LOVE His appearing.

II Tim. 4:7-8 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also

To All Who Have Loved His Appearing.