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THE RAPTURE

What and When? – Part 3



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What is the Rapture?



1. An important doctrine
2. Distinct from the Second Advent
3. Catching away of all living believers (1 Thess 4:17)
4. Reunion (1 Thess 4:14-16)
5. Resurrection (1 Cor 15:50-54)
6. Exemption from death (1 Cor 15:51, 54-56)
7. Instantaneous (1 Cor 15:52)
8. Mystery (1 Cor 15:51)
9. **Imminent (1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)**
10. Traditional doctrine now being recovered

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Imminent

(1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)




- Imminency definition
- James 5:8; 1 Thess 1:10; 1 Cor 1:7; Philip 3:20
- We are to be looking for Jesus Christ and not the Antichrist!
- Motivator (Holiness, Evangelism)
- Feast of Trumpets?

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1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³ "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who . . .




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1 Corinthians 15:51

"Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed."



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Wayne Brindle
"Biblical Evidence for the Imminence of the Rapture,"
#Bibliotheca Sacra 158, no. 630 (April-June 2001): 138-51.

"Four criteria may be suggested, any one of which indicates imminence: (1) The passage speaks of Christ's return as at any moment. (2) The passage speaks of Christ's return as 'near,' without stating any signs that must precede His coming. (3) The passage speaks of Christ's return as something that gives believers hope and encouragement, without indicating that these believers will suffer tribulation. (4) The passage speaks of Christ's return as giving hope without relating it to God's judgment of unbelievers."

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John 14:1-4


¹ "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. ² "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. ³ "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. ⁴ "And you know the way where I am going."



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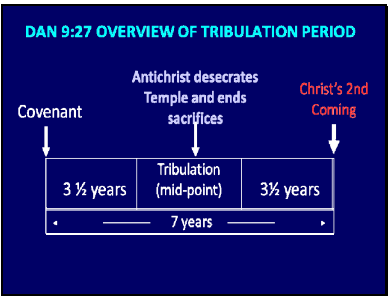
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THE CHURCH AND THE TRIBULATION: WHY CHRIST WON'T COME BEFORE THE ANTICHRIST COMES

First

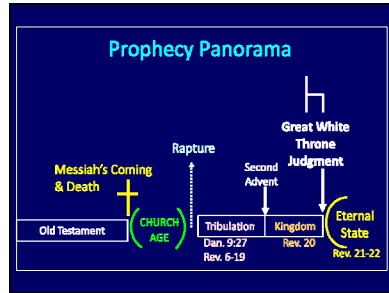
the Antichrist



ROBERT H. GUNDRY

Robert H. Gundry, *The Church and the Tribulation: Why Christ Won't Come Before the Antichrist Comes* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1973).


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J. Dwight Pentecost
Prophecy For Today, Page 20

"A short time ago, I took occasion to go through the New Testament to mark each reference to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and to observe the use made of that teaching about His coming. I was struck a new with the fact that almost without exception, when the coming of Christ is mentioned in the New Testament, it is followed by an exhortation to godliness and holy living."

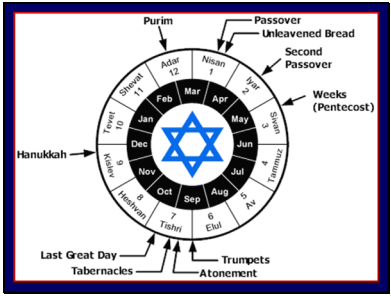
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Levitical Feasts (Lev. 23)			
Feast	Season	Purpose	Type
Passover	Spring	Redemption	1 Cor 5:7
Unleavened Bread	Spring	Separation	John 6:35
1st fruits	Spring	Praise	1 Cor 15:20
Pentecost	Spring	Praise	Acts 2:1-4
Trumpets	Fall	New Year	Matt 24:31
Atonement	Fall	Lev 16	Zech 12:10
Booths	Fall	Wilderness provision	Zech 14:16-18

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Ephesians 2:14-16

¹⁴ “For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, ¹⁵ by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.”




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1 Corinthians 10:32

“Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God.”



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Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum
"Israel and the Church," in *Issues in Dispensationalism*, ed. Wesley R. Willis and John R. Master (Chicago: Moody, 1994), 118.

"In the book of Acts, both Israel and the church exist simultaneously. The term *Israel* is used twenty times and *ekklesia* (church) nineteen times, yet the two groups are always kept distinct."

ISRAEL ≠ CHURCH

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Matthew 24:31

³¹ "And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."




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 **Gary DeMar**
*End Times Fiction: A Biblical Consideration of the Left Behind
Theology* (Nashville, TN: Nelson, 2001), 19.

“...the doctrine was not discovered until the nineteenth century. All attempts to find a pretrib Rapture any earlier than around 1830 do not hold up to historical scrutiny...If it took nearly nineteenth century years to discover the pretrib Rapture, why didn't it take that long to discover the many other doctrines that Christians believed and confessed...?”

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 **Michael L. Brown & Craig S. Keener**
Not Afraid of the Antichrist: Why We Don't Believe in a Pre-Tribulation Rapture (Bloomington, MINN: Chosen, 2019), 62.

“The view dominated many mid-twentieth-century U.S. evangelical circles, which also promoted it widely on mission fields that now flourish with tens or hundreds of millions of zealous Christians. Yet there is no record of anyone promoting a pre-Tribulation Rapture before about 1830; until that time virtually everyone, from any Christian or even semi-Christian tradition, expected that Jesus would resurrect the righteous and destroy the wicked at the same time.”

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"The Rapture" is a New Doctrine?
Four Logical Fallacies


1. Recency fallacy
2. *Ad-populum* fallacy
3. Genetic fallacy
4. *Ad-hominem* fallacy



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"The Rapture" a Traditional Doctrine Now Being Recovered


- *Sola scriptura*
- Negative influence of Augustine and Origen
- Pseudo Ephraem (4th-6th century A.D.)
- Progressive illumination



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Acts 20:29-31


²⁹ "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ "Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.



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Jesse Forest Silver
The Lord's Return: Seen in History and in Scripture as
Premillennial and Imminent (NY: Revell, 1914), 62-64.

Silver says of the apostolic fathers that "they expected the return of the Lord in their day...They believed the time was imminent because the Lord had taught them to live in a watchful attitude." Concerning the ante Nicene fathers, he says: "by tradition they knew the faith of the apostles. They taught the doctrine of the imminent and pre-millennial return of the Lord."

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Ante-Nicene Fathers: "Heavenly and Eschatological" Interpretation of John 14:1-4

- Papias (AD 110)
- Irenaeus (AD 130-202)
- Tertullian (AD 196-212)
- Origen (AD 182-251)
- Cyprian (AD 258)



George Gunn, "John 14:1-3: The Father's House: Are We There Yet?" 7:11

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Ante-Nicene Fathers: "Heavenly and Eschatological" Interpretation of John 14:1-4


"Interestingly, references to John 14:1-3 virtually disappear when perusing the writings of the Nicene and Post-Nicene fathers. This is a bit surprising, given the abundance of material in these later writers when compared with the Ante-Nicenes. I would assume that with the rise of Augustinian amillennialism and its optimistic interpretation regarding the present arrival of the Kingdom of God, the kind of hope held out in John 14:1-3 ceased to hold relevance."

George A. Gunn, "Jesus and the Rapture: John 14," in *Evidence for the Rapture: A Biblical Case for Pretribulationism*, ed. John F. Hart (Chicago: Moody, 2015), 119, n. 22.

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Pseudo Ephraem
(4th-6th century A.D.)

"Why therefore do we not reject every care of earthly actions and prepare ourselves for the meeting of the Lord Christ, so that he may draw us from the confusion, which overwhelms all the world...For all the saints and the 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."

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Daniel 12:4, 9


"⁴But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase...⁹ Go *your way*, Daniel, for *these* words are concealed and sealed up until the end time."



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Amos 8:12

"People will stagger from sea to sea And from the north even to the east; They will go to and fro to seek the word of the Lord. But they will not find it."



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Sir Isaac Newton (1642–1727)



"About the time of the end, a body of men will be raised up who will turn their attention to the Prophecies, and insist upon their literal interpretation, in the midst of much clamor and opposition."

Isaac Newton cited in Nathaniel West, *The Thousand Years in Both Testaments*, 462.

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History of Doctrine

■ Canon (A.D. 180)

■ Christology (A.D. 500)

■ Atonement (A.D. 1100)

■ Salvation (A.D. 1500)

■ Eschatology (A.D. 1800)

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James Orr

The Progress of Dogma (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1952), 21-31.

Orr outlines the progress of Christian dogma in a similar way. "The second century was the age of Apologetics. The doctrine of God and especially the Trinity then took center stage in the third and fourth centuries as the Church dealt with the Monarchian, Arian, and Macedonian controversies. Anthropology then became the Church's focus in the early fifth century during the Augustinian and Pelagian controversies...The late fifth and then sixth and seventh centuries were characterized by an ecclesiastical interest in Christological (Nestorian, Eutychian, Monophysite, Monothelite) matters. In the . . .

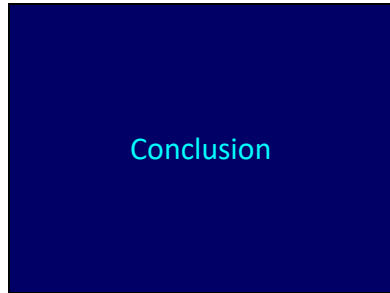
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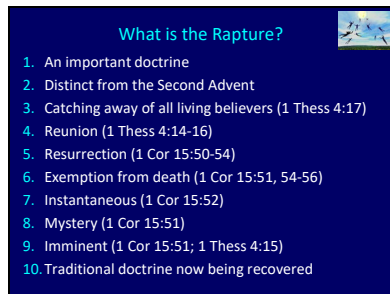
The Progress of Dogma (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1952), 21-31.

" . . .sixteenth century the reformers focused upon salvific or Soteriological concerns. Finally, the Church gave itself to correcting a Mythical and Mediaeval pre-reformation Eschatology." Thus, Eschatology was the last of the branches of theology to be systematized since it was not designed to be progressively unsealed or illuminated by the Holy Spirit until just before the fulfillment of the predicted events (Dan. 12:4, 8-9).

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9.

1 Cor 15:51-Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed.

1 Thess 4:15-For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

James 5:8-You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

1 Thess. 1:10- and to **wait for His Son** from ^[a]heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

1 Cor 1:7-so that you are not lacking in any gift, **awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

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

1 John 3:2-3-²Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. ³And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

10.

Acts 20:29-30-²⁹I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

Jude 3-Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for **the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.**

Rev. 22:18-19-¹⁸I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; ¹⁹and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy,

God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.