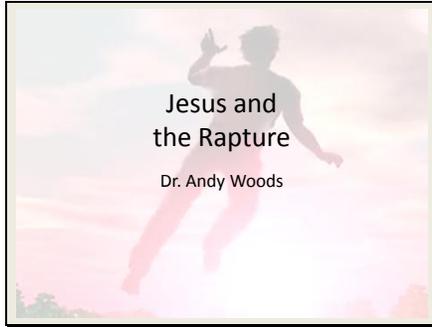
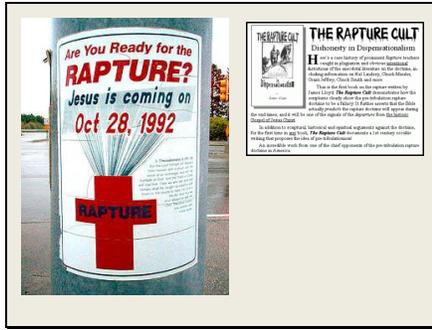


Slide 1



Slide 2



Slide 3

John 14:1-4



- "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."

Slide 4

Preview (John 14:1-4)

- I. Preliminary reasons
- II. Exegesis of John 14:1-4
- III. Answering the non-rapture arguments

John 14:1-4

"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."

Slide 5

Preview (John 14:1-4)

- I. **Preliminary reasons**
- II. Exegesis of John 14:1-4
- III. Answering the non-rapture arguments

John 14:1-4

"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."

Slide 6

I. Preliminary Reasons



- A. Significance of the Upper Room Discourse (John 13–17)
- B. Eschatological flavor of the Upper Room Discourse
- C. Early church fathers
- D. Jewish marriage analogy
- E. Parallels with other rapture texts

Slide 7

Preview (John 14:1-4)

I. Preliminary reasons

II. **Exegesis of John 14:1-4**

III. Answering the non-rapture arguments

John 14:1-4

"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."

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II. Exegesis of John 14:1-4

- vs. 1- Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.
 - Christ's announced departure (13:1)
 - Comfort (14:1)



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II. Exegesis of John 14:1-4

- vs. 2- In My Father's house are many dwelling places...I go to prepare a place for you.
 - My Father's house
 - Many dwellings
 - I go



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II. Exegesis of John 14:1-4

Summary

John 14:2 teaches that Christ will return to the very heaven from which He came in order to prepare temporary dwellings for His disciples.



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II. Exegesis of John 14:1-4

- vs. 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.
 - I will come
 - Again
 - And receive you
 - To
 - Where



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II. Exegesis of John 14:1-4

- vs. 3- “And receive you to myself”
 - **Summary: Christ will physically return to spatially remove believers and to take them to be with Him**



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II. Exegesis of John 14:1-4

- vs. 3- "that where I am you may be also"
 - **Summary: Jesus will return to take the believer to the place where He is. This place can hardly be the earth since there would be no need for Him to build the heavenly dwellings spoken of in the preceding verses.**



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II. Exegesis of John 14:1-4

- vs. 4- "And you know the way where I am going."
 - Going (*hypagō*)
 - "used esp. of Christ and his *going* to the Father, characteristically of J...J 7:33; 16:5a;...10, 17...13:3...8:14a;...21b, 22; 13:33;...36b...8:21a...14:28...13:36a; 14:4, 5; 16:5b; 1J 2:11." (BDAG, p. 1028)
 - Ascension



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Conclusion

- Christ would return through His Ascension to His Father's heavenly abode.
- He would then prepare temporary dwellings for His disciples.
- He would return for His disciples in the future.
- His return would be just as personal as was His First Coming and Ascension.
- He would physically take believers to be with Him by spatially drawing them to Himself.



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Conclusion

- Purpose of this event is so that believers could dwell in their prepared, temporal, heavenly places and be with Christ where He is.
- This information would serve as a comfort to the disciples who were troubled over the announcement over His soon departure (John 13:1).
- Christ unfolded the reality of this event for the purpose of comforting His disciples (John 14:1).

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New Mystery Truth

- “But here in John 14 the Lord gives a new and unique revelation; He speaks of something which no prophet had promised, or even could promise. Where is it written that this Messiah would come and instead of gathering His saints into an earthly Jerusalem, would take them to the Father's house, to the very place where He is? It is something new.”

Arno C. Gaebelien, *The Gospel of John*, 268.

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Rapture Distinct from Second Advent

Rapture (1 Thess 4:13-17; 1 Cor 15:51-57)	Second Coming (Rev 19:11-16)
Christ comes in the air (1 Thess 4:16-17)	Christ comes to the earth (Zech 14:4)
For His saints (1 Thess 4:15-17)	With His saints (Rev 19:14)
Blessing (1 Thess 4:18)	Judgment (Rev 19:15)
Effects only believers (1 Thess 4:16)	Effects both believers and unbelievers (Rev 19:15)
Primary Impact on the Church (1 Thess 4:16)	Visible to all (Rev 1:7)
Announced only by an archangel (1 Thess 4:16)	Involves myriads of angels (Jude 14)
Resurrection (1 Cor 15: 51)	No resurrection
Rescue of the church (1 Thess 1:10)	Rescue of Israel (Matt 23:37-39)

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Preview (John 14:1-4)

- I. Preliminary reasons
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- III. **Answering the non-rapture arguments**

John 14:1-4

"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."

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III. Inadequate Alternatives

- A. Believer's death
- B. Believer's salvation
- C. Christ's resurrection
- D. Coming of the Spirit on Pentecost (Acts 2)
- E. Non-pretribulational rapture



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III. Inadequate Alternatives

- A. **Believer's death**
- B. Believer's salvation
- C. Christ's resurrection
- D. Coming of the Spirit on Pentecost (Acts 2)
- E. Non-pretribulational rapture



Slide 22



III. Inadequate Alternatives

A. Believer's death

1. "Again" (*palin*) = 1x
2. Angels take deceased believers to heaven (Luke 16:22)
3. Christ remains in heaven when believers die (Acts 7:56)
4. Believers go to the lord upon death (2 Cor 5:8)

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III. Inadequate Alternatives

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1. "**Again**" (*palin*) = **1x**
2. Angels take deceased believers to heaven (Luke 16:22)
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II. Exegesis of John 14:1-4



- vs. 3- "I will come **again**"
 - Again (*palin*)
 - "The coming again is the counterpart of the going away; visibly Jesus ascends, visibly he returns, Acts 1:9-11." (Lenski, p. 974)
 - "to repetition in the same (or similar) manner, *again, **once more**, anew* of someth. a pers. has already done." (BDAG, p. 752)

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III. Inadequate Alternatives

A. Believer's death

B. Believer's salvation

C. Christ's resurrection

D. Coming of the Spirit on Pentecost (Acts 2)

E. Non-pretribulational rapture



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III. Inadequate Alternatives

B. Believer's Salvation

1. "Again" (*palin*) = 1x
2. Allegorization of localized language describing a heavenly-"Father's house", "dwelling places", "a place", "where I am", "where I go"



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III. Inadequate Alternatives

B. Believer's Salvation

1. **"Again" (*palin*) = 1x**
2. Allegorization of localized language describing a heavenly-"Father's house", "dwelling places", "a place", "where I am", "where I go"



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III. Inadequate Alternatives

- A. Believer's death
- B. Believer's salvation
- C. **Christ's resurrection**
- D. Coming of the Spirit on Pentecost (Acts 2)
- E. Non-pretribulational rapture



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III. Inadequate Alternatives

C. **Christ's resurrection (John 14:18-20; 20:19, 26; 21:1)**

1. Christ comes after the Ascension ("I go") rather than before
2. "Again" (*palin*) = like His first coming which was from heaven rather than out of a tomb
3. "To" (*pros*) = No spatial movement involved with the resurrected Christ coming to His disciples



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II. Exegesis of John 14:1-4

- vs. 2-In My Father's house are many dwelling places...I go to prepare a place for you.
 - I go
 - Jesus came from (John 16:28; 17:5) and is going back to heaven (John 13:12; 14:12; 16:28)
 - **Poreuomai= Ascension (Acts 1:10-11; 1 Pet 3:22)**



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II. Exegesis of John 14:1-4



- vs. 3- "And receive you to myself"
 - Receive (*paralambanō*): "to take into close association, take (to oneself), take with/along...I will take you to myself J 14:3...with me to my home." (BDAG, p. 767)
 - To (*pros*): "*pros* with the Accusative...This is very common and denotes movement 'towards.' Spatially, 'to or towards someone or something,' primarily with an intransitive or transitive verb expressing movement." (TDNT, p. 721).
 - Summary: Christ's return to spatially remove believers and to take them to be with Him

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III. Inadequate Alternatives

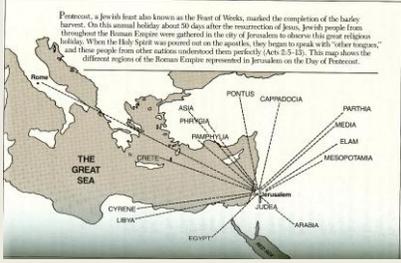
- A. Believer's death
- B. Believer's salvation
- C. Christ's resurrection
- D. Coming of the Spirit on Pentecost (Acts 2)**
- E. Non-pretribulational rapture



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The Nations of Pentecost

Pentecost, a Jewish feast also known as the Feast of Weeks, marked the completion of the barley harvest. On this annual holiday about 50 days after the resurrection of Jesus, Jewish people from throughout the Roman Empire were gathered in the city of Jerusalem to observe this great religious holiday. When the Holy Spirit was poured out on the apostles, they began to speak with "other tongues," and those people from other nations understood them perfectly (Acts 2:5-11). This map shows the different regions of the Roman Empire represented in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost.



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III. Inadequate Alternatives

D. Coming of the Spirit in Acts 2

1. "Again" (*palin*) - like His first coming yet Acts 2 was not a bodily
2. "To" (*pros*) - No spatial movement involved with the Spirit coming to the church
3. "Receive you to Myself" - The Holy Spirit did not receive believers in Acts 2 but believers received the Holy Spirit (John 20:22; Acts 2:38; 8:15-17).

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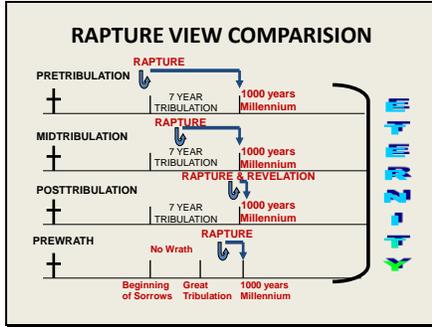
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III. Inadequate Alternatives

- A. Believer’s death
- B. Believer’s salvation
- C. Christ’s resurrection
- D. Coming of the Spirit on Pentecost (Acts 2)
- E. **Non-pretribulational rapture**



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John 14:1-4

- **"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."

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Two Themes

- **Comfort** – John 14:1



- **Imminence** – John 14:3

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1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

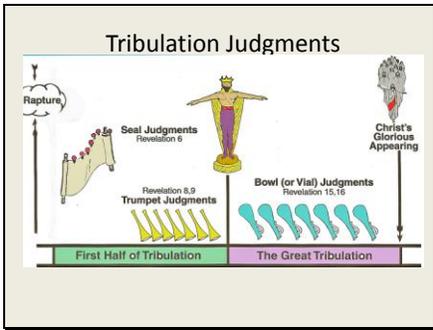
- "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ **Therefore comfort one another with these words.**"

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Promised Exemption from Divine Wrath

- The promise (1 Thess 1:10; 5:9; Rom 5:9; Rev 3:10)
- Tribulation = divine wrath (Rev 6:17; 11:18; 15:1, 7; 16:19)

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Rev. 6:16-17



- "The verb *ēlethen* ("has come") is aorist indicative, referring to a previous arrival of wrath, not something that is about to take place. Men see the arrival of this day at least as early as the cosmic upheavals that characterize the sixth seal (6:12-14), but upon reflection they probably recognize that it was already in effect with the death of one-fourth of the population (6:7-8), the worldwide famine (6:5-6), and the global warfare (6:3-4). The rapid sequence of all of these events could not escape notice, but the light of their true explanation does not dawn upon human consciousness until the severe phenomena of the sixth seal arrive."

Robert L. Thomas, *Revelation 1-7: An Exegetical Commentary*, ed. Kenneth Barker (Chicago: Moody, 1992), 437-68.

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Pretribulationism is not Escapism

- Trials (John 16:33)
- Man's wrath (2 Tim 3:12)
- Satan's wrath (Eph 6:11-12)
- World's wrath (John 15:18-19)

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John 14:1-4



- "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."

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Two Themes

- Comfort – John 14:1



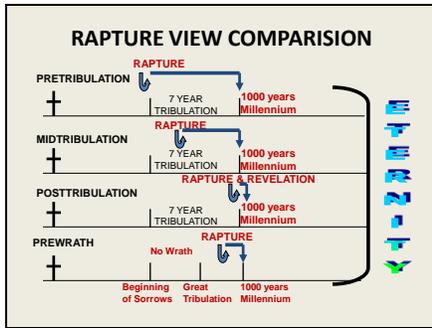
- **Imminence** – John 14:3

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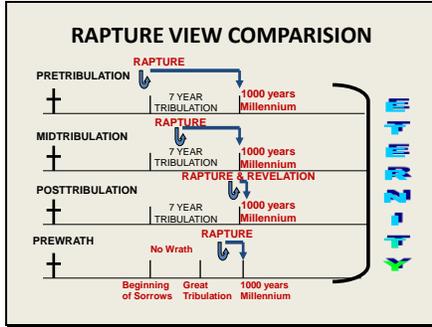
Imminence

- Imminency definition
- James 5:8; 1 Thess 1:10; 4:15; 1 Cor 1:7; 15:51; Philip 3:20
- Other rapture views deny imminence

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Where He Is?



“Since He says He is going to come in order that we may be with Him **where he is**, we would have to be with Him here on earth. Do you see the problem? The dwelling places in the Father’s house would be unused...This makes Jesus’ whole promise ridiculous. Why would He speak of preparing a place for us in the Father’s house if He didn’t mean that His return would take us there?”

Hal Lindsey, *The Rapture*, 43.

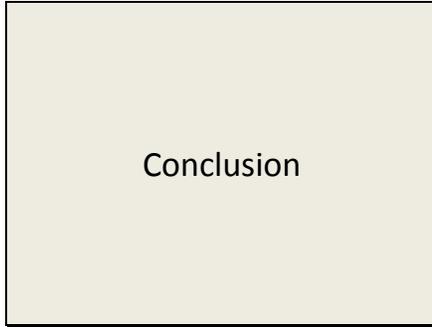
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III. Inadequate Alternatives

- A. Believer’s death
- B. Believer’s salvation
- C. Christ’s resurrection
- D. Coming of the Spirit on Pentecost (Acts 2)
- E. Non-pretribulational rapture



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Preview (John 14:1-4)

- I. Preliminary reasons
- II. Exegesis of John 14:1-4
- III. Answering the non-rapture arguments

John 14:1-4
 "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."

Luke 16:22- Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried.

Rom 8:34-who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us

Acts 7:56- and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

2 Cor 5:8- we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

John 14:18-20- "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you *will* see Me; because I live, you will live also. In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

John 20:19- So when it was evening on that day, the first *day* of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, " Peace *be* with you."

John 20:26- After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace *be* with you."

John 21:1- After these things Jesus manifested Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and He manifested *Himself* in this way.

John 20:22- And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38- Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:15-17- who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they *began* laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit.

1 Thess 4:18- Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Titus 2:13-looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.

Heb. 13:20-21-Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, *even* Jesus our Lord, ²¹ equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.