

THE
“WHAT CHRISTIAN’S BELIEVE”
SERIES

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TITLE OF THE MESSAGE

“WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE ABOUT
THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH” – PART 4

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

The Appearing of Christ, The Rapture, The Blessed Hope

INTRODUCTION

Theme Text

John 14:1-3

John 14:1-3

“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; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

**WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE ABOUT THE RAPTURE OF
THE CHURCH**

1st. *It is an appearing, more than a coming*

2nd. *It is an act of deliverance, not a call to endurance*

3rd *It is “Church” exclusive, reserved for His bride*

There are Three Distinctions of Saints in the Scriptures.

#1

The Old Testament Saints

There are the **Old Testament Saints**

From Adam to John the Baptist

Matthew 11:11

“Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

These All Died Under the Old Testament Economy

3rd It is “Church” exclusive, reserved for His bride

#2

Then There are Those that will come to Faith During the Seven Year Tribulation Period, = “Trib. Saints”

They are **The Tribulation Saints**.

Which will have to die for their faith in Jesus

Revelation 20:4

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his **mark** upon their foreheads, or in their hands;

**There are Specifics
Concerning These Tribulation Period Believers...**

Daniel 7:21

“I was watching; and the Antichrist was making war against **the saints**, and prevailing against them,

Revelation 6:9-11

When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar **the souls of those who had been slain** for #1 - the word of God and #2 - for the testimony which they held. ¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge **our blood** on those who dwell on the earth?" ¹¹ Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both #1 - *the number of their fellow servants* and #2 - their brethren, who would **be killed as they were**, was completed.

Revelation 20:4

And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw **the souls of those** who had been beheaded for #1 - their witness to Jesus and #2 - for the word of God, #3 - who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and #4 - had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

#3

Then There's "You", The Church age Believer, The Christian

We are Those who have come to Trust in Jesus Christ since the day of Pentecost but before the Rapture of the Church.

This "Time-zone" of Believers
are Called the Bride of Christ, The Church

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 CEV

My friends, we want you to understand how it will be for those followers who have already died. Then you won't grieve over them and be like people who don't have any hope. ¹⁴ We believe that Jesus died and was raised to life. We also believe that when God brings Jesus back again, he will bring with him all who had faith in Jesus before they died. ¹⁵ Our Lord Jesus told us that when he comes, we won't go up to meet him ahead of his followers who have already died. ¹⁶ With a loud command and with the shout of the chief angel and a blast of God's trumpet, the Lord will return from heaven. Then those who had faith in Christ before they died will be raised to life. ¹⁷ Next, all of us who are still alive will be taken up into the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the sky. From that time on we will all be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Encourage each other with these words.

4th. It is a sudden event, without a warning

The Rapture; A “Non-Precursor” Event

The Rapture is not only, at least,
Seven years ahead of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ,
But the Rapture has No Precursors - - nothing that has to happen before it!

The Rapture Is a Culminating Event for the Church Only.

It's Finale, It's Completion

The Second Coming
Is all together “different” from the rapture.

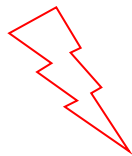
They are all together “different” from one another

In purpose, in achievement, in context, in participants, in outcome,
In purpose, in achievement, in context, in participants, in outcome,

The Second Coming; Is A “Precursor” Event

The second coming cannot happen until certain requirements are fulfilled.
One of them is the reestablishment of the nation of Israel.

And There are Many Hundreds of Other Prerequisites
To the Second Coming.



The Book of Daniel

Holds the key to the “Comings” of Jesus Christ to Earth.

Read Daniel chapters 9 & 12

A timetable is given regarding the “Comings”

Daniel 9:22-26

And he informed *me*, and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. ²³ At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell *you*, for you *are* greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision: ²⁴ "Seventy weeks (490) are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy. ²⁵ "Know therefore and understand, ***That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks (49) and sixty-two weeks; (434)*** The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times. ²⁶ "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;
(434 years + 49 years = 483 years or 173,880 days)

From March 14th. 445 B.C., 173,880 days later was April 6th.

On April 6th. 32 A.D This is What Happened...

Matthew 23:37-39

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under *her* wings, but you were not willing! ³⁸ See! Your house is left to you desolate; ³⁹ for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, "*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!*" "

Daniel 12:10-12

For Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand. ¹¹ "from the time *that* the daily *sacrifice* is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, *there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.* ¹² Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the **one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.**

45 days of judgment = Matthew 25

Matthew 25:31-33

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. :32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats. :33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. **(45 days of judgment)**

***But The Rapture;
It is Sudden and without a Warning***

1 Corinthians 15:51b-52a

... but we shall all be changed— :52 in a moment, in **the twinkling** of an eye,

“The twinkling”

rJiph/ rhipe, hree-pay’. The flinching of an eye, the instant. a flash, a twitch, less than one second of time

WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE ABOUT THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

5th. It is a mystery, hidden in the prophetic word

Isaiah 26:19-21

Your dead shall live; *Together with* my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; For your dew *is like* the dew of herbs, And the earth shall cast out the dead. ²⁰ Come, my people, enter your chambers, And shut your doors behind you; Hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, Until the indignation is past. ²¹ For behold, the LORD comes out of His place To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; The earth will also disclose her blood, And will no more cover her slain.

It's New Testament Counterpart

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:5

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep 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 by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words. ^{5:1} But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ² For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. ³ For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. ⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. ⁵ You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE ABOUT THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

6th. It is a joyful and glad event, to be anticipated

Colossians 3:3-4

For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ *who is our life* appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Looking with Imminent Expectancy

Jesus Said;

“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

1 Corinthians 15:50-52

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Many Christians Confuse the Judgment of the Second Coming with the Rapture.

Some Anti-Confusion Advice

Please, never make this mistake regarding the rapture

Luke 17:24-37

For as the lightning that flashes out of one *part* under heaven shines to the other *part* under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day. ²⁵ But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. ²⁶ And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: ²⁷ They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. ²⁸ Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; ²⁹ but on the day that

Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed *them* all. ³⁰ Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed. ³¹ “In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods *are* in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. ³² Remember Lot’s wife. ³³ Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. ³⁴ I tell you, in that night there will be two *men* in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left. ³⁵ Two *women* will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left ³⁶ Two *men* will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left.” ³⁷ And they answered and said to Him, “Where, Lord?” So He said to them, “Wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together.”

WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE ABOUT THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

7th. It is “the” blessed hope of every believer

2 Timothy 4:6-8

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸

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.

1 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.

Hebrews 9:28

so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

Titus 2:13

looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

There is No “~~Blessed Hope~~” in the Second Coming

Daniel 7:25

The Antichrist shall speak *pompous* words against the Most High God, He will persecute the saints of the Most High God...Then *the saints* shall be given into his hand For a time (1) and times (2) and half a time.(1/2) = 3 1/2 years

WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE ABOUT THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

8th. It is predominately gentile by nature

Ephesians 5:23-27

For the husband is head of the wife, as **also Christ is head of the church**; and **He is the Savior of the body**.²⁴ Therefore, **just as the church is subject to Christ**, so *let the wives be to their own husbands in everything*.²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, **just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her**,²⁶ that He might **sanctify and cleanse her** with the washing of water by the word,²⁷ that He might **present her to Himself** a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

It's Nature...

Matthew 28:18-19a

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,

Mark 16:15

And He said to them, “Go into **all the world** and preach the gospel to **every creature**.”

**The Church is Made Up of All Those Who Believe
In every country, of every color, the church is totally ethnic.
(By Far, the Church is Mostly Gentile)**

8th. It is predominately gentile by nature

Those who had been Raptured are Found in Heaven,

Revelations 5:8-12

Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰ And have made us a kingdom of priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." ¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

By The Way – From Revelation 4:1 to Revelation 19

There is no longer any mention of the church on earth, and when you do get another look at the church – it's found safe and secure in heaven until Revelation 19:14 where the church is seen Coming out of Heaven with Jesus Christ back to Earth in the Great Second Coming !

WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE ABOUT THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

9th. It demands a literal interpretation of the scriptures

Acts 1:9-11

Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹ who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

It was a real, physical Jesus that ascended,
And it will be the same, real, physical Jesus that ascended!

Luke 24:36-43

Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you." ³⁷ But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. ³⁸ And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise

in your hearts? ³⁹ Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.” ⁴⁰ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. ⁴¹ But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?” ⁴² So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. ⁴³ And He took *it* and ate in their presence.

John 14:2-3

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; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE ABOUT THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

10th. Jesus Himself, is looking forward to the moment

The Concept and Construction

Of new testament passages in regard to Jesus being with the Church again,
Are all framed in the most tenderest settings!

Luke 22:14-16

Now when the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. ¹⁵ Then He said to them, “With *fervent* desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; ¹⁶ ***for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.***”

Revelation 19:7-9a

Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” ⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed *are* those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’

If you believe in a Rapture at the end of the Tribulation,
You have a really big problem because, who is Jesus coming to Rapture up, if all the believers in Jesus refused the mark of the beast and were put to death like the scriptures tell?