

Is There Going To Be A "Rapture?"

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:4

Introduction: You have undoubtedly seen a bumper sticker that reads “In case of Rapture somebody grab the wheel” or “In case of Rapture this car will be unmanned.” The rapture on these bumper stickers is a part of the Premillennial doctrine or theory.

In the theory, the rapture is a sudden “catching away” of the righteous who are living on earth. People will suddenly, silently noiselessly disappear! They are taken by the Lord. The dead are not taken and the wicked living are left for a seven year period of tribulation.

Let us examine this theory of the Rapture.

I. Passages Used To Substantiate The Rapture.

A. *1 Thessalonians 4:13-16.*

B. *Matthew 24:37-41.*

II. Examination Of These Same Passages.

A. Read all of context - - *1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:4.*

1. Rapturists say only righteous dead taken (*vv. 14-16*).

a. Yet wicked are raised too (*Jn. 5:28-29*).

b. “*Just and the unjust*” (*Acts 24:15*).

2. Rapturists say return after seven years. Text says remain (*v. 17*).

B. Read all of context- - *Matthew 24:36-42.*

1. Not all of chapter about destruction of Jerusalem.

a. *Vv. 4-34* has signs given for destruction of Jerusalem. No sign given for second coming of Christ (*Matt. 16:4*). Jesus said He didn’t know (thus could not give a sign, *v. 36*).

b. Destruction of Jerusalem concerns “days” (*vv. 19, 22, 29*). Second coming concerns a “day” (*vv. 36, 50*).

2. Rapturists believe *vv. 40-41* teach their position. Does it?

a. The parallel is to Noah (*vv. 37-39*). Those who were left were destroyed.

b. Likewise those who are left (*vv. 40-41*) are left for destruction (eternal), not left to inhabit the earth for a seven year period of tribulation.

III. Other Ideas Associated With The Rapture.

A. Rapturists say it will be silent.

1. “*voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God*” (*1 Thess. 4:16*).

2. “*great noise*” (*2 Peter 3:10*).

3. “*hear his voice*” (*Jn. 5:28*).

B. Rapturists say it will be unseen.

1. *“with his mighty angels, in flaming fire” (2 Thess. 1:7-8).*
2. *“every eye shall see him” (Rev. 1:7).*
3. *“at his appearing” (2 Tim. 4:1).*
4. *“shall appear” (Col. 3:4; 1 Peter 5:4; 1 Jn. 2:28).*
5. *“shall see him as he is” (1 Jn. 3:2).*
6. *“so shall come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11).*

IV. What The Bible Teaches.

A. A “general” resurrection.

1. One coming of Christ, the second time (*Jn. 14:3*).
2. For all (*Jn. 5:28-29; Matt. 25:31-46*).
3. Final (*1 Cor. 15:23*).

B. A life spent in preparation for judgment.

1. *Matt. 24:42; 25:1-13.*
2. *1 Peter 4:17-18.*

Conclusion: Are you ready for the judgment day?