

Rapture Fable

When the subject of the end of the world becomes the topic of discussion, many people are quick to table their opinions, beliefs, theories and so on, most often not based on any facts. Over the years, there has developed a set of doctrines that make reference to the “rapture of the church” before the great period of tribulation begins on this earth. I have read about this in numerous books and heard many people preach about this expressing great joy that only “Christians” will escape the great period of tribulation.

I have also read and heard of other variations of the “rapture of the church” where it is preached that Jesus is secretly coming as a “thief in the night” to “rapture the church” and that one day people are going to wake up to find that millions of people have disappeared off the face of this earth.

Peter, a disciple of Jesus stated it best when he said: “We have also a more sure word of prophecy; knowing this first that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation” (2 Peter 1:19-21).

We are assured by the word of God that the bible is not open to any private interpretation because as Isaiah also said; “For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little” (Isaiah 28:10).

Will there be a “rapture of the church” before the great period of tribulation? Would people alive on this earth some day in the future wake up and find that millions of people have disappeared off the face of the earth?

In the coming last years of time on this earth Jesus said, “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh

be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (Matthew 24:21-22).

If God's elect will be "raptured" before the great period of tribulation then why would Jesus say, "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened?" God's elect will still be on this earth during the great period of tribulation. This fact is further confirmed by Jesus when he also said;

"And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved" (Matthew 10:21-22).

Jesus left no doubt when he also said: "He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it" (John 12:25) (Matthew 16:25).

Before Jesus left this earth he told his disciples: "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:2-3).

"And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, that ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Matthew 19:28). "I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20).

Anyone who believes that there will be a so called "rapture of the church" from this earth before the saints or servants of God (Revelation 7:3-4) and those who sit on the thrones in Judgment (Revelation 20:4) at the end of time, need to come to the knowledge of the truth through the word of God.

“And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them” (Revelation 14:13).

Furthermore, Jesus encouraged God’s elect saying:

“Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away” (Revelation 2:10) (1 Peter 5:4).

Most importantly, the Scriptures clearly states that the day that Jesus returns to this earth, all eyes will see him including those who pierced him with a sword when he was crucified thousands of years ago.

“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen” (Revelation 1:7).

Doctrines and long held beliefs of the “rapture of the church” are fables because they are not supported by the word of God.

To learn more about God’s redemption plan and the events which will unfold at the end of time, please read *Passage to Paradise: Time is coming to an End*.

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