

WHAT IS  
THE  
RAPTURE  
OF  
THE  
CHURCH

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# INTRODUCTION

The church age began on the day of Pentecost as recorded in the book of Acts.

Someday this present age will come to an end. When it does, Jesus Christ will gather His church together.

Those who have died in Christ, and those who are alive at the time will be gathered together.

In this book we will attempt to answer many questions concerning that great event, which is the very next event on God's prophetic time clock.

# WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The gospel is that Christ died, was buried, and rose again, for the forgiveness of sin, to all who believe in Him

*John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him shall never perish, but have eternal life*

For God so loved the world ( you ) that he gave His only begotten Son ( Jesus Christ ) that whosoever ( you ) believeth in him shall never perish, but have everlasting life.

Everyone has sinned and come short of the glory of God. ( Romans 3:10,23 )

Therefore, everyone needs to have their sin paid in order to enter eternity with Him.

Believing in Him, ( faith: trust ) Jesus Christ, as the one who paid for our sin with His death, burial, and resurrection, is our guarantee of forgiveness of sin. ( John 3:14-16 6:47 Acts 10:34-43 13:20-39 )

NOTE: The word believe means to trust, entrust, have faith in, to give one credit for....

In other words when we believe in Christ, we give Him all the credit for saving us from our sin.

## PART ONE

### What is the Church?

Regardless of what men say, the New Testament church is not a denomination. Paul the apostle never wrote any letter to the Baptist, the Catholic, the Methodist, or any other denomination.

He wrote to believers in Christ. He called them saints, and sanctified. ( Romans 1:7 1 Corinthians 1:2 )

The New Testament churches were called churches. The Greek word for church is *ekklesia*, and it means a called out assembly.

The church is called out by the gospel of Christ. When a person hears the gospel and trusts Christ as their Savior, they are part of the church, part of the called out assembly.

According to the Bible, the Word of God, there are only two ethnic groups. They are Jew and Gentile. ( Romans 3:29 )

God does not look at things through mans eyes. He does not see race, gender, denomination, place of birth, or status in life.

God sees Jew and Gentile, saved or lost.

## What is the Church

When anyone, whether Jew or Gentile, trust Christ as their Savior, they are considered saved and part of the church.

### The Church and the Holy Spirit

When a person trusts Christ as their Savior, He, Jesus Christ, baptizes that person with the Holy Spirit. ( Matthew 3:11 Mark 1:8 Luke 3:16 John 1:33 )

The word baptize comes from the Greek word *baptisma*, and it means to immerse; and submersion.

The saved child of God is immersed in the Holy Spirit.

It is called *the new birth, or born again*. When a person trusts the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ as payment for their sin, they are born again and indwelt in the Holy Spirit. ( John 3:3-7 )

### Sealed By the Holy Spirit

*Ephesians 1:13,14 In whom ye also trusted, after ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation,; in whom also after ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise.*

## What is the Church

*Who is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

*Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, by whom ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

The Holy Spirit seals every believer in Christ. It is being born again. It is being baptized with the Holy Spirit.

## The Body of Christ

The Church is called the body of Christ. It is the Holy Spirit that puts every Christian into the body of Christ.

*1 Corinthians 12:For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether Jew or Gentile, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

The Church, as the body of Christ works in unison. The human body works in unison. With coordination. The pastor, evangelist, deacon, and etc.



## What is the Church

Ref. also Ephesians 2:11-22 4:1-30 with 1  
Corinthians 12:1-31

The church is not an amputee. It works together.  
From the foundation of the church until the rapture,  
the church works as one unit, one body.

### The Bride and the Building

The church is also called the bride, ( Ephesians  
5:22-33 with Revelation 21:2 22:17 )

The church is also called the building. ( Ephesians  
2:21 Colossians 2:7 )

### Christ in You

When a person trusts Christ as their Savior, they  
are immersed in the Holy Spirit. Since the Holy  
Spirit is a part of the trinity, so does the Father and  
the Son.

The Holy Spirit indwells every believer and makes  
them part of the church, which is the body, the  
building, and the bride of Christ.

Therefore, when the Holy Spirit indwells every  
believer so does the Father and the Son.

## What is the Church

The Father in you:

*1 Corinthians 3:16,17 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?*

*If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. ( 2 Corinthians 6:16 Ephesians 2:21,22 )*

Christ in you:

*Colossians 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of his glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory; ( 2 Timothy 1:14 )*

## The Promise of the Father

In John 14:15-18 Jesus Christ made a promise. He said after He left this earth He would send a Comforter. ( vs. 16 ) He said that Comforter would be the Spirit of truth. ( vs. 17 )

He also said the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, would abide with you, dwelleth with you, and be in you, and it would be forever. ( vs. 16,17 )

Forever is a long, long time. It is a promise. Just before Christ went to heaven, he also said.....

## What is the Church

*Luke 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of the Father upon you; but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. ( Acts 1:4 )*

The Father kept His promise and sent the Holy Spirit to indwell every believer and began to make up His church. This great event is recorded in Acts 2:1-33. ( Note vs. 33 )

### What is this Promise?

The promise is eternal life when we trust Christ as our Savior. The Holy Spirit is our guarantee of eternal life. Since the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are eternal, and they dwell in every believer through the Holy Spirit, and He is in every believer forever, it guarantees eternal life.

*Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also after ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise.*

It is sealed. After you heard and believed the gospel, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. You become part of the church.

## What is the Church

( a self study on the indwelling Spirit: Luke 24:49  
John 14:16,17 Acts 1:4 2:33 Romans 5:5 8:9-17  
1 Corinthians 2:12 3:16,17 6:20 2 Corinthians  
6:16 Galatians 3:2 5:16,17 Ephesians 1:13,14  
2:21,22 4:30 Colossians 1:27 2:6 2 Timothy 1:14  
Hebrews 9:14,15 1 John 4:13 )

## The Two Natures

Everyone is born a sinner. Because of Adam all are sinners. ( Romans 3:10,23 5:12-14 )

We will be sinners until we leave this mortal sinful body. Because of that flesh and blood body we live in we cannot avoid being sinful by nature.

Yet, after we trust Christ as our Savior, we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, each saved child of God has two natures.

We have the old nature we were born with and the new nature given to us by God through the Holy Spirit.

Paul eludes to this problem in Romans chapter seven. He states that he does not do what he would like and does what he would not like. ( Romans 7:14-16 )

## What is the Church

Then Paul states.....

*Romans 7:17 Now, then, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.*

*Romans 7:20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.*

To those who claim they do not sin after they were saved, we must ask the question; are you better than Paul?

*Romans 7:24,25 Oh, wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from this body of death?*

*I thank God through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So, then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh, the law of sin.*

Paul has the answer. Who shall deliver me? Jesus Christ will. He has delivered us from this body of death. He is delivering us from this body of death, and He will deliver us from this body of death.

We will eventually acquire a new body at the raprure.

## PART TWO

### What is the Rapture

#### Translation of Greek New Testament Words Concerning the Rapture

Redemption ( Romans 8:23 ) Grk. *apolutrosia* = reason in full; salvation

Mystery ( 1 Corinthians 15:51 ) Grk. *musterion* = a previously concealed truth; a truth concealed until the time revealed

All ( 1 Corinthians 15:51 ) Grk. *pas* = every; the whole thing

Changed ( 1 Corinthians 15:51 ) Grk. *allasso* = make different

Moment ( 1 Corinthians 15:52 ) Grk. *atomos* = indivisible; undivided

Twinkling of an eye ( 1 Corinthians 15:52 ) Grk. *rhipe* = *jerk of an eye; instant*

Gather together ( Ephesians 1:10 ) Grk. *anakephalaioimai* = gather together; in one; sum up

## What is the Rapture

Together ( 1 Thessalonians 4:17 5:10 ) Grk. *hama*  
= at the same time; close association

Caught up ( 1 Thessalonians 4:17 ) *harpaszo* = to  
seize; pluck out; ( take by force )

NOTE: The word rapture does not come from a  
Greek word, although the meaning is the same. The  
word has been adopted to describe the event.

According to the Oxford Universal Dictionary  
Rapture = to seize; act of carrying off; state of being  
carried onward; conveying one from one place to  
another

Together ( 2 Thessalonians 2:1 ) Grk. *episunagoge*  
= a complete collection; assembling

### Prophecy Chart / Next Page

#### Past

1. Old Testament
2. Death, burial, and resurrection of Christ
3. Christ ascension into heaven
4. Holy Spirit sent at Pentecost

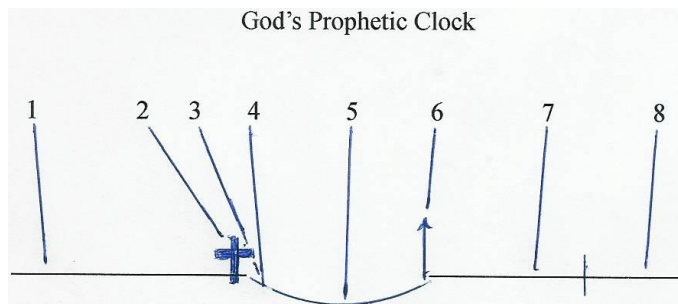
#### Present

5. Church being established by the gospel

# What is the Rapture

## Future

- 6 Rapture of the Church
- 7 Seven year tribulation
- 8 1000 year kingdom



The very next event on God's prophetic clock is the rapture of the church. ( # 6 on the chart )

At present we are living in the church age, or the age of grace. ( # 5 on the chart )



## What is the Rapture

The church age began on the day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts chapter two. When the Holy Spirit was sent from heaven. ( # 4 on the chart )

This took place fifty days after Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. ( # 2 on the chart )

Before the Holy Spirit was sent from God, the Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven. ( # 3 on the chart ref. Luke 24:51 Acts 1:9 )

Someday this dispensation, or age in history, will end and Christ will gather His church together. When He does, the seven year tribulation will begin. ( # 7 on the chart. )

In the following pages we intend to answer many questions concerning the gathering together of the church.

There are many views concerning the rapture of the church. However, only one view is correct. The answer always lies in the Bible, the Word of God.

Will the entire church be taken at once together? Will part of the church go into the tribulation? Will the entire church go into the tribulation? What is pre-trib? What is mid- trib?

## What is the Rapture

Before we answer all these questions, we must answer another important question. That is, what about all those who have died in Christ since the church began?

If the Lord Jesus Christ is going to gather His church together, He most assuredly will gather those who have died before the rapture takes place.

Where are they now? What is their state?

### The Dead in Christ

*Genesis 1:26,27 And God said, Let us make man in our image; after our likeness .....*

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

God is a trinity. He is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, he created man a trinity. Man and woman are a trinity. They are body, soul, and spirit.

The body God gave man reveals the person. It reveals our feelings, Our hatred, love, anger, etc

Since we are not divine in nature, we would not see one another.

## What is the Rapture

God is also eternal. ( Psalm 90:2 ) Therefore, when God created man in His image, He created man eternal.

God created man in His image; a trinity, and eternal.

However, God told Adam if he ate of the tree of knowledge in the midst of the garden he would die. ( Genesis 2:15-17 )

Satan deceived Eve, and Eve enticed Adam, and Adam disobeyed God, and Adam died spiritually and began to die physically.

Because of that event in the garden sin has been passed upon all humanity. ( 1 Corinthians 15:22a *For as in Adam all die,.....* )

The only way man may be reunited to God is by faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ as their payment for their sin.

Faith in Christ gives one the Holy Spirit. It is called the new birth. ( John 3:3-7 )

Jesus said, "*Ye must be born again.*"

That is our spiritual new birth, which guarantees

## What is the Rapture

Our physical new birth. It is called the resurrection.

The resurrection is guaranteed by the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Romans 1:3,4 Concerning his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who was made of the seed of David according to the flesh,*

*And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.*

Since Adam condemned himself to death, along with all humanity, God had to condemn Himself to death to redeem humanity.

God took on flesh and blood like man, and suffered an agonizing death to pay for man's sins.

However, being God, death could not hold Him, and he rose the third day. His resurrection assures all who are born again, they will also have a resurrection.

When that takes place, those who are born again will once again be eternal and a complete trinity like God.

However, that is future. What if we die now?

## What is the Rapture

Man is a body, soul, and a spirit. Like God, he is created a trinity and eternal. Yet he must suffer a physical death.

Because mankind is sinful by nature, and living in a sinful body, that body is not allowed in heaven, in the presence of God.

## Dead in Christ

There are only two kinds of people who die and leave this earth. They are the saved, those who have trusted Christ as their Savior, and those who have not. ( John 3:16-18 )

Both will leave their body behind. However, the soul and the spirit will enter eternity.

The saved will enter heaven into the presence of God, and the lost will suffer eternal separation from God.

Both will have a resurrection and receive new bodies. The difference is the saved will receive new glorified bodies, and the lost will receive eternal damnation.

*2 Corinthians 5:6 Therefore, we are always confident, knowing that, while we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord.*

## What is the Rapture

*2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*

Paul said we are not only confident, but willing to be absent from the body and present with the Lord.

We know it is difficult for us to understand this concept. We look at death as something that is permanent. We do not see the soul and the spirit, let alone believe they exist.

However, Jesus Christ said no one has seen the Father, ( John 1:18 ) and yet we know the Father is part of the trinity.

We also do not see the Holy Spirit, yet we know He exists.

So it is with mankind. We have a body, soul, and spirit. It is the body that reveals who we are. How people see us. How we hold our children.

It is the body of Jesus Christ that reveals God. He showed His love by dying for us.

It may be difficult to understand how we are visible in heaven without a resurrection body. That is understandable.

## What is the Rapture

When Christ was transfigured on the mount, ( Matthew 17:1-13 Mark 9:1-13 Luke 9:27-36 ) He took Peter, James, and John with Him on the mount. ( Matthew 17:1 Mark 9:2 Luke 9:28 )

While they were there the disciples saw Elijah and Moses and knew who they were. ( Matthew 17:3,4 Mark 9:4,5 Luke 9:30-33 )

Yet, Moses and Elijah had not received their glorified bodies. There was no resurrection until the resurrection of Christ.

Also in Luke 16:19-31 we see the rich man and Abraham and Lazarus not only seeing one another, but having a conversation.

We leave our bodies behind but enter eternity the moment we die.

## PART THREE

### What is the Rapture: Continued

*2 Corinthians 4:14 Knowing that he who raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and present us with you.*

Someday this present dispensation, the church age, or, the age of grace will end with the rapture of the church.

When Paul wrote this verse, he knew he was close to death. He told the church at Corinth that when this event took place he would be raised up together with them; a resurrection of the saved.

*1 Corinthians 15:51,52 Behold, I show you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*

*In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

We need to expound on the many truths found in these verses.

Truth # 1. The word mystery = a truth concealed until the time revealed.



## What is the Rapture: Continued

The rapture of the church was a mystery until Paul revealed it in this verse. "I show you a mystery"

Truth # 2. the word 'sleep' refers to those who have died in Christ. Only the body is dead until Christ raises that body from the dead and gives the person a new body.

Truth # 3. The word moment is the Greek word 'atomos,' and it means undividable. The church will not be divided or split. Whether dead or alive we will all be raised and given new bodies at the same time.

Truth # 4. The word all is the Greek word 'pas,' and it means the whole complete thing; every. Every Christian will have a resurrected body at the same time.

Truth # 5. The last trump, we believe, is the voice of God calling His church home. ( ref. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 Revelation 4:1 ) It will be the last time the voice of God is heard during the church age.

Truth # 6. The word changed is the Greek word 'alasso,' and it means to make different.

## What is the Rapture: Continued

Truth # 7. The word incorruptible is the Greek word 'aphthartos,' and it means not liable to corruption, or decay; immortal.

The sum of all of this is that all the saved since the church age began, dead and alive, will be gathered together at the same time.

The entire church will be given new bodies at the same time.

They will once again be immortal, eternal, at the same time. A body, soul, and spirit, at the same time, "In the image of God."

There are many references to the rapture in the New Testament. Here are just a few. ( Romans 8:10,11,15,17,18,21,23 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 40-57 2 Corinthians 4:14 5:1-9 Ephesians 1:3-14 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 2 Thessalonians 2:1 )

God has predestinated, predetermined, that .....

*Ephesians 1:10 That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth, even in him.*

The church. Gathered together. In Him.

## What is the Rapture: Continued

When the resurrection of the saints takes place, the rapture, the translation, not one saved person will be left behind. It will be the whole complete thing. It will be undivided.

Imagine the power of God!! Wherever a persons body is God will raise it incorruptible. Whether it has been cremated, buried at sea, lost in some distant battle, it does not matter.

God knows where that body is and the condition it is in. It will be reunited with it's original owner, and will be immortal and perfect. ( 1 Corinthians 15:35-49 54-57 )

In Ephesians 1:10 the two words 'gather together' comes from one Greek word. That word is *anakephalaiomai*, and it means sum up; gather together; in one:

Also in 2 Thessalonians 2:1 in reference to the rapture the words 'gathering together' comes from the Greek word *episunagoge*, and it means a complete collection.

In other words the church will be complete in one and will not be divided.

## What is the Rapture: Continued

When the last person is saved and grafted into the church, Christ will take His church home to heaven.

It will take place in the twinkling of an eye, ( 1 Corinthians 15:52 ) which means in an instant. The world will not know what happened, and will not see it happen.

All they will know is that a multitude of people are missing.

NOTE: For that reason Matthew 24:30 and Matthew 25:31,32 cannot be the rapture of the church.

The Bible is the Word of God. It explains everything we need to know. The following is a list of things accompanying the rapture.

### Adoption and Redemption

The adoption of the saved Christian takes place at the rapture. We know that because the adoption takes place with the redemption of our bodies, which is the rapture. ( Romans 8:15,23 Galatians 4:4-7 Ephesians 1:5 )

## What is the Rapture: Continued

The word adoption comes from the Greek word *huiiothesia*, and it means the placing of a son. Even though God looks at us as His children, we are not legally placed as a full fledged son, or daughter, until the rapture, when we receive our glorified bodies.

### Predestinated

*Ephesians 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.*

The word predestine means to decide beforehand. God knew who would trust Him as their Savior, and decided beforehand to gather them all together.

( Ephesians 1:10 )

He did not predestine who would be saved or lost, He determined that all the saved during the church age would be gathered together. ( predetermined )

Ephesians chapter 1:4-14 has nothing to do with God choosing anyone to be saved, it has to do with what He is going to do with those who are saved.

Ephesians chapter one verses 4 through 14 have to do with the rapture of the church.

Notice vs. 14 “redemption; possession...”

## What is the Rapture: Continued

The adoption, the resurrection of the church, the redemption of our bodies, are all identified with the rapture of the church. They are the same event. God has pre-determined, predestined that it will happen at some future time.

The following Scripture is the most commonly used in connection with the rapture.

*1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also who sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.*

*For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them who are asleep.*

*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first;*

*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 so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

Those who sleep in Jesus are those who have died before the rapture takes place. "them also who sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him."

## What is the Rapture: Continued

Logically speaking, if God brings them with Him, they must be with Him!!

Then, they will, “rise first.” They will get their new resurrected bodies and those who are alive at the time will be “caught up together with them.”

The entire church, the dead and the living, will be gathered together at one time. It will be the whole complete thing.

## PART FOUR

### When Will the Rapture Take Place

There are differences of opinion concerning the time of the rapture.

Biblically speaking there can only be one answer. In this section we would like to try to give a definite answer according to the Bible.

There are four views concerning the rapture we would like to view according to the Bible.

1. Partial rapture: In this view many think the church will be split. They say some will be taken before the tribulation and some in the middle of the tribulation. We have already seen that the church will not be split.
2. Mid-tribulation: This group believes that the church will go through half of the tribulation. They, along with many others have their favorite verse they quote to prove their point.
3. Post-tribulation: This group believes the church must go through the entire tribulation. They also have their favorite verses they quote in order to prove their point.

We disagree with all of the above.



## When Will the Rapture Take Place

4. Pre-tribulation: This is the position we hold and we also believe the Bible proves our position.

The very next event on God's prophetic clock is the rapture of the church. Immediately following the rapture, Christ will usher in the seven year tribulation.

The church will be removed before the seven years begin.

NOTE: At Christian Bible Institute we believe in the concept of 'prove your position.' If you believe it you must be able to prove it.

As we have already proven with Scripture, the church will not be split or divided. Therefore when the rapture takes place the entire church will be with the Lord in heaven.

The question is when? We cannot set times or dates, but we believe it will be before the seven year tribulation. We also believe Scripture proves it.

In this short book we will give just four biblical reasons why we believe in a pre-tribulation rapture.

## When Will the Rapture Take Place

Reason number one.....

*2 Thessalonians 2:7,8a For the mystery of iniquity doth already work; only he who now letteth will let until he be taken out of the way*

*And then shall that wicked one be revealed .....*

Most students of the Bible will agree that the 'he who now letteth,' is the Holy Spirit.

The wicked one, the antichrist, who is called the beast, the man of sin, and the son of perdition, will not be revealed until he, the Holy Spirit, is taken out of the way.

Remember in part one we explained the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ said He, the Holy Spirit, would be in you and with you forever. ( John 14:16,17 )

Therefore, if the Holy Spirit is in every saved child of God, and it is forever, then when the Holy Spirit is removed, so is every Christian.

The antichrist will not be revealed until the Holy Spirit is taken out of the way.

When the antichrist is revealed the tribulation will begin.

## When Will the Rapture Take Place

Reason number two .....

*1 Thessalonians 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, who delivered us from the wrath to come.*

The seven year tribulation is called the wrath of God. It is a future event when God will unleash His wrath on a Christ denying, Bible rejecting society.

In reason number one we saw that the Christian will be removed when the Holy Spirit is removed.

In reason number two we see that God has not appointed us unto His wrath.

Therefore, the Christian will be removed before God's wrath upon humanity takes place.

It is important for the Christian, the student of the Bible should remember that the church and the rapture were a mystery to the Old Testament prophets, but the seven year tribulation, the wrath of God, was not.

*Zephaniah 1:14-16 The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord; the mighty man shall cry*

## When Will the Rapture Take Place

*There bitterly.*

*That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness.*

*A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers.*

Those who have trusted Christ as their Savior will not be judged at the wrath of God with those who reject the offer of salvation by grace through faith.

The word wrath in relation to the wrath of God is used at least nine times in Revelation.

*1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God has not appointed us to wrath but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,*

( some of the many references to the future wrath of God Psalm 2:12 Isaiah 13:9 Joel 1:15 Joel 2:1,2 Luke 21:23 Revelation 6:16,17 11:18 14:10 15:1,7 16:1,19 19:15 )

The wrath of God, the seven year tribulation is not reserved for the saved. When the tribulation begins, not one saved person will enter into it.

## When Will the Rapture take Place

Reason number three .....

*Jeremiah 30:7,8 Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.*

*For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord of hosts, that I shall break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him. ( ref. also Romans 11:26,27 )*

The seven year tribulation is reserved for Jacob, which is the nation of Israel, and all the nations that reject the Lord Jesus Christ.

When the antichrist arrives on the scene Israel will accept him as their Messiah. ( ref. 1 Samuel 1:8:1-18 and Daniel 9:24-27 )

The rest of the world will accept him also as their great leader or a god.

The tribulation is not reserved for the church because the church has already accepted Jesus Christ as their Messiah; their Savior.

It is the last great curse pronounced upon Israel.

# When Will the Rapture Take Place

## Reason Number Four .....

Revelation chapter six verse one records the beginning of the wrath of God. In chapters four and five is a picture of the church in heaven.

In chapter four verse ten we see the resurrected saints casting their crowns before the throne. In other words, they are giving Christ the credit for their rewards in heaven.

### A Glorified Christ

*Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

*Ephesians 1:12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ;*

When the church is gathered together we will glorify Christ from our home in heaven.

He deserves all the glory. Unfortunately He does not get much glory from this present evil world.

Frankly, not even from the church.

## When Will the Rapture Take Place

*2 Thessalonians 1:10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe ( because our testimony among you was believed ) in that day.*

Christ may not be glorified by the world we live in, but when He comes , He will be glorified in the church.

( ref. also John 11:4 13:32 15:8 17:1,4 )

We do not know at what time the rapture will take place. We are not allowed to set dates. Only God knows the time.

However, we do know it will take place before the seven year tribulation begins.

We also know that every believer will be gathered together at the same time.

It is guaranteed by the promise of God, which is the Holy Spirit of promise.

## PART FIVE

### The Church in Heaven

When the church is complete Jesus Christ will gather His church together in one, at one time.

Immediately following that event the seven year tribulation will commence. The church is not subject to this wrath of God.

The church will be in heaven.

### Rewards for Service

Salvation is absolutely free by faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ as payment for our sin. It is called the gospel.

We do not repent of our sin, ask Jesus into our heart, or life. We do not call, run, jump squeal, shout or do anything in order to be saved.

However, after we are saved we should serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Romans 12:1,2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*



## The Church in Heaven

*And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.*

We are told in Romans to present our bodies a living sacrifice, and it is our reasonable service.

If we serve Christ after we are saved there are present and future rewards.

In this present life we have access to His kingdom, which means everything He has to offer. ( We do not have space to expound on this doctrine )

Then, once we enter eternity, we will receive our future rewards.

## The Judgment Seat of Christ

*Romans 14:10-12 But why dost thou judge thy brother? Or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.*

*For it is written, As I Live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.*

## The Church in Heaven

*So, then, every one of us shall give account of himself to God*

*2 Corinthians 5:8 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

Every saved member of the church will stand at the judgment seat of Christ. It is reserved for the saved only.

We will give account of ourselves, and be judged for the things we have done, good or bad.

We will not be judged saved or lost. That is a done deal. We are already judged saved.

Not every saved Christian will serve the Lord after they are saved.

*1 Corinthians 3:12-15 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble -----*

*Every mans work shall be made manifest; for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.*

## The Church in Heaven

*If any man's work abide which he hath built upon it, he shall receive a reward.*

*If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet as by fire.*

At the judgment seat of Christ every Christian will be judged according to his or her works after they are saved.

They will receive rewards or loss of rewards. The rewards are considered gold, silver and precious stones.

The loss of rewards is called wood, hay, and stubble.

“Yet he himself shall be saved!!”

The following verses tell us why “he himself shall be saved.”

*1 Corinthians 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? (see also vs. 17)*

The Spirit of God is the promise of the Father and our guarantee of eternal life.

Gold, silver, precious stones, or wood, hay, and stubble, he or she shall be saved.

## The Church in Heaven

The judgment seat is reserved for saved Christians only. They will be judged according to how they served the Lord after they were saved.

Some will receive many rewards and some will receive none, but they will all be eternally saved.

### Crowns

In Revelation 4:4,10 the church is in heaven receiving their rewards, or lack of rewards. Every reward is based on our service to Christ after we are saved.

They are according to our work for Christ. Salvation is free, but service will cost us something.

The following is a list of the Christian crowns as we find them in Scripture.

The crowns a Christian earns are always based on what we do with the simple gospel of Christ.

1 Corinthians 9:25 – The incorruptible crown is a crown of separation. The Christian must separate themselves from the world. If we do not people will consider us hypocrites when we preach the gospel. ( 1 Cor. 9:14 2 Cor. 6:17 )

## The Church in Heaven

Philippians 4:1 with 1 Thessalonians 2:19 - The crown of joy and rejoicing. This is the soul winners crown. If you have ever led anyone to the Lord you must know the joy of seeing a person know they have eternal life.

NOTE: In order to do that, we must preach the simple gospel, and be an example.

2 Timothy 4:8 - The crown of righteousness. This crown is for those who look forward to the coming of Christ. Once again, this pertains to our righteousness as we serve Christ, as we look for His coming.

James 1:12 - The crown of life. This crown is reserved for those who endure testing and trials for their faith. ( Revelation 2:8-11 )

1 Peter 5:4 - The crown of glory. This crown is reserved for the preacher or pastor who defends the truth and teaches his congregation to stand on the truth.

If you have trusted Christ as your Savior, ask yourself the question; what will I receive when I get to heaven?

## PART SIX

### The Resurrections

Why must there be a resurrection?

The answer is that God created man in His own image. God is a trinity and eternal.

He created man eternal and a trinity. Therefore, man must have a resurrection in order to be an eternal trinity.

However, since man is a sinner, and the body is corrupt because of sin, he must receive a new body that will be eternal.

Therefore, the resurrection of Christ. God Himself must suffer a physical death just like man. Being God however, death could not hold Him.

### Two Resurrections

Daniel was aware of the two resurrections.....

*Daniel 12:2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*  
( ref. Daniel 12:1-3 )

## The Resurrections

Jesus Christ mentioned the two resurrections.....

*John 5:28,29 Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming, in which in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,*

*And shall come forth; they that have done good unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*

The saved and the lost. The saved unto eternal life, and the lost unto eternal death and torment.

The first resurrection:

The resurrection of the saved is called the first resurrection. It takes place in parts. This is not an in depth study on the resurrections, so we must be brief.

1<sup>st</sup> part: The first part of the first resurrection was the resurrection of Christ. ( Matthew 27:52,53 )

The resurrection is part of the gospel message. Christ died, was buried, and rose again, for the forgiveness of sin.

2<sup>nd</sup> part. The second part will be the rapture of the church.

3<sup>rd</sup> part. The third part will be the two witnesses in

## The Resurrections

mentioned in Revelation chapter eleven. They will receive their new bodies in front of the world.

4<sup>th</sup> part. The fourth part of the first resurrection will be all those who died during the tribulation.

At that time Israel will be born again as a nation and many Old Testament saints will be resurrected.  
( Ezekiel 36 and 37 )

Job was aware that everyone must receive a new body and a resurrection.

*Job 19:25-27 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth;*

*And though after my skin worms shall destroy this body, yet in my flesh I shall see God,*

*Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reigns be consumed within me.*

His old body would decay and he would see his Redeemer in the flesh. ( his new body )

David was aware of a resurrection. And a new body.



## The Resurrections

*Psalm 16:9-11 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth; my flesh also shall rest in hope,*

*For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, ( sheol ) neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy one to see corruption.*

*Thou wilt show me the path of life, in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.*

Note: in verse two thine Holy one is Jesus Christ who rose again in three days.

*Psalm 17:15 As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.*

The apostle John said, “when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.” ( ref. 1 John 3:2b )

### The Second Resurrection.

The second resurrection is the resurrection of the lost. This takes place at the great white throne. It is also called the second death. It is bad enough to die once, but twice is another thing.

## The Resurrections

Those who have died without faith in Christ will stand at the great white throne and be judged according to their works. It will be degrees of punishment.

They will receive their eternal and trinity bodies, yet it not be in eternal joy, it will be eternal punishment and damnation.

It is called the second death. An eternal death.  
( ref. Revelation 20:6-15 )

## Summary

The church began on the day of Pentecost roughly two thousand years ago as recorded in the book of Acts.

The church is one complete body in the Holy Spirit. He indwells every believer and is our guarantee of eternal life.

The church is built upon the foundation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

When this present dispensation ends, Christ will gather His entire church together. Both those who have died, ( sleep in Jesus ) and those who are alive at the time will be gathered together.

We call this the rapture of the church.

Following the rapture God will usher in seven years of tribulation which is called the wrath of God.

The church will be in heaven at the judgment seat of Christ, where they will give account of themselves for their service for Christ.

The resurrection is guaranteed by the resurrection of Christ, which is part of the gospel. Christ died, was buried, and rose again.

Whosoever believes Christ paid for their sin will receive eternal life.

There are two resurrections for all humanity. Either the resurrection of the saved, or the resurrection of the lost.