

The Rapture Will Be Post Tribulation

Overview: God does not change (Mal 3:6). Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb 13:8). Heaven and earth shall pass away but the Word of God shall never pass away (Matt 24:35). Therefore, the timing of the occurrence of the Rapture must be in agreement with all of the written Word of God (i.e., must comply with or fulfill all relevant Scriptures in the Bible)

A. In the Beginning.

1. Three major themes of the Bible demonstrate the ongoing threads of the three primary ways in which God deals with mankind. These are Love, Redemption and Power.
 - a) Love: God so loved mankind that when man sinned, He sent Jesus to die for them and to redeem them (John 3:16). However, man was given free will and God cannot break His Word. Therefore, God has never, in fact cannot, let His love prevent man from rejecting His love or His salvation in favor of choosing evil and hell. God's love is given unconditionally but man's protection has always been conditional on being obedient to the ways of God. **God's love cannot allow him to "catch away" the church if it contradicts His Word, which it does.**
 - b) Redemption
God provided redemption from Egypt for the Hebrews through the ministry of Moses; but the Hebrews went through the plagues. Their protection was dependent on their obedience. They had to stay in-doors with their animals during the hail; and they had to cover their doorposts with the blood of the lamb. Similarly, in Revelation 16:3, God warns that everything in the sea shall die; so obedience says, "Don't go into the sea."
 - c) Power
Gen 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, & over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.
Gen 1:27 So God created man in his [own] image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.
Gen 3 Adam sinned, making satan the god of this earth (2 Cor 4:4). Jesus defeated satan and got the power back.
Luk 4:5 And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.
Luk 4:6 And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.
Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.
Note: To be taken out of the earth for a season before satan is bound up for a thousand years would be to give up the power for which Jesus died and turn the earth over to satan for a season. Adam already made that mistake. Why should we?

2. Four Minor Themes of the Bible.

a) Authority and Dominion.

Gen 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion

So God gave authority and dominion to man to subdue the earth; Adam sinned and turned the power over to the devil.

Luk 4:5 And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

Luk 4:6 And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.

- b) Be fruitful and multiply.
Believers, children of God are a minority in the world today. Yet God's word says that we should be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth. We can't leave the earth until God's commands have been fulfilled.
 - c) Image and likeness of God.
We are made to look like God and act like God. He is our father. He made Moses a god to Pharaoh and he wants us to walk in victory over the earth and as ambassadors of Heaven to be the standing army left behind by Jesus.
 - d) Live and not die.
Gen 3 Adam was made to live forever. He had a Tree of Life. Today our tongue is a Tree of Life. Death and life are in the power of our tongue (Pro 18:21) and the truth is summarized below in 1 Cor 15:51.
1Co 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep (*i.e., die*), but we shall all be changed,
The right to be raptured is part of our salvation but just like every blessing in our salvation package we have to partner with God to receive it. The Rapture will be attained by those believers who have the faith to be "alive and remain" true to the Gospel until Jesus returns.
3. Examples of Being Caught up to Heaven.
- a) Enoch walked with God and God took Him. Enoch did things God's way for how can two walk together if they be not in agreement. God also wants us to walk in His ways.
 - b) Elijah had many victories before he was taken away with the chariots of fire. He brought fire down from heaven to destroy the enemy, just as the Two Witnesses will do in Rev 11. Elijah faced the 400 prophets of Baal, risked his life and got the victory. God did not take him up before the great challenges but only after his many victories.

B. In the Ministry of Jesus.

1. Return of the Son of Man.

Mat 24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. (Mark 13:13)
Mat 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.
Mat 24:15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)
Mat 24:16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:
Mat 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.
Mat 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the **elect's** sake those days shall be shortened.
Mat 24:23 Then if any man shall say unto you, here [is] Christ, or there; believe [it] not.
Mat 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if [it were] possible, they shall deceive the **very elect**.
Mat 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. (Mt 25:13)
Luk 17:26 as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.
Luk 17:27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.
Luk 17:28 Likewise also **as it was in the days of Lot**; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;
Luk 17:29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed [them] all.

Luk 17:30 Even **thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.**

Luk 17:31 In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him not return back.

Luk 17:34 I tell you, in that night there shall be two [men] in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. v35 Two [women] shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. v36 Two in the field; the one taken, and the other left.

Luk 21:27 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. v28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

Luk 21:34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and [so] that day come upon you unawares. v35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on whole earth.

Luk 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

2. Jesus Warns Us to Be Prepared.

Luk 18:8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Luk 21:19 In your patience possess ye your souls.

Rev 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Rev 13:10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

Mar 13:32 But of that day and [that] hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. v33 **Take ye heed, watch and pray:** for ye know not when the time is. v34 [For the Son of man is] as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. v35 **Watch ye therefore:** for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: v36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.

Mar 13:37 And **what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.**

Luk 6:46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

Luk 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Luk 12:40 **Be ye therefore ready also:** for the Son of man comes when ye think not.

Luk 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

3. Prayers of Jesus.

Mat 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. v10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as [it is] in heaven.

Note: Removing the church from the earth does not reflect what is in Heaven.

Joh 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

Joh 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

Joh 17:20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

Note: For our Heavenly Father to remove the church from the earth, he must act contrary to the prayer of Jesus. I believe that God always answers the prayers of Jesus.

C. In Our Lives Today.

1. How Our Lifestyles Should Be.

2Co 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in [them]; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. v17 Wherefore come out from among them, u, 2Co 6:18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters.

2Co 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**

1Th 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and **your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ**

2Th 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the **coming of our Lord Jesus Christ**, and [by] our gathering together unto him,

2Th 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, **as that the day of Christ is at hand.**

2Th 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come], except there come **a falling away first**, and that **man of sin be revealed**, the son of perdition;

2Th 2:4 Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

Heb 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

v25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some [is]; but exhorting [one another]: and **so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.**

2Pe 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

2Pe 3:11 [Seeing] then [that] all these things shall be dissolved, what manner [of persons] ought ye to be in [all] holy conversation and godliness,

2Pe 3:12 Looking for and hasting **unto the coming of the day of God**, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

2Pe 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

2Pe 3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, **be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.**

2. How to Prepare for the Return of the Son of Man.

Heb 10:35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, with great recompence of reward.

Heb 10:36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

Heb 10:37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

Heb 10:38 **Now the just shall live by faith:** but if [any man] draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

Heb 10:39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

Eph 5:25 Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Eph 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

Eph 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Col 3:4 When Christ, [who is] our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. v5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, etc.

1Jo 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

1Jo 3:2 Now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.
v3 **And every man that hath this hope in him purifies himself, even as he is pure.**

2Co 2:14 Now thanks [be] unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

Col 2:15 [And] having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Note: Satan is defeated. The church is to remain as the standing army to triumph in Christ Jesus until the Rapture and Armageddon.

3. Return of the Son of Man.

1Co 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep (*i.e., die*), but we shall all be changed,

1Co 15:52 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.

1Th 4:7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

1Th 4:8 He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

1Th 4:12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and [that] ye may have lack of nothing.

1Th 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

1Th 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

1Th 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that **we which are alive [and] remain unto the coming of the Lord** shall not prevent them which are asleep.

1Th 4:16 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:

1Th 4:17 Then **we which 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.

Note: Meet the Lord. I do not believe that Jesus does U-Turns.

- a) The word “meet” is used 23 times in the New Testament. However, different Greek words have been translated into this one English word “meet.” Here in 1 Th 4:17, the Greek word is *apantesis* (Strong’s Concordance G529).
- b) This word has the special meaning of going out to meet the person or party and bringing them back (into the city) with you. This was the Greek and Roman cultures’ way for welcoming home conquering heroes. Today, we still do it to welcome home our athletic champions after an NBA Championship, World Series or a Super Bowl.
- c) *Apantesis* is used only 4 times in the New Testament. In context, three are obvious in the meaning of greeting and bringing them back with you. Two refer to the virgins meeting the bridegroom (Matt 25:1-13). **Note:** Study Matt 25:13 says. Mat 25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

The third use of meet as greet and escort back is Paul being met and escorted into Rome (Acts 28:15). The 4th is the Rapture. We greet the Lord and return to finish the purging of the earth with the Battle of Armageddon. **The Rapture and the Second Coming are one and the same event.**

2Th 1:7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

2Th 1:8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that **obey not** the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

2Th 1:9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

2Th 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.

2Th 1:11 Wherefore also **we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of [this] calling**, and fulfil all the good pleasure of [his] goodness, and the work of faith with power:

2Th 1:12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev 13:7 And it was given unto him to **make war with the saints**, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

Rev 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Rev 13:9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.

Rev 13:10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. **Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.**

Note: In Rev Chapters 2 and 3, the seven churches are called to be overcomers.

- a) The Glorious Church, the very elect, must become overcomers by being alive and remaining until the Rapture, which occurs after the Judgment days of the Seven Vials which are poured out on the antichrist and his people.
- b) Children: 1Jo 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.
Rom 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:
- c) Adults: Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.
Rom 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.
- d) Overcomers: Rev 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.