



THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

The "Rapture" is a term that refers to the "snatching up" of the Christians, also known as the church or the Bride of Christ. This is when Jesus calls forth believers, both alive and dead (the dead will be bodily resurrected) to take them to Heaven. It could happen at any moment, since all prophetic events pertaining to it have been fulfilled.

However, there are three "sub-beliefs" which go along with the Rapture concerning when it might actually occur. Some believe it must occur before the "Tribulation" (see below); others believe during, or at mid-point, of the Tribulation; and some believe it will not occur until after the Tribulation, and is simultaneous with the Second Coming.

To use an analogy, the Rapture is considered by many to be part of the Second Coming (when Jesus returns to the earth), and simply precedes it as "Act One" of two acts, as in a play.

The "Tribulation" is a seven-year period during which the world begins to follow and ultimately worship a coming world leader who promises peace and safety. Of

course, this must refer to non-believers in Jesus Christ, so it seems that a pre-Tribulation Rapture is the most likely of the three possibilities.

About the mid-point of the seven years, the world leader, or “Anti-Christ”, will reveal himself to be Satanic (possessed by Satan) and demand the worship of everyone on earth. It will be the most terrible and terrifying time in human history, and only Jesus Christ can put a stop to it when he returns to the earth to destroy His enemies, in that latter “act” of the Second Coming.

God has always warned His people and provided an escape for the righteous, which is another reason to believe in, or at least hope for, the pre-Tribulation Rapture. Examples: Noah and the flood; Lot and his family from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. [1Th 4:16-17 ESV] [\(Blue Letter Bible\)](#)

Websites

For further study on this and other end-time topics, visit [Eleven Questions You've Always Wondered About the End Times](#). See Number 9 for specific discussion of the Rapture.

Please bear in mind that this is Dr. Jeremiah’s interpretation of the end-times, and every person should read and study the Bible for him/herself. However, it’s my understanding that most fundamentalist Christian scholars are in general agreement with this interpretation.

For more on the Rapture, visit [Rapture Questions](#) by Dr. Chuck Missler.

Side Note: Acknowledging that he’s not trying to set a date for the Rapture, Bible scholar Dr. Thomas Horn speculates that the incoming asteroid *Apophis*, due for a

[“close approach”](#) of the earth in early 2029, may actually strike the earth during the mid-Tribulation period as described in the Book of Revelation. If the Rapture is to be pre-Trib, go back three and a half years to late 2025 for the Rapture to occur. Again, Dr. Horn emphasizes he’s not trying to set dates and the Rapture could happen at any time, but that this is a possibility. His book on the subject is entitled [“The Messenger”](#).

See the related Fringe File on this website entitled: “UFOs and the Great Deception.”