

The Rapture - Part 1

After close examination and careful study of the Scriptures, it becomes quite evident that Jesus boldly and clearly said that He would return before that first century generation passed away. **(Matthew 24:34)**

34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

This is what the inspired Scripture predicted. Jesus told the Sadducees in **Matthew 22:29** that error is the act or condition of ignorance.

29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

Error is sometimes the involvement of the unintended deviation from Truth or accuracy. Someone could be sincere but be sincerely wrong.

When we started, in our search for Truth, to re-examine the Scriptures, that is when we realized that all of the dots did not connect. The more we searched the Scriptures, the more we discovered many things that were being taught contradicted the Truth.

One must realize that if you are not willing to allow the Truth to change you and what you have been taught, you then will create the inability to learn. Your destiny is not a matter of chance; it is a matter of choice. **(Matthew 20:16)** You must choose to be chosen.

16 So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.

We are often times held hostage by what we don't know. Our ignorance then becomes our adversary. To believe in fulfilled prophecy of Scripture is to believe in the God whose word never changes.

It is then that our questions are answered. The Scriptures that teach us about the Glories of Heaven were first intended to become a then present possession of those first century Christians who would very soon be caught away into heaven in the year AD 70 of the first century.

The following verses are expectation statements made to the first century Christians of the promise of a soon to return Lord Jesus. **(Matthew 16:27-28)**

²⁷ For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

*²⁸ Verily I say unto you, **There be some standing here**, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.*

- This was a time of reward, a time of gathering (**Matthew 24:31**),

³¹ And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

- A catching up to meet the Lord in the air (**1 Thessalonians 4:17**),

*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.*

- It would be the time of their redemption (**Luke 21:28**),

²⁸ And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

- The time to receive their salvation (**1 Peter 1:9**),

⁹ receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

- The time of immortal change (**1 Corinthians 15:51-52**),

*⁵¹ Behold, I shew you a mystery; **We** shall not all sleep, but **we** shall all be changed, 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.*

- It would be time to receive eternal glory (**2 Timothy 2:10**)

¹⁰ Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

These first century Christians saw and experienced the Coming of the Lord. After AD 70, all of the believers were silent. They were silent because they were all absent.

The word “**futuristic**” means an expectation of something yet to happen, an event to take place in the future. The man-made future “rapture” ideology is a distortion of Bible prophecy. It is, in fact, a delusion.

Webster’s dictionary says that a **delusion** is a false persistent belief maintained in spite of evidence to the contrary.

delusion noun

de·lu·sion (di-ˈlŭ-zhən) dē-

[Synonyms of delusion >](#)

1 a : something that is falsely or delusively believed or propagated

| under the *delusion* that they will finish on schedule

| *delusions* of grandeur

b psychology : a persistent false psychotic belief regarding the self or persons or objects outside the self that is maintained despite indisputable evidence to the contrary

| the *delusion* that someone was out to hurt him

also : the abnormal state marked by such beliefs

2 : the act of tricking or deceiving someone : the state of being deluded

| ... accused the Bohemian of having practised the most abominable arts of *delusion* among the younger brethren.

— Walter Scott

• **delusional** (di-ˈlŭzh-nəl) dē--ˈlŭ-zhə-nəl adjective

• **delusionary** (di-ˈlŭ-zhə-ner-ē) dē- adjective

The Apostolic Doctrine of Eschatology believes that ALL promised end-time events and the complete establishment of ALL age-to-come Kingdom realities were fulfilled within the first century time parameters demanded by Scripture. **(Luke 21:22)**

²² For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

Like the brethren of Berea in **Acts 17:11**, we must search the Scriptures to see if the things that are taught in churches today are true.

Man-made ideas and doctrines have consequences because what we are taught affects the way we live, our lifestyle, what we do and who we are. Everything must line up with God's Word. (**Romans 3:4**)

⁴God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

We must read out of the Bible what it says and not what we want it to say. Remember, the Scriptures were written to living people almost 2,000 years ago about the events that were going to happen in **their lifetime** not in our lifetime.

Many Bible passages address the event of the Church being caught up to meet the Lord Jesus in the air. This took place on the Last Day of the Last Days of the last generation of the Old Covenant that God had with the Nation of Israel. It was the Day of Resurrection. (**John 6:39-44, 54, 11:24**)

³⁹And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day¹. ⁴⁰And this is the will of him that sent me, that everyone which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.⁴¹ The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven. ⁴²And they said, is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven? ⁴³Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves. ⁴⁴No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

²⁴Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

How and when an individual believer participates in the resurrection has been one of the most distorted, confused, and misunderstood concepts of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (**1 Thessalonians 4:15-18**)

¹ Notice the phrase "Last Day" as opposed to "Last Days".

*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**. 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:*

*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. ¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

The “**we**” in this Scripture was “**them**” in the first century, not “**us**” today. In **1 Corinthians 15:51-55**, the experience that the Apostle Paul was telling the Church about was getting ready to happen to **them**. It is not about any future event that’s going to happen in our lifetime or ever. It has **ALREADY** happened!

*⁵¹ Behold, I shew you a mystery; **We** shall not all sleep, but **we** shall all be changed, 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. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. ⁵⁵ O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*

Only in the Apostles doctrine of Eschatology is the “**so-called rapture and resurrection**” no longer a mystery because ignorance has been replaced with Scriptural knowledge and reality.

Let’s examine where the teaching of the Last Days, end of the world, and the secret rapture doctrine came from we will see that like a snowball rolling down hill, this doctrine has picked up many things through the years that simply contradict Scripture.

When did this teaching begin and where did it come from?

In 1591, a Jesuit priest named Francisco Ribera of Salamina, Spain wrote a commentary of 500 pages. In his commentary, Ribera disproved the claim of European Reformers that the Pope of the Catholic Church was the Antichrist.

Ribera taught that the Jewish Temple that was destroyed in AD 70 would be rebuilt by an individual called the Antichrist. It would not be

the Pope of Rome, but an individual that would abolish the Christian religion, deny Christ, and pretend to be God and conquer the world. He would be an atheistic political “superman” of the Last Days.

It was at that time in history that the Bible began to become available to the masses of people. The Romish priest saw that they could no longer keep the people in ignorance.

Ribera wrote to point people away from the Papacy as the Antichrist and to cause them to look off into the future for an unknown individual at the End of Time.

Thus, the structure of Futurism became adopted by a growing number of Protestants in the 19th Century. This Futuristic view was further popularized by an Italian Cardinal named Robert Bellarmine. (1542-1621) He wrote that Paul, Daniel, and John said nothing about the Papacy.

Samuel Maitland was a librarian to the Archbishop of Canterbury. (1792-1866) He wrote a number of books confirming Futurism. James Todd, a professor of Hebrew in Dublin, Ireland, became a follower of Samuel Maitland.

Futurism began to take hold in Protestant circles more and more. The theory of God taking the Church out of the world arose. This eventually led to 2 second comings, the first coming being a **“secret rapture”**.

This began fueling the belief of a last day’s great tribulation of a 7-year covenant with the Antichrist in a rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem; the first 3 ½ years would be good and the last 3 ½ years would be bad. (Daniel’s 70th week)

We must always remember that the Bible cannot mean what it never meant. The word **“rapture”** is not a Bible word. The teaching of a secret “pre-tribulation rapture” of the Church was relatively unheard of and not taught until the early 1800’s and was not widespread until early 1900.

Another Jesuit priest named Emmanuel Lacunza wrote a book published in 1826 about a coming rapture. Most scholars agree that a **“secret rapture”** belief came into prominence around 1830 by a group of people in Scotland known as the Plymouth Brethren under John Nelson Darby. (1800-1882)

He introduced this **“pre-tribulation rapture”** theory in Europe and later in America. It was popularized in America when it was included in the notes of the Scofield Reference Bible in 1917.

Clarence Larkin published an elaborate “**End-time**” event chart called “Dispensational Truth Charts” in 1918. This work further propagated this whole idea of a “**pre-tribulation rapture**”.

During the 20th Century, the “**pre-tribulation rapture**” of the Church became the dominant view. Its central passages of Scripture are found in **1 Thessalonians 4:15-18**. Church history always viewed these Scriptures as being resurrection passages.

Here are some important things to consider:

- 1. Jesus prayed that we would not be taken out of the world to escape tribulation. (John 16:33, 17:15)**
- 2. Now physical death awaits all men. (Hebrews 9:27, Ecc. 7:2, Romans 5:12, Genesis 3:19)**
- 3. Any escape from planet Earth is NOT the subject of Old Testament resurrection prophecy to be fulfilled by a future coming of Messiah.**

Conclusion

In conclusion to Part 1 of our study on the subject of “**The Rapture**”, we can plainly see how the idea of a “secret pre-tribulation rapture” infiltrated into the “doctrine” of many churches today.

It was originally manufactured to take the “heat” off the Pope. We have presented historical facts which show the gradual shift away from the Scriptures to man-made ideologies. In Part 2 of our study on “**The Rapture**”, we will continue to study the Biblical perspective on this controversial subject.

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