

The Rapture Bible Challenge

By Claude P. Scheiner, Jr.

Many Bible believers and teachers are convinced that the Bible teaches that the “Rapture” of believers occurs at the start of the seven year “Great Tribulation” and that they therefore escape the coming wrath upon the earth. While it can be appreciated that this teaching would bring comfort to people, the question remains as to whether the Bible explicitly teaches such a doctrine. Consider the implications of how this teaching, if found false, would shipwreck people’s faith when they experience such tribulation and challenges.

Can we put our theological assumptions and our emotions on the shelf and coldly look at what the Bible ACTUALLY SAYS?

Here is the challenge:

1. Pray that the Holy Spirit will open your eyes to the Word of God and reveal His truth to you
2. Open your Bible
3. Read the verses
4. Write your responses
5. Consider the conclusions
6. Answer the question: What Will You Do About It?

1 Corinthians 15:51-54

1. What was the mystery?

2. Was the resurrection something that had been taught prior to this? If so, what is this mystery?

3. Was this translation into glorified bodies without dying first ever taught prior to this? If not, could that be the mystery that is now being revealed?

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

4. What were the Thessalonians fearing?

5. How did Paul assure them?

6. Will the dead be raptured out before or after the living at the return of the Lord?

7. Will any believer miss out on the rapture?

8. Is there anything in this passage that indicates that this rapture is separated from the second coming of Yeshua, at the end of The Tribulation?

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5

9. According to verse 2, were these Thessalonians in fear they are in The Day of The Lord and therefore have missed the rapture ('the gathering together unto him')?

10. Is there anything in the text to indicate that they were expecting a pre-trib rapture?

11. Paul clearly taught them that this “coming of our Lord Yeshua Messiah and our gathering together unto him” would NOT occur until what two things happened first?

12. Does verse 5 tell us that Paul had told them this before?

13. If Paul told them this before and is retelling them this now, did Paul ever teach an imminent pre-trib rapture? If so, when and where and how does that square with his clear statement to the contrary here?

14. If the apostasy and revealing of anti-christ comes **before** the 'Day of Messiah,' 'our gathering unto him,' and 'the Day of the L-rd, is there any room for the view that a rapture is “imminent”?

15. Can the rapture precede these two events?

Thief In The Night

1 Thessalonians 5:2

2 Peter 3:10

16. What is the thief in the night in these passages? Is it the Day of the Lord or the rapture?

17. Is a rapture being described or is it destruction?

Isaiah 13:6

Isaiah 34:8

Joel 1:15

Acts 2:20

Isaiah 13:9

Jeremiah 46:10

Joel 2:1

18. In all of the above passages describing the Day of the Lord, are any describing a rapture of believers or are they describing judgment?

Matthew 24:38-44

19. The coming of the son of man will be like the days of Noah. In those days, how many people were found worthy of even preserving?

20. Were the ones “taken away” good or evil?

21. How were they “taken away”?

22. Were the ones “taken away” taken by surprise at the wrath of God upon them?

23. If the coming of the son of man will be “like this”, what can we understand about the fate of those “taken”? Two will be in a field; one taken, one left. Two will be grinding; one taken, one left. Are they taken in rapture or are they taken to judgment?

24. Consider the same story in Luke 17:26-37 to amplify the details.

25. In verses 34-37, are these people who are being “taken” being raptured or taken to death and judgment?

Ezekiel 39:17-18

26. The disciples recognized this prophecy about the birds coming together. What is happening here?

Revelation 19:17-18

27. What is happening in this prophecy of the birds coming together?

Matthew 24:42-44 (also Luke 12:39)

28. Is the thief a rapture or does the thief come to bring wrath?

29. If the thief represented a rapture or escape, would the goodman of the house have tried to keep it away?

30. The disciples are told to be watchful. Was the goodman of the house watchful?

31. Did the thief harm those watching or those not watching?

1 Thessalonians 5:1-10

32. Is the thief in the night the rapture or the Day of the Lord?

33. Who are the ones living in ease and peace and not watching the signs and are sleeping when the thief comes, the believers or the non-believers?

34. Instead of sleeping what are the believers told they should be doing?

35. Does the thief catch the believers off guard or the non-believers?

36. In verse 9, believers are “not appointed to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Yeshua Messiah”. How can we know which 'wrath' is meant here? Hellfire or Tribulational?

37. If this wrath is contrasted with salvation by Yeshua, then is it referring to worldly tribulation or with eternal hell-fire and condemnation?

38. If we have salvation, are we appointed to eternal hell-fire and condemnation?

39. Does this verse have anything to do with believers escaping tribulation or being removed from earth prior to the Day of the Lord?

Titus 2:13

40. Wouldn't the hope be that much more blessed if one were going through The Tribulation rather than a time of peace?

2 Timothy 4:1

41. Is the appearing of Yeshua here to secretly snatch away believers or to act as judge?

1 Peter 1:7

42. Is the appearing of Yeshua referring to a rapture or to His coming after a time following trials, i.e. "tried with fire"?

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17

43. Is this rapture passage tied in to the coming of the Lord?

2 Thessalonians 2:1

44. Is this rapture passage tied in to the coming of the Lord?

Revelation 1:7

45. Is the second coming a very public event?

46. Will "all" see His second coming?

Acts 1:9

47. Will He return to us in the same manner as He left us (visibly, not secret)?

48. Is there anything in Scripture that indicates He has three advents?

49. Is there anything in Scripture that indicates that He sneaks in quietly and steals away His believers prior to His return in glory, as our King.

Believers Are To Endure To The End, Not Escape:

John 17:15

Mark 13:13

John 6:40

John 6:54

Matthew 24:13

John 6:39

John 6:44

50. Considering all the above Scriptures, is God's way to remove him from the trial or to bring him through the trial?

51. Were all these people removed from the world or protected through the time of trouble?

2 Peter 2:5-9

52. Were Noah and Lot removed from the world or protected through the time of trouble?

53. Is God able to preserve the righteous in this world during the Day of Judgment?

But What About The Promise of Revelation 3:10?

Revelation 3:10

This is the same promise Sha'ul shared:

1 Corinthians 10:13

54. Is the "escape" mentioned here referring to a worldly escape or to a promise that we will be able to **bear** what comes upon us?

55. Are we promised by God that He will put no more on us than we can bear?

Wheat And Tares

Matthew 13:40-42, 49

Matthew 24:39

56. Notice the way God works – Does He remove the good from the bad or the bad from the good?

57. When Yeshua returns, who will be removed and who will remain and enter the kingdom?

The Wise Slave Parable

Matthew 24:46-48

58. Again, the master didn't arrive as early as expected, so some slaves decided he wasn't returning after all and they could do as they pleased. What happens to your faith if it's not built solidly?

Mark 4:16, 17

59. Is it possible that those who hold to the hope of rapture/escapism could have their faith shattered when they undergo affliction or persecution?

Daniel 12:10

Zechariah 13:8, 9

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

James 5:8-11

60. Will God refine through fire those who are his?

Consider the following conclusions:

- ✧ The rapture is tied in to the second coming
- ✧ The second coming is public
- ✧ The second coming occurs at the end of The Tribulation

Now, the real question:

What Will You Do About This?
