

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH
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Christian Soldier 76A, Doctrine Of The Rapture, 1.

Turn in your Bibles to ZEC 1:14

The next prophecies that the Church-age believer and the Christian Soldier should be waiting for is:

1. The Rapture.
2. The Big Genuflex.
3. The Judgment Seat of Christ.
4. The Second Coming.

So, we are now ready to for....

The Doctrine of the Rapture

Point 1. Introduction.

As an introduction to the Rapture we need to say some something about the distasters our Lord will take us from,

There is a time coming on this earth which is called "Satan's time of desperation"

"It is also called the day of wrath."

It is a period of the greatest power struggle in all of human history.

And it involves not only people but angelic creatures as well.

It is not a time that you would want any of your family members, friends, neighbors, and if you truly understood it, even your enemies to have to go through.

It is a great period of wrath on this earth, both from God and from Satan, Zep 1:14-18.

ZEP 1:14 Near is the great day of the Lord,
Near and coming very quickly; Listen, the day
of the Lord! In it the warrior cries out bitterly.

ZEP 1:15 A day of wrath is that day, A day of
trouble and distress, A day of destruction and
desolation, A Day of darkness and gloom, A day
of clouds and thick darkness,

ZEP 1:16 A day of trumpet and battle cry,
Against the fortified cities And the high corner
towers.

ZEP 1:17 And I will bring distress on men, So
that they will walk like the blind, Because they
have sinned against the Lord; And their blood
will be poured out like dust, And their flesh like
dung.

ZEP 1:18 Neither their silver nor their gold
Will be able to deliver them On the day of the
Lord's wrath; And all the earth will be devoured

In the fire of His jealousy, For He will make a complete end, Indeed a terrifying one, Of all the inhabitants of the earth.

It is a time of great judgment on the earth like never before, REV 6:16-17.

REV 6:16 and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb;

REV 6:17 for the great day of their wrath has come; and who is able to stand?"

It is said to be a great time of indignation, Isa 26:20-21.

ISA 26:20 Come, my people, enter into your rooms, And close your doors behind you; Hide for a little while, Until indignation runs its course.

ISA 26:21 For behold, the Lord is about to come out from His place To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; And the earth will reveal her bloodshed, And will no longer cover her slain.

The hour of testing, Rev 3:10.

Since we are in the book of Revelation, look at REV 3:10.

REV 3:10 'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that {hour} which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth.

It will also be...

A time of Destruction, JOE 1:15 Alas for the day! For the day of the Lord is near, And it will come as destruction from the Almighty.

Darkness, JOE 2:2 A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness.

There has never been {anything} like it, Nor will there be again after for many generations.

Desolation, Dan 9:27.

DAN 9:27 "And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate."

Punishment, Isa 24:20-21.

ISA 24:20 The earth reels to and fro like a drunkard, And it totters like a shack, For its transgression is heavy upon it, And it will fall, never to rise again.

ISA 24:21 So it will happen in that day, that the Lord will punish the host of heaven, on high, and the kings of the earth, on earth.

It is a very difficult time to be alive and it is called the Tribulation period!

And the "wrath of God" will be poured out upon the world during the great Tribulation period.

And according to the word of God, it is a time that could take place on this earth tomorrow.

And this is because of the immanency of the Rapture!

Immanency means it could happen any moment.

The nature of the Tribulation is also one of practical importance as it relates to the Doctrine of the Rapture.

If the Church is destined to endure the persecutions of the Tribulation, it is hopeless to proclaim the coming of the Lord as an imminent hope and joy.

Instead,

It should be recognized that Christ cannot come until these predicted sorrows have been accomplished.

On the other hand,

If Christ will come for His Church before the predicted time of trouble, Christians can regard His coming as an imminent daily expectation and joy.

So,

Because of a theological event known as the Rapture, the Church, the body of Christ will not go through this period.

And this is because....

The Rapture is used in a technical theological sense for the Resurrection of the Royal Family of God.

Since the Church or royal family of God is the first spiritual building to be completed, it is resurrected after our Lord.

It is the second phase of the first resurrection following the resurrection of Christ.

And so,,,,,,

The Rapture or the resurrection of the Church is God's means of terminating the Church-age and delivering us from the wrath to come; 1TH 5:9 For God has not destined us for wrath.

Another very important point concerning the Rapture of the Church is that:

The Lord Jesus Christ will remove the Church from this world which was unknown before that Church-age because they could not know it as it was a mystery to them.

How do we know that?

EPH 3:1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles

EPH 3:2 if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you;

EPH 3:3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.

EPH 3:4 And by referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

EPH 3:5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;

Look at ROM 16:25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past,

ROM 16:26 but **now** is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, {leading} to obedience of faith;

We also have COL 1:26-28, which tells us that the Old Testament saints did not know about such doctrines like the Rapture.

COL 1:26 {that is,} the mystery which has been hidden from the {past} ages and generations; but has now been manifested to His saints.

COL 1:25 Of {this Church } I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, that I might fully carry out the {preaching of} the word of God,

COL 1:26 {that is,} the mystery which has been hidden from the {past} ages and generations; but has now been manifested to His saints,

This all means that the Church could not have been in view in the Old Testament prophecy concerning the Tribulation period which is to come upon the whole earth.

And there can be no question that this period will see the wrath of God poured out upon the whole earth.

Rev 3:10; Isa 34:2; 24:1,4-5, 16-21 and, many other passages make it very clear as well.

ISA 34:2 For the Lord's indignation is against all the nations, And His wrath against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them, He has given them over to slaughter.

ISA 24:1 Behold, the Lord lays the earth waste, devastates it, distorts its surface, and scatters its inhabitants.

ISA 24:2 And the people will be like the priest, the servant like his master, the maid like her mistress, the buyer like the seller, the lender like the borrower, the creditor like the debtor.

ISA 24:3 The earth will be completely laid waste and completely despoiled, for the Lord has spoken this word.

ISA 24:4 The earth mourns and withers, the world fades and withers, the exalted of the people of the earth fade away.

ISA 24:5 The earth is also polluted by its inhabitants, for they transgressed laws, violated statutes, broke the everlasting covenant.

Jer 30:7 says this period is particularly called the time of Jacob's trouble and Jacob refers to Israel.

In Dan 9:24, God says 70 weeks are determined upon "thy" people (Jews not the Church)

DAN 9:24 "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression,

So, This whole Tribulation period will have as special reference to Daniel's people Israel and Daniel's holy city, Jerusalem.

In the Old Testament, the seventy weeks of prophecy are weeks of years.

In Gen 29:26-27 and Dan 9:24, one week is equivalent to 7 years.

70 times 7 = 490

The background to this is that Israel was disciplined by God for their failure to keep the Sabbath.

Because of this, they had willfully rejected such things like the Sabbath, especially the year of Jubilee.

What is the Year of Jubilee in the Bible?

To understand the Jubilee in the Bible, one must understand the significance of number seven in the Bible.

First of all, God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh or the Sabbath; GEN 2:2-3.

GEN 2:2 And by the seventh day God completed His work which He had done; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

GEN 2:3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

The Bible says that the Jubilee cycles began from the time that Israel (Jacob's descendants) entered the land of Canaan in 1406 BC, (LEV 25:1).

LEV 25:1 The Lord then spoke to Moses at Mount Sinai, saying,

LEV 25:2 "Speak to the sons of Israel, and say to them, 'When you come into the land which I shall give you, then the land shall have a sabbath to the Lord.

LEV 25:3 'Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its crop,

LEV 25:4 but during the seventh year the land shall have a sabbath rest, a sabbath to the Lord; you shall not sow your field nor prune your vineyard.

LEV 25:5 'Your harvest's aftergrowth you shall not reap, and your grapes of untrimmed vines you shall not gather; the land shall have a sabbatical year.

LEV 25:6 'And all of you shall have the sabbath products of the land for food; yourself, and your male and female slaves, and your hired man and your foreign resident, those who live as aliens with you.

LEV 25:7 'Even your cattle and the animals that are in your land shall have all its crops to eat.

LEV 25:8 'You are also to count off seven sabbaths of years for yourself, seven times seven years, so that you have the time of the seven sabbaths of years, namely, forty-nine years.

A jubilee is seven cycles of seven years = 49 years.

And so

They were disciplined by God for 490 years, God has already fulfilled 483 years of that divine discipline and owes Israel seven more years.

God owes Israel seven years!

They have had 69 weeks already, i.e., 483 years.

Therefore,

This is related to the Tribulation period which is also related to our Doctrine of the Rapture.

The Church has nothing to do with this prophecy and since the Church did not have its existence until after the death of Christ, the resurrection of Christ, Rom 4:25; Col 3:1-3, and after the ascension of Christ, Eph 1:19-20.

EPH 1:18 {I pray that} the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

EPH 1:19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. {These are} in accordance with the working of the strength of His might

EPH 1:20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly {places},

Therefore, the Church could not have been in the first 69 weeks of this prophecy.

So,

Since the Church had no part in the first 69 weeks which are related only to God's program for Israel, then it can have no part in the 70th week which is again related to God's program for Israel.

So,

The Rapture is the blessed hope or the happy guarantee that God is going to take us out from the wrath to come.

1Th 4:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope.

Please notice the Rapture removes sorrow and grief and gives hope.

Now, Rev 2:22 indicates clearly that the unsaved professing Church will experience the Tribulation period, REV 2:18-22.

REV 2:18 "And to the angel of the Church in Thyatira write: The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this:

REV 2:19 'I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first.

REV 2:20 'But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray, so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

REV 2:21 'And I gave her time to repent; and she does not want to repent of her immorality.

REV 2:22 'Behold, I will cast her upon a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds.

REV 2:23 'And I will kill her children with pestilence; and all the Churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.

Remember, the professing Church is composed of those who make a profession of faith in Christ but it is:

Another Jesus (2Co 11:4)

Another Spirit; (2Co 11:4)

Another Gospel (Gal 1:6)

Another Doctrine (1TI 4:1)

So,

The "True" Church will not and cannot go through the Tribulation period which is coming upon this earth and therefore the Church must be taken out from the earth which is the Rapture.

Rev 3:10 describes the promise:

REV 3:10 'Because you have kept the word of my perseverance, I also will keep you from or take you out from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth.'

Therefore we have begun a study on the Rapture.

The Rapture of the Church is basically held by two schools of theology.

The Pre-Tribulation view, and the post-Tribulation view.

Amillennial and postmillennial theology does not believe in the Rapture of the Church!

Their position is basically promoted through the "kingdom now theology", which adheres to the notion, that the Church will usher in a world peace.

Post-Tribulation theology believes that the Church will go through the great tribulation, and then be raptured, and return with Jesus Christ to reign in the Millennial.

Most covenant schools of theology believe in this position.

Pre-Tribulation Rapture theology, believes that Christ will remove His Church before the great tribulation.

And then that the Church will return with Christ at the Second coming to establish the Millennial reign of Christ!

First of all, Point 1 will be Definition.

While the Rapture is defined as the act of being transported, it is also defined as the state of being rapt or carried out of oneself.

However, these definitions do not apply here.

Rapture is used here in a technical theological sense for the resurrection of the royal family of God.

Since the Church or royal family of God is the first spiritual building to be completed, it is resurrected after our Lord.

It is the second phase of the first resurrection following the resurrection of Christ.

Christ is resurrected, ascended, and seated at the right hand of the Father as part of the strategic victory of the angelic conflict.

This is known as our Lord's battlefield royalty.

This is His only royalty with no family.

Therefore, God interrupted the Jewish Age with the Church-age to call out and provide a royal family of God.

Once the royal family of God is completed, the Church is resurrected as the body of Christ to become the bride of Christ.

The Church-age is that period of human history when the royal family of God is being formed on earth, Eph 1:22-23, 2:16, 4:4-5; Col 1:18, 24, 2:19.

When the royal family of God is completed, then the Rapture occurs, 1Th 4:16-18; 1Co 15:51-58.

During the conclusion of the Jewish Age, the bride is prepared in heaven by receiving a resurrection body exactly like that of the Lord.

Then comes the Big Genuflex and acknowledgment of Christ, Phi 2:9-11, Rom 14:11.

ROM 14:11 For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall give praise to God."

Then comes the Judgment Seat of Christ, when all Church Age believers are evaluated and rewarded, 2Co 5:10.

2CO 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Now, there is a time coming on this earth which is called "Satan's time of desperation".

"It is also called the day of wrath".

"The hour of trial".

It is a period of the greatest power struggle in all of human history.

And it involves not only people but angelic creatures as well.

It is not a time that you would want any of your family members, friends, neighbors, and if you truly understood it, even your enemies to have to go through.

It is a great period of wrath on this earth, both from God and from Satan, Zep 1:14-18.

It is a time of great judgment on the earth like never before, Rev 6:16-17.

It is said to be a great time of indignation, Isa 26:20-21.

The hour of testing, Rev 3:10.

Destruction, Joel 1:15.

Darkness, Joel 2:2.

Desolation, Dan 9:27.

Punishment, Isa 24:20-21.

It is a very difficult time to be alive and it is called the Tribulation period!

And the "wrath of God" will be poured out upon the world during the great Tribulation period.

And according to the word of God, it is a time that could take place on this earth tomorrow!

The nature of the Tribulation is also one of practical importance.

If the Church is destined to endure the persecutions of the Tribulation, it is hopeless to proclaim the coming of the Lord as an imminent hope.

Instead, it should be recognized that Christ cannot come until these predicted sorrows have been accomplished.

On the other hand, if Christ will come for His Church-before the predicted time of trouble, Christians can regard His coming as an imminent daily expectation.

So, because of a theological event known as the rapture, the Church, the body of Christ will not go through this period.

And this is because the Rapture is used in a technical theological sense for the resurrection of the royal family of God.

So my Second Point,

Point 2. Principles that establish the biblical position of a pre-tribulation Rapture of the Church.

(1) First of all, the great Tribulation is punishment for a Christ-rejecting world, and the nation of Israel, who rejected her Messiah, Rev 6:12-17.

REV 6:12 And I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood;

REV 6:13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind.

REV 6:14 And the sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

REV 6:15 And the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains;

REV 6:16 and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb;

REV 6:17 for the great day of their wrath has come; and who is able to stand?"

(2) The nature of the Church, and the promises of Christ forbid the Church from going through the great Tribulation.

For example, the nature of the Church; COL 1:22 yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach--

The promise of Christ HEB 13:5 "for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,"

(3) There must be an interval of time between the Rapture and the second coming.

This is when the Judgment Seat of Christ takes place and believers either receive rewards or lose rewards, 1Co 3:11-15, 2Co 5:10.

(4) The scripture's which deal with the great tribulation have particular reference to the Jew, Mat 24:1-31; Mar 13:14; Luk 21:23-36.

For example, in MAT 24:1 And Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him.

MAT 24:2 And He answered and said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here shall be left upon another, which will not be torn down."

What was He talking about?

He's talking about a Jewish Temple not a Christian Church.

MAT 24:3 And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what {will be} the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

MAT 24:4 And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you.

MAT 24:5 "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many.

MAT 24:6 "And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not frightened, for {those things} must take place, but {that} is not yet the end.

MAT 24:7 "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.

MAT 24:8 "But all these things are {merely} the beginning of birth pangs.

MAT 24:9 "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations on account of My name.

This is a reference to the Jewish nation.

In MAT 24:15 "Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),

The abomination of desolation has to do with Jerusalem and the Temple, DAN 11:31 "And forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation."

Look at MAT 24:16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains;

Where?

Judea!

Not the USA!

Not Salt Lake City!

Judea, in Israel!

Look at MAT 24:20 "But pray that your flight may not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath;

Why does it say the Sabbath?

Because we are talking to the Jews not to Christians!

The Sabbath is for the Jews only, Exo 31:16.

MAT 24:21 for then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall.

MAT 24:22 "And unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days shall be cut short.

In MAT 24:29 "But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken,

MAT 24:30 and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.

MAT 24:31 "And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

MAT 24:32 "Now learn the parable from the fig tree [Israel]: when its branch has already become tender, and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near;

Who is the fig tree?

Look at MAT 21:18 Now in the morning, when He returned to the city, He became hungry.

MAT 21:19 And seeing a lone fig tree by the road, He came to it, and found nothing on it except leaves only; and He *said to it, "No longer shall there ever be {any} fruit from you."
And at once the fig tree withered.

In LUK 13:6, the fig tree represents the nation of Israel, And He {began} telling this parable:
"A certain man had a fig tree which had been planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it, and did not find any.

So in MAT 24:33 even so you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, {right} at the door.

MAT 24:34 "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

In MAT 24:37 "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.

MAT 24:38 "For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

MAT 24:39 and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so shall the coming of the Son of Man be.

MAT 24:40 "Then there shall be two men in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left.

MAT 24:41 "Two women {will be} grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left.

MAT 24:42 "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming."

So, notice that the Sabbath is used, Mat 24:20.

Jerusalem is trodden under, Luk 21:24.

Kingdom of God is near and at hand, Mat 24:14.

The Church is never mentioned; Temple implied; abomination of desolation denoted.

(5) The Tribulation is mentioned as a gross time of darkness, evil, and sin, where none have faith. Isa 60:2; Jer 13:16; Luk 18:8.

(6) Satan persecutes the women in the Tribulation (Israel). The Church is not to come under condemnation. Rev 12:1-4; Rom 5:9; 8:1; 1Th 1:10; 5:9; 1Co 15:55-57; 1Th 4:13-18.

(7) The Church is not of the world. Joh 17:14; Phi 3:20; 2Ti 2:3-4.

The Church is a spiritual extension of Jesus Christ, with promises that are heavenly related. Eph 1:3; 2:6.

(8) Christ is preparing a home for His body the Church and has promised to return and to take His bride back with Him, Joh 14:3; 1Th 4:13-17.

JOH 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, {there} you may be also."

(9) The Church has been promised deliverance from the wrath to come. Rom. 5:9; 1Th 1:10; 5:9; Rev 3:10.

1TH 1:10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come.

In 1TH 5:9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

(10) The believer is told to watch, or have an attitude of anticipation for the Lord's coming.

If believers are to go through the great Tribulation, they would be advised to watch for the signs of the prophecies of the coming of Jacob's trouble, Rom 8:23; 1Co 1:7; Gal 5:5. Tit 2:11-13.

Why would we in ROM 8:23 groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body?

