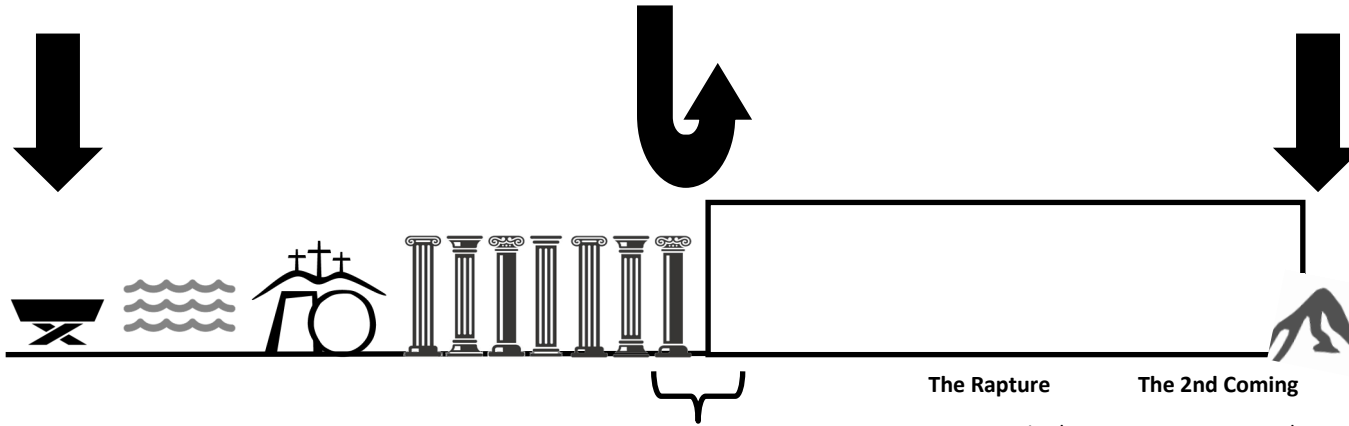


The Bible and Future Events (The Rapture)



1. The Rapture of the Believers



The Rapture is called a “mystery” (1 Cor. 15:51-53) “Behold, I shew you a *mystery*; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,” - Different from the resurrection of the body (Job 19:23-27; Dan. 12:2), Paul discloses to the church at Corinth the instantaneous change of the bodies of both dead and living believers from mortality (corruptibility) to immortality (incorruptibility).

The word “**rapture**” is taken from 1 Thess. 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.” - “caught up” means to pluck, to seize, or to snatch. The Latin word is “*raptura*.”

The Rapture of the Believers is not a reward for faithfulness it is a promised blessing for all believers. (Paul emphasized “we shall **all** be changed” even when speaking to the carnally behaved church at Corinth).

The Rapture of the Saved is different from The Second Coming of Christ.

The Rapture	The 2nd Coming
Jesus returns in the air	Jesus returns to the earth
Jesus returns for His own	Jesus returns with His own
Jesus takes believers to safety	Jesus takes unbelievers in judgment
Imminent (ready to take place)- unknown	Always at least 7 years ahead- known
No signs	Many signs
For Believers only	For Israel, and the Nations.
Judgment Seat of Christ (for rewards)	Throne of His Glory Judgment & The Great White Throne Judgment
A time of joy	A time of mourning
No kingdom is set up (The LORD is at Hand)	The Millennial Kingdom will be set up (The Kingdom is at hand)

Why The Rapture of the Believers will occur prior to the Tribulation period.

1. The Tribulation period pertains to Israel and not the churches. (“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people” Dan. 9:24—Daniel’s people are the Jews; It is called “the *time of Jacob’s trouble*” Jer. 30:7). The Tribulation is Israel’s time.

2. The Day should not overtake the churches as a thief...for God hath not appointed the churches unto wrath (1 Thess. 5:1-10). Churches are exempt from the Day of the LORD. Jesus carefully said “that day” shall come upon “all them.” (Lk. 21:34-35). Churches are kept from the hour which is to try the world (Rev. 3:10). (see also, Rom. 5:9; 2 Thess. 2:13).

3. There are no mention of church nor churches from Rev. 3:22 till Rev. 22:16. The entire “*things which shall be hereafter*” does not reference the church nor the churches.

4. The Rapture is a comfort for the Believer: Jn. 14:1-3; 1 Thess. 1:10; 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-12; The believer is commanded to watch, to wait, to look for the LORD, and not for the Beast. (Acts 1:11; 1 Cor. 1:7, 16:22 “**MARANATHA**”; Phil. 3:20, 4:5; Col. 3:4; 1 Tim. 6:14; Heb. 9:28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:3-4; Jude 1:21).

The Blessings accompanied by the Rapture of the Believers:

1. Glorified Bodies (1 Thess. 4:13, 16-17).
2. Sharing in Christ’s Glory (Jn. 17:22, 24).
3. Receiving our Inheritance (1 Pet. 1:3-5).
4. Seeing the Fruit of our Ministry (1 Thess. 2:19).
5. Entering Eternal Life (Titus 1:2; 3:7).
6. So shall we ever be with the Lord (1 Thess. 4:17; Jn. 14:3).