

Events Prior to the Tribulation



☞ Increase in apostasy and moral implosion

☞ "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths." - 2 Timothy 4:3-4

A Word of Caution



☞ Before we throw our hands up in the air and give up, remember....

☞ "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance."

2 Peter 3:9

The Rapture



☞ The rapture is that glorious event in which the dead in Christ will be resurrected, living Christians will be instantly translated into their resurrection bodies, and both groups will be "caught up" to meet Christ in the air and taken back to heaven.

The Rapture



☞ While the word rapture is not found in scripture, the concept of being "caught up" is found.

☞ John 14:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

John 14:1-3



- ☞ Jesus went literally and bodily into heaven, and He will return in the same way.
- ☞ Promise made to His followers, not to mankind.
- ☞ When He returns, Jesus will take His followers to the Father's house.

1 Corinthians 15:51-54



- ☞ The truth of the rapture is a "mystery".
- ☞ A "mystery" is a newly revealed divine secret that was not revealed in the past and that would not be discovered without divine revelation.
- ☞ The mystery in this passage is that there would be some believers who will not experience death.

1 Corinthians 15:51-54



- ☞ The Rapture takes place in a "twinkling of an eye".
- ☞ It is a brief moment that happens almost instantly.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18



- ☞ Several audible sounds will accompany this event:
 - ☞ Christ's shout
 - ☞ Archangel's voice
 - ☞ Trumpet of God

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18



- ☞ Believers are “caught up” to meet Christ in the air.
- ☞ This happens somewhere between the heavens and the earth.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18



- ☞ The Lord Himself comes for the church - vs. 16.
- ☞ Those involved are the Church who are “in Christ”
 - ☞ From Pentecost until the this event.
 - ☞ Believers who are alive and asleep.

When Does the Rapture Occur?



- ☞ At any moment. The word *imminent* is used to describe the timing of the rapture.
- ☞ Nothing must be prophetically fulfilled for Christ to come for His Church.

Posttribulationism



- ☞ Christ will rapture the church after the tribulation period at the second coming of Christ.
- ☞ Revelation 20:4-6 is used to prove that all believers are resurrected at the end of the tribulation period.

