

The Differences Between the Two Future Phases of Christ's Coming

THE RAPTURE	THE RETURN (Second Coming)
Christ comes in the air (1 Thess. 4:16-17)	Christ comes to the earth (Zech. 14:4)
Christ comes for His saints (1 Thess. 4:16-17)	Christ comes with His saints (1 Thess. 3:13; Jude 14)
Believers depart the earth (1 Thess. 4:16-17)	Unbelievers are taken away (Matt. 24:37-41)
Christ claims His bride (Matt. 25:1-13)	Christ comes with His bride (Rev. 19:7)
Christ gathers His own (1 Thess. 4:16-17)	Angels gather the elect (Matt. 24:31)
Christ comes to reward (1 Thess. 4:17)	Christ comes to judge (Matt. 25:31-46)
Not in the Old Testament (1 Cor. 15:51)	Predicted often in the Old Testament (Dan. 7:13-14)
There are no signs; it is imminent (1 Thess. 5:1-3)	Portended by many signs (Matt. 24:4-29)
It is a time of blessing and comfort (1 Thess. 4:18)	It is a time of destruction and judgment (2 Thess. 2:8-12)
Involves believers only (Jn. 14:1-3, 1 Cor. 15:51-55, 1 Thess. 4:13-18)	Involves Israel and the Gentiles (Matt. 24:1-15, 46)
Will occur in a moment, in the time it takes to blink. Only His own will see Him (1 Cor. 15:51-52)	Will be visible to the entire world (Matt. 24:27, Rev. 1:7)
Tribulation begins (Rev. 6)	Millennium begins (Rev. 20)
Christ comes as the bright morning star (Rev. 22:16)	Christ comes as the sun of righteousness (Mal. 4:2)