

INQUIRING MINDS: CAN WE STILL BELIEVE IN THE RAPTURE?

What is the Rapture?

The term "Rapture" is not in the English Bible, but the concept is found in the New Testament. It comes from the Latin translation (*rapturo*) of the Greek word **Harpazo** which is found in 1 Thess. 4:17.

Definition: The Rapture is the sudden, imminent, and literal moment when Jesus Christ returns in the air to resurrect all deceased believers and instantly transform all living believers, removing them from the earth to be with Him in Heaven.

Key Passages:

Passage	Key Promise	Description
John 14:1-3	"I will receive you to Myself."	Jesus promises His disciples that He is preparing a place for them and will return specifically to gather them to be where He is.
1 Corinthians 15:51-52	"We shall all be changed."	Describes the instantaneous transformation ("in a twinkling of an eye") of our physical, mortal bodies into glorified, immortal bodies.
1 Thessalonians 4:16-17	"Caught up together... to meet the Lord in the air."	Details the process: Christ descends with a shout, the dead in Christ rise first, and then living believers are immediately "caught up" (<i>harpazo</i>) to join them.

Rapture vs. Second Coming

The Rapture is a distinct event from the Second Coming of Christ, which occurs at the end of the seven-year Tribulation:

Feature	The Rapture (1 Thess. 4)	The Second Coming (Rev. 19)
Purpose	To remove the Church out of the world.	Return of Christ with His Church to the earth.
Location	Christ comes in the air .	Christ lands on the earth (Mount of Olives).
Recipients	Believers only (resurrected and living).	All people (believers and unbelievers) witness it.
Timing	Imminent (an any-moment event).	Follows specific prophetic signs and judgments.

Key Quote: *"The Rapture is a separate and distinct event from the Second Coming. The Rapture is Jesus taking the church out of the world, and the Second Coming is Jesus coming back to the world with the church."* – P. David

The Timing: Pre-Tribulation View

Based on the nature of the event and other prophetic texts, the Pre-Tribulation view holds that the Church will be removed **before** the seven-year period of God's wrath (the Tribulation).

Principle	Supporting Scripture
Exemption from Wrath	1 Thessalonians 5:9 states: " <i>For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.</i> " The Tribulation is described as God's specific period of judgment and wrath upon the world.
Removal from the Hour	Revelation 3:10 promises the faithful church: " <i>I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world.</i> " This is interpreted as removal <i>before</i> the tribulation period begins.
Church Absence in Judgments	The Church is prominently featured <i>before</i> Revelation 4 and <i>after</i> Revelation 19 (the Second Coming), but it is conspicuously absent during the description of the seals, trumpets, and bowls (Tribulation judgments).

The Nature of the Event

The Speed: The change into glorified bodies will happen "in a twinkling of an eye" (1 Cor 15:52). This implies an action occurring at an incredibly rapid, instantaneous speed—faster than the blink of an eye.

The Hope: The Rapture is referred to as the "Blessed Hope."

Titus 2:13: "*We are looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.*"

This hope is **imminent**. It is an any-moment event and provides comfort and motivation.

The Rapture is a practical **motivator** for our daily lives.

What should believers be doing?

- Be a witness wherever you go (Acts 1:8).
- Preach the Gospel everywhere (Mark 16:15).
- Make disciples and help others follow Jesus. (Matt. 28:16-20)
- Move forward with Kingdom business and do not fear (Matt. 16:18).
- Occupy until Jesus comes (Luke 19:13).
- Remain faithful and alert until He comes (Mathew 24:45-51).

Conclusion: When Inquiring Minds want to know if we can still believe in the Rapture, the answer is a resounding **YES!** It is the promised, literal gathering of believers into glory.