

THE RAPTURE

Matthew, Acts & Hebrews are probably the most difficult books to understand DOCTRINALLY in the NT because they are 'transition-books'...

- 1) Matthew – Doctrinally you are moving from the OT (Matt 1-26) to the NT (Matt 27, Heb 9v15-17)
- 2) Acts – You are moving from Israel to the Church
- 3) Hebrews – You are moving from the Church Age into Daniel's 70th Week!

1Thes 4:13 **But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.**

14 **For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.**

15 **For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.**

16 **For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:**

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.**

18 **Wherefore comfort one another with these words.**

This is the 2nd greatest passage in the NT regarding the Rapture; the first is found in 1 Cor 15v51-54.

Other passages that speak of the Rapture are...

- 1 John 3v1-3
- Phil 3v20-21
- Rom 8v21-24
- John 11v24-26
- Rev 4v1+2

The word 'Rapture' does NOT occur in the English Bible but the dictionary definition certainly 'qualifies' it as to what will happen when the Lord returns.

RAP'TURE, n. [L. raptus, rapio.] - Websters 1828 Dictionary

1. **A seizing by violence.** [Little used.]
2. Transport; ecstasy; violence of a pleasing passion; extreme joy or pleasure.

Rapture – Concise Oxford Dictionary

noun

- 1 a feeling of intense pleasure or joy.
- 2 **(the Rapture) North American (according to some millenarian teaching) the transporting of believers to heaven at the second coming of Christ.**

ORIGIN

C16 (in the sense '**seizing and carrying off**'): from obsolete French, or from medieval Latin raptura '**seizing**', partly influenced by **rapt**.

The word 'Rapture' means the state of being CARRIED AWAY or CARRIED OFF – that is what is going to happen when the Lord Jesus Christ returns!

Many Christians do NOT understand the Rapture & therefore DENY its teaching in the Scriptures. They believe in the Second Coming of Christ but NOT in the Rapture, yet the Rapture is connected with the Second Coming BUT it is DIFFERENT!

- 1) Neither the resurrection of the dead or the Second Advent are 'mysteries' in the Bible. They are both clearly mentioned centuries BEFORE Christ shows up – Job 19v25-27 **For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.** Ecc 12v14 **For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.** Also Ezek 37.
- 2) The Rapture IS a MYSTERY – 1 Cor 15v51 **Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,** UNREVEALED till AFTER Pentecost!
- 3) The local churches & the Body of Christ are LUKEWARM at the end of the Church Age preceding the Rapture; they are NOT lukewarm at the end of the Tribulation – the Body of Christ is NOT EVEN THERE – Rev 7v9 **After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;** also Rev 3:10 **Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.**
- 4) At the Advent, Christ lands ON THE GROUND - Zec 14:4 **And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.** At the Rapture He comes in the AIR & does NOT TOUCH THE GROUND! – 1 Thes 4v17 **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.**
- 5) At the Rapture there is no change in Satan's position: he doesn't get locked up in any 'pit' as he does at the Advent! There are no changes in NATURE at the Rapture. By the time of the Second Advent, nearly two-thirds of the world has been destroyed on both land & see (Rev chapters 6-18)
- 6) At the Rapture, Christ doesn't judge any Jews or any nations (as in Joel 2, Hosea 2, Jer 25, Matt 25). At the Advent, He judges the entire world...

Matt 25:31 **When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:**
32 **And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:**

Ps 47:8 **God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.**

Ps 96:10 **Say among the heathen that the LORD reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge the people righteously.**

11 **Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof.**

12 **Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice**

13 **Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.**

Isa 60:12 **For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted.**

None of His enemies are killed at the Rapture; more than 200,000,000 are killed at His Advent – Isa 63, Rev 9, Luke 19v27

So as you can see, there are DIFFERENCES between the Rapture & the Second Coming!

It has been said by some Christians (i.e. the 'Reformed' lot who follow the teachings of Luther, Calvin, Dabney, Hodge, Gill etc.) that the Rapture was 'invented' or 'started' by Darby, Scofield or Bullinger; It has also been alleged by some who oppose DISPENSATIONAL truth that J.N. Darby received (the truth of) the Pre-Tribulation Rapture from a demon-inspired Irvingite 'prophetess about 1832!' There is not the slightest foundation in fact for this allegation!

In 1830 J.N. Darby UNDERSTOOD the Pre-Tribulation Rapture; he UNDERSTOOD the DIFFERENCES between Israel & the Church – the Church has NOT 'replaced' Israel & God has NOT 'finished' with the Jews!

R.A. Huebner writes...In the 1800's E. Irving, at that time a Presbyterian clergyman, translated from the Spanish a long work by the Jesuit, Lacunza. This was printed in English in 1827. In March 1829, what we may call the Irvingite organ, 'The Morning Watch' (a magazine) was begun, putting forth the views of Irving & his followers concerning prophecy & their ideas on the restoration of gifts to the church. Demon possession & tongue-speaking began to take place in Irving's congregation, which was alleged to be the power of the Spirit! While under the power of demons certain persons in his congregation gave forth teachings on prophecy. It is alleged that these demon-inspired utterances are the source of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture! The charge was first made by S.P. Tregelles in 1864, he alleging the incident to have occurred about 1832 in E. Irving's church! The 'tongues' broke out first, not in Irving's congregation but in Scotland; & recently it was alleged that Miss M. MacDonald of Scotland put forth the Pre-Tribulation Rapture in 1830 while under the power of a demon!

Yet the Rapture of the Body of Christ was taught more than 1,500 years ago! It appears in the writings of Ephraem the Syrian... *'For all the saints & the elect of God are gathered PRIOR to the Tribulation that is to come & are taken to the lord lest they see the confusion that is to overwhelm the world because of our sins!'*

Now how about that! That was a 'Premillennial Baptist Pre-Tribulation Rapture' letter from the 6th century AD ascribed to Ephraem Syrus (306 to 373 AD). It was from a sermon on 'The Last Times, the Antichrist, & the End of the World' & it is cited in a footnote in Alexander's Byzantine Tradition, 1985, page 210.

The NT doctrine of the Rapture...

- 1) Stimulates (excites, creates enthusiasm / interest) loyalty – Luke 12v42 **And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?**
- 2) Stimulates a godly walk – Titus 2v11-13 **For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;**
- 3) It is an antidote (something that counteracts an unpleasant feeling or situation) for worry – Phil 4v5+6 **Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.**

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

- 4) Stimulates brotherly love – 1 Thes 3v12-13 **And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.**
- 5) Comforts the bereaved – 1 Thes 4v18 **Wherefore comfort one another with these words.**
- 6) Purifies the inner life – 1 John 3v1-3 **Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.**
- 7) Brings rewards – 2 Tim 4v8 **Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.**
- 8) Develops patience – James 5v7 **Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.**

It is NOT a comforting thought (1 Thes 4v18) to...

- 1) Think that you have got to go through the Tribulation!
- 2) Or you must Not take the mark of the beast (Rev 13)
- 3) Or you MUST endure to the end (Mat 24v13)
- 4) Or that 'works' will determine your salvation (Matt 25)
- 5) Of that more world wars are to take place – Rev 9v16, Rev 6v8, Joel 2, Isa 63 etc. That is NOT 'comfort!'

Therefore it is another proof that the Christian is NOT going to go through the Tribulation (It is Jacob's Trouble – Jews not ours – Jer 30v7)

The Christian will NOT go through Rev chapters 6 – 18!!!

1Thes 1:10 **And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.** I'm waiting for His Son NOT the Tribulation or a 'peace treaty' etc!

1 Thes 4v13 - **But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.**

...that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope...

NO HOPE! – Someone has drawn a picture of Hell & put a sign on the entrance saying '*Abandon ALL hope, ye who enter in!*' There is NO HOPE in Hell!

All unsaved people have that one great tragic 'trait' (a distinguishing quality or characteristic) in common... NO HOPE, but they don't realise it! Eph 2:12 **That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:** That is why all unsaved, highly educated people are 'positive thinkers!' They try to manufacture a hope while in a HOPELESS condition! Then they offer it to depraved sinners as a 'real' hope yet it is a FALSE hope! – 2 Pet

2v19 **While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.**

You see as a Christian we have ALL THE HOPE in the world! 1 Thes 4v13 is talking about our dead loved ones! If they were saved, we SHALL see them again! Now what a great hope that is!

You have SO MUCH HOPE! No matter what happens, if you are a Christian, you are going to spend ETERNITY with the Lord Jesus Christ in Heaven!

2Cor 5:1 **For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.**

2 **For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:**

3 **If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.**

4 **For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.**

5 **Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.**

6 **Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:**

7 **(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)**

8 **We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.**

What a hope friends!

1 Thes 4v14 - ...**even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.** Now notice the DEAD Christian comes WITH Christ at the Rapture! This CANNOT refer to their bodies, for their bodies have rotted in the grave! Then it is their SOULS that come to get glorified bodies just like you will get if you are alive at that time (v15 **that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord**)

Now whenever the NT talks about the Christian 'sleeping' in regard to DEATH i.e.

- Matt 9:24 **He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn.**
- Mark 5:39 **And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth.**
- Luke 8:52 **And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth.**
- John 11:11 **These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.**
- 1Th 4:14 **For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.**
- The word 'slept' (i.e. slept with his fathers) occurs in 44 verses in the OT & 5 in the NT!
- Matt 27:52 **And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,**
- 1Co 15:20 **But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept**

It is ALWAYS talking about his BODY NEVER his SOUL! There is no such thing as soul-SLEEP! Notice in Matt 27v52... many **bodies** of the saints which **slept** arose,

Now the word 'bring' in 1 Thes 4v14 must imply a resurrection in order for God to BRING them back WITH Jesus at His coming...

- The passage wasn't on His coming back to earth – 1 Thes 4v17 1Th 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.**
- The saints He brought WITH Him never landed on earth – Song of Sol 2v10 **My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.**
- They were up there WITH Him before any resurrection – 1 Thes 5v10 **Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.**
- ALL saints are PRESENT WITH the Lord after death – Phil 1v2+23 **For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:**

We will NOT go up to meet the Lord in the air BEFORE the dead bodies that 'slept' (v15) come out of the graveyards (i.e. battlefields, bottom of the ocean etc.)

1 Thes 4:16 **For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:** Note the word 'prevent' – meaning PRE-EVENT – *before* an event takes place as well as to STOP an event from taking place!

For the Lord himself...NOT the Holy Spirit! This is the same Lord that went UP in Acts 1... **shall descend from heaven with a SHOUT... the VOICE... and with the TRUMP of God...** Here we have three NOISES!

1. a voice
2. a shout
3. a trump

The 'trump' is the sound that a trumpet makes – 1 Cor 15:52 **In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the LAST TRUMP: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.**

It is NOT a 'trumpet' like the Angel's trumpet in Rev 8v6 (**And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.**)

Rev 11:15 is at THE END of the TRIBULATION - **And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.**

In 1 Thes 4v16 NO angel blows THIS trump; it is called **the trump of God!**

Note how so many Christians confused the trumpet in Rev 11v15 (**And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.**) & Mat 24v31 (**And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.**) with the trumpet of 1 Cor 15v52 (**In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.**) which is THE trumpet, not one trumpet out of seven (Rev 8v6 - **And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.**)

The trump in 1 Thes 4v16 is God Himself SPEAKING (the voice of the archangel) Look at what John said in Rev 4v1 - **After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up**

hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. Also Rev 1v10 - **I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,**

It was a trumpet TALKING! Do you know what the trumpet SAID?

...COME UP HITHER!

I'm LISTENING for a SOUND...

Rev 4:1 **After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.** The words 'Come up hither' occurs a total of 3 times in the Scriptures; the other 2 being in Prov 25v7 (**For better it is that it be said unto thee, Come up hither; than that thou shouldst be put lower in the presence of the prince whom thine eyes have seen.**) & Rev 11:12 (**And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.**)

This is interesting because there are 3 main raptures in the Scriptures!

When we get to Revelation chapter 4 we have reached the end of the Church Age, typified by the seven messages to the seven churches in Asia Minor. Although these messages apply *historically* to seven local churches in 90 A.D. & *doctrinally* to local churches IN the 'Tribulation', they represent, in type, the history of the Church Age, which can be seen by comparison of the first church (Ephesus), with the last church (Laodicea).

The word 'church' disappears in Rev 3v22, & is NOT mentioned again from chapter 4 to chapter 19; then we see her in Heaven at the marriage supper of the Lamb!

Note also, the Holy Spirit is spoken of as being IN THE MIDST of the churches on earth in Rev 2 & 3. Yet, the Spirit (spoken of as seven Spirits) is found UP IN THE THIRD HEAVEN in Rev 4v5, indicating there has been both a change in the churches' position, & in the position of the Spirit!

Note also in Rev 4v1 a door opens! – Heaven only opens TWO times in the Book of Revelation – once when somebody goes up, & in Rev 19 where somebody comes down. Notice that when the door is opened (Rev 4v1) there is a voice & a trumpet. If you will compare this passage with 1 Thes 4v15-18, there will be no doubt in your mind as to what the voice is, or what the trumpet is. This is the Lord calling somebody (in both passages), & they respond by ascending through the clouds!

The Bible teaches 3 main 'raptures'...

- 1) The rapture of the **OT saints** at the resurrection of Christ (Mat 27v50-54, Eph 4v8-12)
- 2) The rapture of the **NT saints** of the Church Age (1 Cor 15v49-53, 1 Thes 4v13-18)
- 3) The rapture of **Tribulation saints** at the end of the Tribulation (Mat 24 & Rev 11v12)

This means that the 'first resurrection' is the first resurrection of SAVED people, & has THREE parts to it.

This corresponds to a HARVEST as that too has three parts to it...

Paul illustrates this in 1 Cor 15 i.e. the chapter on the RESURRECTION – 1 Cor 15v22-24 (**For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all**

rule and all authority and power.) – the first resurrection has THREE parts to it just like a crop has three parts to it...

Every crop has...

- 1) **First-fruits** – the first part which you pick when it gets ripe
- 2) **Harvest** – the main part that ripens later
- 3) **Gleanings** – the part that ripens at the end

Anyone who has grown tomatoes will understand this!

1 Cor 15:22 **For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.**

23 **But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits** (plus the OT saints); **afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.** (Rapture of the Church!)

First-fruits THEN the 'main' harvest – NT saints!

(First-fruits - **But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.** 1 Cor 15v20 – So of all the people back in the OT that all died & all passed away, HE was the first one of them to get out of the grave PERMANENTLY. He is the first-fruit, 'the first begotten of the dead' (Rev 1v5), in that HE is the first man that ever came up from the dead NEVER TO DIE AGAIN!

Lazarus came up & DIED!

Jonah came up & DIED!

Eutychus came up & DIED!

Dorcas came up & DIED!

BUT Christ is the first man that came up NEVER TO DIE AGAIN!

Moses died & will come back & die again!

Elijah went up alive one time, but he will die later!

Enoch went up WITHOUT dying!

The **ONLY** man that died & came up & will NEVER DIE AGAIN is Jesus Christ! He is the **FIRST-FRUIT(S)!**

24 **Then cometh the end** (*after you harvest you always have some gleanings left*), **when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.**

25 **For he must reign** (Millennium), **till he hath put all enemies under his feet.**

26 **The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.** (i.e. Rev 20 at the end of the millennium!)

Remember '**Come up hither**' occurs THREE times in Scripture! These three references mark the THREE 'Raptures!'

- 1) Prov 25v7 would refer to the OT saints!
- 2) Rev 4v1 – John being caught up – a type of the Bride of Christ i.e. the rapture of the Church!
- 3) Rev 11v12 – regarding Moses & Elijah, would refer to a POST-Tribulation rapture of the Tribulation saints!

The signal for the Rapture is a 'shout' from Heaven; up come the dead! (1 Cor 15v51-55 + John 11v25-26)

This signals the end of the church age! – Dan 12v1+2 **And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.** Michael is ‘the Prince who stands for Israel’. He was the one who got the body of Moses (Jude 9), so Moses could show up on this earth immediately following the Rapture of the Body of Christ (Rev 4v1+2)

So at the Rapture up go the BODIES! They are not like our bodies now, they are glorified bodies just like the one the Lord Jesus Christ had when he arose from the dead! Phil 3v20+21 **For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.** Rom 8v29 **For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.**

God’s voice sounds like a trumpet (Rev 4v1+2). Zechariah is the one who tells us that this is NOT the seventh trumpet of Rev 11v15! Zech 9v14 **...and the Lord GOD shall blow the trumpet... NOT some angel!**

Look at these interesting verses in Exo 19v16-19 regarding the VOICE of the trumpet! Exo 19:16 **And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.**

17 **And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount.**

18 **And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.**

19 **And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice.**

What the unsaved here is THUNDER! (Job 37:1-4 **At this also my heart trembleth, and is moved out of his place. Hear attentively the noise of his voice, and the sound that goeth out of his mouth. He directeth it under the whole heaven, and his lightning unto the ends of the earth. After it a voice roareth: he thundereth with the voice of his excellency; and he will not stay them when his voice is heard.** John 12v28+29 **Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.)**

We as Christians shall here, *instead of thunder*, His voice calling His sheep... John Edric Davis, come up hither! John 10v3 **To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.** John 10v14 **I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.**

Moving on to 1 Thes 4v17 **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.** This cannot be the Second Advent, for the Judgment Seat of Christ & the Marriage of the Lamb (2 Cor 5, 1 Cor 3, Rom 14, Rev19) have to take place BEFORE the Second Advent! Here in 1 Thes 4v17 no one is coming down but everyone’s going UP!!!

No Bible Believing Christian is waiting for 'thy kingdom come' we are waiting for His church TO GO!!! We are NOT looking for a SIGN (like so many Pentecostals & Charismatics), we are LISTENING for a SOUND!

to meet the Lord IN THE AIR NOT on the ground at the Mount of Olives (Acts 1) or on Mount Zion (Isa 2, Ps 2). The Rapture is NOT the Advent!

At the Rapture, Jesus Christ has come to call his espoused bride (2 Cor 11v1-3 - **Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.**)

Espoused = Betrothed; affianced; promised in marriage by contract; married; united intimately; embraced, archaic marry. (be espoused to) be engaged to.

Song 2:8 **The voice of my beloved! behold, he cometh leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills.**

10 **My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.**

13 **The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.**

ETERNAL SECURITY – perfect everlasting safety...

Rom 8:29 **For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.**

Phil 3:20 **For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:**

21 **Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.**

1 John 3:1 **Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.**

2 **Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.**

3 **And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.**

NOTHING shall ever separate us from Him again!

2Cor 5:1 **For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.**

2 **For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:**

3 **If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.**

4 **For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.**

5 **Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.**

6 **Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:**

7 **(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)**

8 **We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.**

9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.
10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Back to 1 Thes 4v18 - **Wherefore comfort one another with these words.**

When a loved one dies, their BODY 'sleeps' in the grave! They are NOT *in their body*; they are...

2Co 5:6 **Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:**

2Co 5:8 **We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.**

Note in 1 Thes 5:10 **Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.** It says live TOGETHER with Him! So those '*sleeping saints*' are already up there LIVING with Him!

...whether we WAKE or SLEEP - The expression obviously refers to being alive or dead, so the blessing in the verse is the word 'LIVE...WITH HIM!'

This settles the matter of absolute difference between the BODY that 'sleeps' (Acts 7v60 **And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.** Matt 27v52 **And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,**) & the SOUL that DOESN'T! No such thing as SOUL-sleep!

We are said to be ALIVE 'with Him' after death! This takes place when the soul DEPARTS from the body!

Gen 35:18 **And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin.**

2 Tim 4:6 **For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.**

2Co 5:1 **For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.**

2 **For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:**

3 **If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.**

4 **For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.**

5 **Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.**

6 **Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:**

7 **(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)**

Now we come to the NUMBER ONE passage regarding THE RAPTURE – 1 Cor 15v51-57...

1 Co 15:51 **Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,**
52 **In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.**

53 **For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.**

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Paul EXPECTED the Rapture IN his lifetime; note – 1 Thes 4v17 **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.** Also... 1 Cor 15v51 **Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,** - Are YOU *really* expecting the Rapture IN your lifetime; tomorrow, TODAY? Because Paul was expecting the Rapture in his lifetime WE say the Rapture is imminent (meaning - about to happen!)

Now the Bible does NOT tell us exactly when the Rapture will happen but it does give some indicators... Song of Sol 2v8-13 seems to indicate it *could* be in the springtime!

Song 2:8 **The voice of my beloved! behold, he cometh leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills.**

9 **My beloved is like a roe or a young hart: behold, he standeth behind our wall, he looketh forth at the windows, shewing himself through the lattice.**

10 **My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.**

11 **For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;**

12 **The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land;**

13 **The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.**

But it could be TODAY!!!

We are to work right up until the Rapture, winning souls for Jesus Christ! In Luke 19v13 it says... **Occupy till I come.** Whatever God calls you to, do it until He comes!

Now notice in v51 of 1 Cor 15 it says... **Behold, I shew you a mystery;** Paul is going to show you something that has Not been revealed before! Now this is a good verse to use in regard to PROOF for a PRE-Tribulation Rapture! Throughout the OT the Second Advent was clearly seen, it was NOT a mystery i.e. verses like...

Psa 50v4+5 - **He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people. Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice.**

Isa 26v16+17 - **LORD, in trouble have they visited thee, they poured out a prayer when thy chastening was upon them.**

Like as a woman with child, that draweth near the time of her delivery, is in pain, and crieth out in her pangs; so have we been in thy sight, O LORD.

Isa 26v19+21 - **Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead. Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the**

LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.

So 1 Cor 15 i.e. 'the Rapture' is a MYSTERY – it wasn't REVEALED in the OT! It's like the Church Age – the Church may be found in the OT but it wasn't revealed until it was REVEALED to Paul!

So what is this 'mystery?' – First, '**We shall not all sleep**' i.e. not every Christian will have to DIE! That was a mystery!

The next part of the 'mystery' is '**we shall all be changed,**' – that's part of the mystery! The corruptible body of the Christian will be changed into an incorruptible body like Christ's! Living Christians at the time of the Rapture shall be 'transformed' (Not there is a toy & a film called 'Transformers!')

1 Cor 15v52 **In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye** – the thing will be quicker than the blink of an eye! Note '**at the last trump**'...

It is NOT 'trumpet', but '**at the last trump**'. The 'trump' is the SOUND that a trumpet makes! Notice it DOESN'T say the SEVENTH trumpet as in the book of Revelation! Notice it DOESN'T say an 'angels' trumpet! It just says '**at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound**'.

People who teach one POST-Tribulation Rapture of ALL saints teach that the Christian will go into the Tribulation i.e. Daniel's Seventieth week! In Rev chaps 8-9 & 11v15, we read about a series of seven trumpet judgments. That seventh trumpet goes off & people say that it is the last trumpet of 1 Thes 4 & 1 Cor 15 BUT IT'S NOT! – The last TRUMPET, that seventh TRUMPET, is blown by an ANGEL. The seventh trumpet of Rev 11v15 is NOT '**the last trump**' of 1 Cor 15v52!

In Rev 11v15, there is the seventh angel blowing the seventh trumpet '**And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.**' The seventh trumpet of Rev 11v15 ENDS the Tribulation & BEGINS the Millennium! *It doesn't catch up anybody!*

Note further, the seventh trumpet comes AFTER a 'rapture'...Rev 11v12... **And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.** Moses & Elijah are raptured BEFORE the last trumpet. So the seventh trumpet has NOTHING to do with any rapture!

There is another way we can know this; in 1 Thes 4 notice that the trumpet which calls you is not a trumpet blown by an ANGEL!

Note - If we were going to go through the Tribulation (which we are NOT), we should be LOOKING FOR the Tribulation & NOT Christ! Paul NEVER mentioned or told us to LOOK FOR the Tribulation, he told us to look for the Lord!

1 Thes 4 v16 **For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with THE trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:** There was NO 'angel' in the passage; it was THE ARCHANGEL! In the Bible there is only ONE archangel, & that is Michael! And besides that, '**the last trump**' of 1 Cor 15v52 is '**the trump of God**'.

So when the Lord comes back, He will give a shout which will sound like a trumpet – Rev 4v1 **After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee**

things which must be hereafter. – The world will NOT hear it that way. To the unsaved world it is like thunder – Job 37...

2 Hear attentively the noise of his voice, and the sound that goeth out of his mouth.

3 He directeth it under the whole heaven, and his lightning unto the ends of the earth.

4 After it a voice roareth: he thundereth with the voice of his excellency; and he will not stay them when his voice is heard.

5 God thundereth marvellously with his voice; great things doeth he, which we cannot comprehend.

When this ‘thunder’ happens notice verse 4 ‘**he will not stay them when his voice is heard.**’ – somebody is going to take off!

Look at John 12v29 when the Father spoke to Jesus **The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.** So as we hear a trumpet call in the shout, everyone LEFT BEHIND hears thunder, so loud, like never before!

When the Lord calls you UP, He also calls you by NAME... **To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.** John 10v3 – WE hear the ‘Good Shepherd’s’ voice & He leads us OUT, OUT of this world!

At the same time, Michael the archangel accompanies the Lord down to this earth; why? Because the Rapture of the church signals the beginning of Daniel’s 70th Week – Dan 12v1... **And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.** This verse indicates that when that TRUMP goes off & you are caught up, Michael the archangel shows up & God begins to renew His dealing with Israel.

There are other ways we know that the Rapture of the church is PRE-Tribunational...

- 1) The seventh trumpet of Rev 11v15 is NOT connected with ‘**the last trump**’ of 1 Cor 15v52
- 2) IN the Tribulation, there is a ‘FAITH & WORKS’ system of salvation – Rev 12v17 - **And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.** Rev 14v12 **Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.** A Christian has eternal security under ‘grace-through-faith’ but in the Tribulation, a person CAN lose their salvation! The foolish virgins of Matt 25 ‘run out’ of the Holy Spirit. The slothful servant of Matt 25 is cast into ‘**outer darkness**’.
- 3) In the Church-Age, ALL believers are in ONE ‘body’ – the body of Christ! A saved Jew is no longer a Jew, he is a member of the ‘**church of God**’. A saved Gentile is no longer a Gentile, he is a member of the ‘**church of God**’ – Gal 3v28 **There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.** BUT, IN the Tribulation there is ONE body of Jewish believers & another SEPARATE body of Gentile believers (Rev 7) – Therefore NO Christian goes through the Tribulation!

In 1 Cor 15v52, the order of the Rapture is the same as that of 1 Thes 4; it is dead believers (from Acts 2 to present day) come up in their new resurrection BODIES, & then the living Christians are changed & caught UP! We don’t KNOW the interval between the two, but 1 Thes 4 indicates that it won’t be very long!

As we have looked at beforehand, the word Rapture (although NOT in the Bible, but neither is the word 'BIBLE' or 'TRINITY') is from a Latin word *rapere* which means *to seize by force*, & that is exactly what the Lord does at the Rapture! He enters the strong man's house & binds him & *steals the best thing in the house!*

Both Peter & Paul said '**the day of the Lord**' was like a '**thief in the night**' (1 Thes 5v2 & 2 Pet 3v10). Christ said to those who came to take Him in the garden... '**Are ye come out, as against a thief...**' (Mark 14v48). Note the Lord was crucified between two THIEVES! Paul (His main disciple in the NT) said '**I robbed other churches,**' (2 Cor 11v8)

Of course we know that He is 'stealing' what is HIS OWN! But it is the Devil's too because the Devil is the god of this world (2 Cor 4v4). The Lord comes down to the Devil's 'house' & takes the 'valuables' out by force; He 'kidnaps' you!

There are two classes of Christians in 1 Cor 15v53+54 based on their order in the Rapture.

- 1) The first is '**corruptible**'. It is the DEAD Christians whose BODIES are rotting in the ground! They come up with a BODY that CANNOT decay!
- 2) The second class is the '**mortal**'. That is the Christian who is still alive but is *subject to death!* When Christ returns at the Rapture, those Christians who are still alive will be given a BODY that cannot die!

There are TWO Scripture quotations Paul uses in verse 54+55.

- 1) The first is '**DEATH is swallowed up in victory**' (v54) It is a quote from Isa 25v8 **He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.** But note a division in this verse, after the first semicolon '**the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces**' – this isn't fulfilled until Rev 21v4 **And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.** What the Holy Spirit has done here is He has led Paul to a verse in Isa 25 that has a 'general application' to his subject (i.e. 'victory over death'), yet He will then lead Paul to apply that verse to the Church so that he will have Scriptural authority for what he is saying! Don't forget the Rapture was a MYSTERY in the OT! If the Holy Spirit hadn't revealed that application to Paul, we would never see it! Notice, one semicolon can indicate years of division!
- 2) Look at 1 Cor 15v55 **O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?** That is a quote from Hosea 13v14 **I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes.** Now this quote from Hosea is what you could call a 'free-quote'; in other words, it is the Holy Spirit, as Author, who is quoting the verse in the way He wants in order to make His own application. The verse in Hosea is not even a question & it has NOTHING to do with the Church! **I will ransom them from the power of the grave;** the 'them' in this verse is the children of Ephraim, the northern kingdom of Israel, in the context of Hosea (Hos 13v12-13).

There are some wonderful 'spiritual applications' which you can make in the OT, especially in 'typology', but you CAN'T press some of those things DOCTRINALLY! The first purpose of Scripture is for DOCTRINE! (2 Tim 3v16)

Now 1 Cor 15v55 is a tremendous verse... **O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?** That verse says that if Jesus would come this minute I would never know the sting of

death! I wouldn't know what it would be like to die, because this mortal would **'put on immortality'**.

In John 11v25 we have the promise of Jesus Himself that we don't have to wait until the Great White Throne Judgment to come up... Jesus said unto her, **I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:** We have the word of someone who has already come up from the grave NEVER to die again - **he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:** If we have a dead loved one who was SAVED? If so you SHALL see them again... **And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?** This is a reference to the Church Age Rapture!

So DEATH is NOT going to 'sting' every Christian (v55). And DEATH will NOT be victorious over the dead Christian!

1 Cor 15v56 **The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.** The things that hurts about dying is SIN! Dying wouldn't be so bad if it weren't for SIN! SIN is the thing that makes a man DIE; it is SIN that makes DEATH painful! **'...and the strength of sin is the law'** – The law is what makes sin operate & shows you what SIN is! Paul says in Rom 7v7 **I had not known sin, but by the law:** When you KNOW what is wrong, the condemnation of the wrong is greater than when you don't!

1 Cor 15v57 **But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.** The Christian is able to have victory over sin & death because the Lord Jesus Christ has fought the battle for us & WON! As we yield ourselves more to Him & identify ourselves more with Him in His death & resurrection, we can have VICTORY over sin (Rom 6). VICTORY over DEATH is freely given to us because of our position IN Christ! (Rom 8)

We may not know the actual date or time of the Rapture but we can KNOW the **'the times and the seasons'**...

- 1Thes 5:1 **But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.**
2 **For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.**
3 **For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.**
4 **But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.**
5 **Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.**
6 **Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.**
7 **For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.**
8 **But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.**
9 **For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,**
10 **Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.**
11 **Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.**

Extra notes regarding the Rapture & 'end-times'...

Cars were prophesied in the Scriptures 2500 years before they showed up – Nahum 2v4 - Tanks also – Isa 9v5

Israel's return to the land of Palestine (1917-1949) was clearly written in the Scriptures at least 2000 years before it took place – Ezek 34v13, Ezek 37v25 – The return of the Jews to their native homeland after centuries of dispersion among the nations is one of the most obvious proofs of Biblical authority & the providence of God. No other ancient nation has survived to our present

day with the same religion, practices, language, & sacred literature, but the Hebrew people have been set apart by the Lord as an example & a warning to the nations. God controls history, & when He so desires He changes politics to fulfil His prophecies. Jesus promised that this warning would come just before the Second Coming...

Luke 21:29 **And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree (Israel), and all the trees;**
30 When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.

31 So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.

32 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.

The generation was born in 1949 (when the UN recognized the existence of the nation of Israel), this is the last generation before **'the kingdom of God'** appears at the Second Coming of Christ, which makes the re-emergence of Israel the most important & surprising event since the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

At the Rapture there will be an amazing flash of light...

Matt 24:27 **For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.**

Ps 50:1 **The mighty God, even the LORD, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof.**

2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined.

3 Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him.

4 He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people.

5 Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

At the Rapture there will be a tremendous sound like a huge thunder storm...

Job 37:1 **At this also my heart trembleth, and is moved out of his place.**

2 Hear attentively the noise of his voice, and the sound that goeth out of his mouth.

3 He directeth it under the whole heaven, and his lightning unto the ends of the earth.

4 After it a voice roareth: he thundereth with the voice of his excellency; and he will not stay them when his voice is heard.

John 12:28 **Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.**

29 The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.

The sound of a trumpet shall accompany this thunder...

1 Thes 4v16 **For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:**

1Co 15:52 **In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.**

At this trump every born again Christian on earth will HEAR HIS NAME CALLED (John 10v3 **To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.**), followed by COME UP HITHER...

Rev 4:1 **After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.**

2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

Rev 11:12 **And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.**

The dead in Christ rise FIRST... **'and the dead in Christ shall rise first:'** 1 Thes 4v16 – Out of the graveyards, & from the ocean & the battlefields of this world the bodies of saved sinners will come back together, atom to atom, molecule to molecule, as glorified bodies of 'flesh & bones' with NO blood in them - **Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.** Luke 24v39 **Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.** 1 Cor 15v50

1 Thes 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.** The living saved sinners shall be transformed & their bodies will be made like unto Christ's heavenly body – 1 Cor 15:42 **So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:**

43 **It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:**

44 **It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.**

45 **And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.**

46 **Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.**

47 **The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.**

48 **As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.**

49 **And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.**

1 John 3:2 **Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.**

In your new glorified body you shall be able to pass through solid objects - Luke 24:31 **And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.** John 20:19 **Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.**

You will be able to travel faster than the speed of light - John 20:17 **Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.** Matt 28:9 **And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.** – Jesus ascended to the THIRD heaven & back to earth again in less than a few hours!

At the Rapture all Christians with their glorified bodies will leave the Solar System faster than the speed of light & be carried up straight NORTH into the Throne Room...

Ps 75:6 **For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.**

7 **But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.**

Ps 48:1 **Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness.**

2 **Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.**

3 **God is known in her palaces for a refuge.**

Eze 1:1 **Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.**

2 **In the fifth day of the month, which was the fifth year of king Jehoiachin's captivity,**

3 The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him.

4 And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire.

2 Cor 12:1 It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.

2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.

3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)

4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

Rev 4:1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Isa 57:15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

There the Christian will face the Judgment Seat of Christ to be rewarded for their good works as Christians & to suffer loss of rewards for their bad deeds...

1 Cor 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

2 Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

At the Judgment Seat of Christ the saved sinner is dealt with about his SERVICE for the Lord; it has NOTHING to do with his salvation! The Rapture, therefore, has no connection with 'Judgment Day' or 'The Last Judgment!'

How can we know the TIME of the Rapture – WE CAN'T, BUT, we can have guess pretty closely!

There is a Biblical system in which the Holy Spirit Himself established His own rules for interpretation. This system is called 'The Thousand Year-Day system!' – 2 Pet 3:8 **But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.**

2 Pet 3v8 is a key Scripture to understanding Lev 23 in more depth... Lev 23:3 **Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work**

therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings. If you follow the pattern given here & apply the 'Thousand Year-Day System' you see that man has to be here 6000 years, & then the last period of 1000 years has to be a Sabbath of rest (Gen 2v1-3 **Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.**) This Sabbath of rest, lasting a 'thousand' years (i.e. Millennium), is mentioned SIX times in Rev 20v1-8...

Rev 20:1 **And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.**

2 **And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a **thousand** years,**

3 **And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the **thousand** years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.**

4 **And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a **thousand** years.**

5 **But the rest of the dead lived not again until the **thousand** years were finished. This is the first resurrection.**

6 **Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a **thousand** years.**

7 **And when the **thousand** years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,**

8 **And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.**

The whole earth is at REST after Satan is done away with in Isa 14v7... **The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing.**

According to the figures, dates & ages, given in Genesis through 1 Kings, the period of time that extends from Gen 2 (the creation of man) to the birth of Christ (Matt 1) is four thousand years, or very near it. (Most calendars would indicate that Adam's creation should be dated 4004 B.C. making the birth of Christ actually 4 years early, in other words 4 B.C.)

The first coming was in Bethlehem four thousand years after Adam was created, & nearly two thousand years have elapsed since the birth of Christ. That places us virtually at the six thousand year mark, & on the threshold of the Millennium, or the seventh & FINAL one thousand year period!

(See drawing – p15)

The Bible also declares that in the last days '**But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.**' (Dan 12v4) Now just dwell on that statement for a while...

'**many shall run to and fro**' – travel, the speed of it & the places you can go now; even to the Moon (maybe!!!)

'**knowledge shall be increased**' – think of all the technology now available, the computers, radar, lasers, weapons, TV, radio, Bluetooth, mobiles etc.

2 Tim 3v1-4 describes our society perfectly today...

2 Tim 3:1 **This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.**

2 **For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,**

**3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,
4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;**

We CANNOT determine the actual day nor hour of the Rapture (Matt 24v36 **But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.**) BUT we CAN identify 'times and the seasons,' (1 Thes 5v1) & be prepared for it!

The Scriptures that deal with the Rapture place it in the 'Springtime' – Song of Solomon 2v11-13 **For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land; The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.**

Some have said that the Rapture is most likely to happen on the Jewish feast day of Pentecost, for that is the day the Holy Spirit initially put the believers into one Body as part of the Lord Jesus Christ; who had gone back top heaven about seven days earlier. The Jewish feast day comes fifty days after the Passover, which would put it in May or early June!

When the Rapture occurs, you will either leave this planet bodily, going straight up in the air faster than the speed of light, or you will be left exactly as you are now – a human being stuck in a material world that is heading for the greatest disaster in history! Read about what will happen on earth in Rev 6 through to Rev 19 for the full picture!

It will be a world that is controlled by one dictator, whom the Bible calls 'the Man of Sin, the Son of Perdition & the Antichrist'. In that world you CANNOT buy or sell without the taking the number 666 – why do you think the number 666 is everywhere NOW i.e. barcodes on groceries, international banking code, internet etc. You are being 'groomed' for this number at present! Beware!

Now if you MISS the Rapture your only chance to 'make-it' will be to stay on the earth & try to endure to the end - Matt 24:13 **But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.** EVERY Christian has GONE! If you had a baby the baby has GONE! Sin is not imputed where there is no law (Rom 5v13 **For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.**) Sin is NOT charged where the baby or child is 'innocent!'

If you miss the Rapture you will have entered 'The Great Tribulation' – start 'WORKING' your way to Heaven because you are going to HAVE TO!

The plan of salvation in the Great Tribulation is FAITH in Jesus Christ PLUS your own good WORKS!

Rev 12v11 **And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.**

Rev 6v9 **And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:**

Rev 14:12 **Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.**

Rev 22:14 **Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.**

Rev 7:14 **And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

You **MUST** keep the Ten Commandments (ALL of them – Ecc 12v13 **Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.**), KEEP the Golden Rule (Matt 7v12 **Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.** 1 John 3v10 **In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.**), give your money to the poor, get baptized, take up your cross, hold out to the end of the Tribulation, wait for Jesus Christ to show up at the Battle of Armageddon, & be prepared to die for what you believe! In the Tribulation you **CANNOT** be saved by grace **ALONE**, like you could before the Rapture!

And remember **DON'T** take any **MARK** or **NUMBER** – if you **DO**, you will go to **HELL** forever! – Rev 14v9-11 **And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.**

Rev 13v16-18 **And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.**

In the Tribulation become a religious fanatic & die as a martyr for Jesus Christ - **And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.** Rev 12v11. **And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.**

It will take faith in Christ's shed blood, plus works – exactly as in the OT, it took faith in shed blood & works... Isa 1v16+17 **Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.** Prov 28v13 - **He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.** Psa 51v1+2 - **Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.** Rev 14v12+13 - **Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.**

If you go through the Tribulation make sure you **SUPPORT** the Jewish people When Jesus returns at the Second Coming, all will face 'The Judgment of Nations' - **When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And**

before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: Matt 25v31+32

The test for a Gentile is how he treated Jesus' brethren – the Jews. The Antichrist will be 100 times worse than Hitler ever was in regard to the Jews! At first he will negotiate a peace treaty with the nation of Israel (Isa 28v15 **Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves:**) BUT three & a half years later he will break the covenant & try to destroy them (Dan 9v27 **And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.** Mark 13v13-25, Matt 24v4-51) So if you are a Gentile in the Tribulation do NOT assist the tracking down & killing of the Jews! The Lord will judge anyone who stops the Jew from escaping – Obad 14+15 **Neither shouldst thou have stood in the crossway, to cut off those of his that did escape; neither shouldst thou have delivered up those of his that did remain in the day of distress. For the day of the LORD is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head.**

Always help the Jewish people! Go against EVERYBODY (including your own family) to HELP the Jew, because they are God's chosen people; even sacrifice your own life for the Jew in the Tribulation! Gen 12v3 **And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.**

Later, God said to the nation of Israel... **Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish.** Isa 41v11. So no matter how much pressure you are put under, NEVER hurt a Jew; your own soul depends upon it!

The sad fact is that the majority of people on earth will reject the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour & go to HELL forever – Jesus said... Matt 7:13+14 **Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.**

The world population presently stands around 7 billion. Over 2 billion are in China & India alone. Most of those people are lost in their sins & vain religions. Over 1 billion people are Muslims who don't even believe that Jesus is God's Son! Another billion are roman Catholics who believe in praying to Mary & bowing down to idols. That's 4 billion already & we haven't even mentioned the atheists, the agnostics, the cult members, the new-ager's, the Jews, the religious but lost, & the millions of 'good' people who are working their way to heaven. Probably 95%-99% of people on this earth are NOT saved! BROAD IS THE ROAD!

Once the Rapture happens, ALL these people will enter the Great Tribulation & they will start facing tragedy after tragedy. The book of Revelation talks about this period of time, here are a few things that are going to happen once the Rapture has taken place & the Christians have GONE...

Rev 6v4 – war

Rev 6v5+6 – famine

Rev 6v7-8 – 25% of the population destroyed

Rev 6v9 – martyrdom

Rev6v12 – earthquakes, sun darkened, moon as blood

Rev 6v13 – stars fall
Rev 8v7 – a third of trees burned, all grass burned
Rev 8v8 – a third of the sea becomes blood
Rev 8v9 – a third of all sea life dies, a third of all ships destroyed
Rev 8v10+11 – a third of the water poisoned
Rev 9 v1-21 – army of 200,000,000 monster locusts
Rev 12v9-12 – Satan & his angels cast into the earth
Rev 13v1-18 – world worships the beast & takes his mark
Rev 16v12-16 – Armageddon occurs – a massive world war
Rev 16v18 – greatest earthquake ever
Rev 16v21 giant hail-stones fall
Rev 18v1-24 – Babylon destroyed
Rev 19v11-21 – armies of the beast destroyed at 2nd Coming of Christ

MORE NOTES...(some of which will be duplication!)

In the Song of Sol, Jesus Christ is calling for His Bride to...**Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.** (Song of Sol 2v10)

The setting is May (Pentecost) which is not within 4 months of the Feasts of Trumpets or Feast of Tabernacles

The 'beloved' in the Song of Sol 2v10 is a GENTILE Bride, NOT a Jewish Bride (Song of Sol 1v5 **I am black, but comely, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, as the tents of Kedar, as the curtains of Solomon.**)

Many Christians get confused with the Angel's trumpet (Matt 24v31 - **And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.** & Rev 11v15 - **And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.**) with GOD'S trump (1 Thes 4v16 - **For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: & Rev 4v1+2 - **After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.**)**

By confusing these 'trumpets & trumps', many Christians place the Rapture at the Feast of Trumpets in September-October!

The 'Last TRUMP' is NOT a trumpet; it is the last SOUND made by a trumpet, but in this case it was God's VOICE (the TRUMP of God!) speaking AS a trumpet!

John is careful to tell you that the 'trump of God' is NOT an actual trumpet but a VOICE (John 12v29 - **The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.** & Job 37v1-5 - **At this also my heart trembleth, and is moved out of his place. Hear attentively the noise of his voice, and the sound that goeth out of his mouth. He directeth it under the whole heaven, and his lightning unto the ends of the earth. After it a voice roareth: he thundereth with the voice of his excellency; and he will not stay them when his voice is heard. God thundereth marvellously with his voice; great things doeth he, which we cannot comprehend & Rev 4v1+2 - **After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. And immediately I****

was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne) – the VOICE sounds like two things... Thunder & a Trumpet!

When the ‘trump’ is heard, a voice is heard (Song of Sol 2v10 - **My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.**), calling SHEEP home (John 10v3-4 - **To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.**).

No VOICE is heard after the 7th trumpet of Rev 11, which was blown by an ANGEL, not God! It is ‘VOICES’ (plural) that are heard AFTER the 7th trumpet, & they do NOT call anyone up anywhere, they announce that Jesus Christ is going to land ON EARTH (Job 19v25 - **For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:**) to take over the ‘Kingdoms of the world’ (Dan 2v35 - **Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth. Dan 2v44+45 - And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.**)

However, there is a voice (a ‘great voice’) which does call someone UP just BEFORE the 7th angel blows his trumpet. This voice says ‘COME UP HITHER’ – THAT IS WHAT John heard in Rev 4v1. But this time, the same voice (speaking the SAME words) is calling someone up at the END of Daniel’s 70th Week. The two men who are addressed directly are both JEWS; Moses & Elijah. They are caught up in a POST-Tribulation Rapture!

Now here are TWO ‘Raptures’ – a ‘PRE’ & a ‘POST’ Tribulation Rapture!

The ‘POST’ is said to be ‘POST’ in Mat 24v29 **Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:** Now many ‘PRE-millennialists’ will break their theological necks in Matthew’s Gospel! I.e., they do what Calvin did & mistake the ‘elect’ (Matt 24v24 **For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.**) for the ‘elect’ of Eph 1v5 **Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,**

In Matt 24v24 they overlooked the ‘elect’ to whom the passage was aimed...

Isa 45:4 **For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.**

Isa 65:9 **And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains: and mine elect shall inherit it, and my servants shall dwell there.**

Isa 65:22 **They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.**

Dan 7:18 **But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.**

21 **I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;**

22 **Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.**

25 **And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.**

27 **And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.**

They pretended the 'elect' were Christians in the Body of Christ!

With Mat 25v1 (**Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.**) following Matt 24, they insist that a bunch of 'virgins' are going to marry Christ! This is after being told His Bride was ONE 'chaste virgin' (2 Cor 11v2), the 'ONLY ONE of her mother' (Song of Sol 6v9).

If that weren't enough, the Holy Spirit told them in Matt 25 that NONE of the virgins in the chapter married ANYBODY!!! They were called out to 'MEET somebody - **Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.** (Matt 25v1)

And if that weren't enough, the Lord finished the entire chapter (Matt 25) with a WORKS salvation set up (Matt 25v35-40) where the Gospel Paul preached (Gal 1) was not even a factor in keeping sinners out of 'everlasting fire' (Matt 25v41).

Look at the following verses...

Rev 6:16 **And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:**

Rev 14:14 **And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.**

Matt 24:30 **And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.**

Rev 1:7 **Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.**

& see that not one of them matches with the Second Advent as described in these verses...

Rev 19:11 **And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.**

12 **His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.**

13 **And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.**

14 **And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.**

15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

Isa 63:1 Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.

2 Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat?

3 I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment.

4 For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.

5 And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me.

6 And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.

Joe 2:1 Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand;

2 A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.

3 A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them.

Judg 5:1 Then sang Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam on that day, saying,

2 Praise ye the LORD for the avenging of Israel, when the people willingly offered themselves.

3 Hear, O ye kings; give ear, O ye princes; I, even I, will sing unto the LORD; I will sing praise to the LORD God of Israel.

4 LORD, when thou wentest out of Seir, when thou marchedst out of the field of Edom, the earth trembled, and the heavens dropped, the clouds also dropped water.

5 The mountains melted from before the LORD, even that Sinai from before the LORD God of Israel.

6 In the days of Shamgar the son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were unoccupied, and the travellers walked through byways.

7 The inhabitants of the villages ceased, they ceased in Israel, until that I Deborah arose, that I arose a mother in Israel.

8 They chose new gods; then was war in the gates: was there a shield or spear seen among forty thousand in Israel?

9 My heart is toward the governors of Israel, that offered themselves willingly among the people. Bless ye the LORD.

10 Speak, ye that ride on white asses, ye that sit in judgment, and walk by the way.

11 They that are delivered from the noise of archers in the places of drawing water, there shall they rehearse the righteous acts of the LORD, even the righteous acts toward the inhabitants of his villages in Israel: then shall the people of the LORD go down to the gates.

12 Awake, awake, Deborah: awake, awake, utter a song: arise, Barak, and lead thy captivity captive, thou son of Abinoam.

13 Then he made him that remaineth have dominion over the nobles among the people: the LORD made me have dominion over the mighty.

14 Out of Ephraim was there a root of them against Amalek; after thee, Benjamin, among thy people; out of Machir came down governors, and out of Zebulun they that handle the pen of the writer.

15 And the princes of Issachar were with Deborah; even Issachar, and also Barak: he was sent on foot into the valley. For the divisions of Reuben there were great thoughts of heart.

16 Why abodest thou among the sheepfolds, to hear the bleatings of the flocks? For the divisions of Reuben there were great searchings of heart.

17 Gilead abode beyond Jordan: and why did Dan remain in ships? Asher continued on the sea shore, and abode in his breaches.

18 Zebulun and Naphtali were a people that jeopardated their lives unto the death in the high places of the field.

19 The kings came and fought, then fought the kings of Canaan in Taanach by the waters of Megiddo; they took no gain of money.

20 They fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera.

Hab 3:3 God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise.

4 And his brightness was as the light; he had horns coming out of his hand: and there was the hiding of his power.

5 Before him went the pestilence, and burning coals went forth at his feet.

6 He stood, and measured the earth: he beheld, and drove asunder the nations; and the everlasting mountains were scattered, the perpetual hills did bow: his ways are everlasting.

7 I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction: and the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble.

8 Was the LORD displeased against the rivers? was thine anger against the rivers? was thy wrath against the sea, that thou didst ride upon thine horses and thy chariots of salvation?

9 Thy bow was made quite naked, according to the oaths of the tribes, even thy word. Selah. Thou didst cleave the earth with rivers.

10 The mountains saw thee, and they trembled: the overflowing of the water passed by: the deep uttered his voice, and lifted up his hands on high.

11 The sun and moon stood still in their habitation: at the light of thine arrows they went, and at the shining of thy glittering spear.

12 Thou didst march through the land in indignation, thou didst thresh the heathen in anger.

13 Thou wentest forth for the salvation of thy people, even for salvation with thine anointed; thou woundedst the head out of the house of the wicked, by discovering the foundation unto the neck. Selah.

14 Thou didst strike through with his staves the head of his villages: they came out as a whirlwind to scatter me: their rejoicing was as to devour the poor secretly.

Somebody sees Jesus Christ at the end of the Tribulation BEFORE He arrives at Armageddon with His divine 'cavalry' – Rev 19.

The requirements for the 'elect' SEEING this POST-Tribulation 'appearance' are...

- 1) Purity of Heart – **Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.** Matt 5v8
- 2) Holiness - **Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:** Heb 12v14
- 3) And watchful & waiting - **So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.** Heb 9v28

There is a 'split' Rapture (Matt 25v7-13) at that time! This is the Rapture that Pentecostals & Charismatics mistake for the Rapture of the Church! Often times the confusion comes when the 'Day of the Lord' is said to be ONLY a reference to the Second Advent at the end of the Tribulation! 'That day' in the Prophets, is applied to...

The birth of Christ...

Isa 2v12 **For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low:**

Isa 4:2 **In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.**

Isa 7:14 **Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.**

Isa 7:18 **And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall hiss for the fly that is in the uttermost part of the rivers of Egypt, and for the bee that is in the land of Assyria.**

The attack of Sennacherib...Isa 10v5-20

The defeat of Babylon by Persia – Jer 50 + 51

The Millennium - **But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.** 2 Pet 3v8

The Great White Throne Judgment – 2 Pet 3:10 **But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.**

'The day of the Lord' is NOT just limited to refer to the events of Revelation chapters 16-19.

It is also interesting to note that Moses & Elijah were caught up (Re 11:12 **And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.**) & they were NOT in the Bride. Also, the 144,000 Jews show up in the Third Heaven around the throne in Rev 14v1-4 who were on earth before the Tribulation started (Rev 7v3-4) & THEY weren't in the Bride! They were raptured & none of them were IN Christ's Body!

They sang the song of Moses! That song (Rev 15v3 **And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.**) is Deut 32!!! That is the one that is quoted (Deut 32v36 **For the LORD shall judge his people, and repent himself for his servants, when he seeth that their power is gone, and there is none shut up, or left.**) in Heb 10v30 **For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.**

The harvest of Rev 14v15 (**And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.**) precede the harvest of Rev 14v18-20 (**And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.**)

James' harvest is a harvest of good fruit, NOT the fruit of the Song of Moses in Deut chapters 32 & 33. The POST-Tribulation appearance of Jesus Christ to His enemies, as a Lamb SEATED on a throne, cannot match His appearance as seated on a horse (Rev 19v11-16 Re 19:11 **And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.**

12 **His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.**

13 **And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.**

14 **And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.**

15 **And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.**

16 **And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.)**

His enemies see Him long enough, before He comes, to gather troops to fight against Him, at the place where they saw Him (Rev 19v19 **And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.**)

Jesus Christ is SEATED on a cloud in Rev 14 when the POST-Tribulation Rapture takes place. Those caught up at that time do NOT face the Judgment Seat of Christ, & they marry NO ONE! They are GUESTS at a wedding, & we were told this in Mat 22v10+11 (**So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests. And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:**)

Thus when we say 'POST-Tribulation', the terminology is not 100% accurate. It would be more accurate to say 'somewhere right near the END of the Tribulation' this Rapture will occur! **'Immediately after the tribulation of THOSE DAYS'** is the wording in Mat 24v29, BUT 'THOSE DAYS' can be 'shortened' or they can be delayed – Mat 24v22 **And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.**

So here we have ONE '**chaste virgin**' (2 Cor 11v2) being caught up BEFORE the 'Mark of the Beast' starts damning men (Rev 14v9+10, & she is caught up in the Spring (Song of Sol 2v10-13) by a voice that sounds like a trumpet (1 Thes 4v16) to the child of God but sounds to the UNSAVED like thunder (John 12v28-30, Job 37v1-5). Every saint in the Bride is called by NAME (John 10v1-7) & is first 'led OUT' i.e. an 'Exodus' out of the world system (John 10v3) & then brought back to earth behind their Shepherd (John 10v4)!

Here we have a number of virgins (Song of Sol 6v8) in TWO SEPARATE GROUPS (Rev 7v4+9) unlike the ONE BODY (Gal 3v28, Eph 3v1-8. They are being caught up after the Mark of the Beast is required worldwide (Rev 13. These groups are caught up sometime around the Feast of Trumpets, when the Angel blows the Seventh Trumpet, called 'a great sound of a trumpet' in Matt 24v31. This 'sister' marries NO ONE when she is called to 'Come up hither', & she has to stand before the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev 11v18, Rev 20v11-14) for the Judgment Seat of Christ is PAST! She comes out of a 'FAITH & WORKS' situation (Rev 12v17, Rev 14v12) as well as faith in Jesus Christ!

No member of the Body of Jesus Christ will ever be alive in a situation where saved Jews & saved Gentiles make up two separate bodies of saints (Rev 7), & no member of the Body of Christ will be alive when a man can lose his salvation by taking the mark, number or name – Rev 13v1-18, Rev 14v9+10. No member of the Body of Christ will be present when an angel preaches 'another Gospel' that Paul did NOT preach (Gal 1v6-8) & is blessed for doing it (Rev 14v6+7) - & no member of the Body of Christ will ever be told that his 'enduring to the end' (Matt 24v13) depends upon keeping the 'COMMANDMENTS OF GOD, & THE FAITH OF JESUS CHRIST!' – Rev 12v17, Rev 14v12.

As stated previously, I am waiting for the Lord Jesus Christ to RETURN, I'm NOT looking for a SIGN, I am waiting for a SOUND!

I am NOT looking for any of the following before Christ returns...

- 1) A great revival!
- 2) Daniel's 70th Week to show up!
- 3) The temple to be rebuilt!
- 4) Re-gathering of the Jews!
- 5) The Son of Perdition to show up!
- 6) The rise of the ten-federated Kingdom (Rev 13 +17)
- 7) Russia to invade Palestine!
- 8) A Peace Treaty!
- 9) Etc. etc.

The church today has been led astray into looking for ANYTHING other than what they should be looking for, i.e. the Lord Jesus Christ to return!

Matt 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

Matt 24:44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Luke 12:35 Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;

36 And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.

37 Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

Phil 3:20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

I am waiting for the Lord to come back anytime now...1 Thes 1:10 **And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.**

There are some Bible teachers who teach SEVEN Raptures from the Scriptures...

- 1) Jesus Christ in Acts 1
- 2) Enoch in Gen 5
- 3) Elijah in 2 Kings 2
- 4) The Body of Christ in 1 Thes 4
- 5) Moses & Elijah in Rev 11
- 6) The 144,000 Jewish evangelists
- 7) The great multitude of martyred Gentiles in Rev 7v9 who came 'OUT of great tribulation'

Now many Christians use Matt 24v31 (**And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.**) to 'drag' the Church into some part of the Tribulation! Most Christians 'teach' that you are saved in the Tribulation the SAME WAY as you are saved in the Church Age – HERESY!!!

Once you try to jam the following verses into the Church Age & the 'Gospel of Grace' (Acts 20v24 **But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.**) you will 'wrest the Scriptures to your own destruction!' (2 Pet

3:16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.)

These Scriptures are as follows...

Rev 12v17 **And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

Rev 14v12 **Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.**

Heb 3v14 **For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;**

The Raptures' that are described in the following verses are NOT connected with NT Body of Jesus Christ that is NOW on earth!...

Ps 50:1 **A Psalm of Asaph.>> The mighty God, even the LORD, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof.**

2 **Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined.**

3 **Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him.**

4 **He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people.**

5 **Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice.**

6 **And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself. Selah.**

Isa 26:20 **Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.**

21 **For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.**

Re 14:14 **And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.**

15 **And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.**

16 **And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.**

Heb 9:28 **So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.**

2 Sam 22:17 **He sent from above, he took me; he drew me out of many waters;**

18 **He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them that hated me: for they were too strong for me.**

19 **They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the LORD was my stay.**

20 **He brought me forth also into a large place: he delivered me, because he delighted in me.**

Psa 18v6-19

Mt 24:40 **Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.**

41 **Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.**

42 **Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.**

Amen.