THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

Luke 21:36 “Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

Review

Don’t let anyone deceive you by claiming to be the Messiah or claiming to know exactly when the Messiah will come. (Luke 21:8; Matthew 24:36)

Jerusalem and the Temple will be destroyed and Jerusalem will be “trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.” (Luke 21:24)

Then comes the beginning of birth pains: wars between nations and ethnic groups, famines, earthquakes, pestilence, fearful events and great signs from heaven. (Heaven in Greek includes the atmosphere as well as outer space.)

After that comes hatred and persecution of the followers of Jesus; many followers of Jesus will fall away; many false prophets will deceive many; because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold. “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” (Matthew 24:14)

What Is the Rapture of the Church?

I Corinthians 15:51-53 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep; but we will all be changed – in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

I Thessalonians 4:13-15 Brothers and sister, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

I Thessalonians 4:16-18 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

When Is the Rapture of the Church

Before the wrath of God. I Thessalonians 5:9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation 6:15-17 Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?”

Revelation 13:6(NASB) And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, *that is,* those who dwell in heaven.

Before the Tribulation Begins. Daniel 9:24 “Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place.”

Daniel 9:25 He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is pour out on him.”

Matthew 24:15 “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel – let the reader understand –‘

I Thessalonians 1:10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead – Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

Before the Judgments in Revelation chapters 6-19

Mark 2:19&20 Jesus answered, “How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them. But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and on that day they will fast.”

Matthew 26:27-29 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink from the fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

John 14:1-3 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

Revelation 1:5b&6 To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father – to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

Revelation 1:19 “Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.” (Later is more literally *“meta tauta”* translated “after this” twice in 4:1.)

Revelation 4:1 After this I looked, and there before was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”

Revelation 5:9&10 And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

Revelation 19:6-8 Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.)

Romans 14:10c For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat.

Revelation 19:9 Then the angel said to me, Write this: “Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” and he added, “These are the true words of God.”

Luke 21:36 “Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

Things to Think About

Some of what Jesus talked about has already happened; other things are beginning to happen and will increase in intensity and frequency.

Jesus promised He would come back and take His followers to be with Him where He was.

The Tribulation is primarily about Israel.

The way to miss it is to become part of the Church, the bride of Christ and be with Jesus in Heaven while the Tribulation takes place on earth.