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The Rapture

Although the theological term "Rapture" is not found in the Bible, it refers to the future coming of the Lord Jesus to take believers, both those who are alive as well as those who have fallen "asleep" to be with Him forever.

The main passage dealing with this issue is 1 Thes 4: 14-17 (NASB)

1Th 4:14-17

(14) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

(15) For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

(16) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

(17) **Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.**

The rapture and second coming of Christ, which is one event but two instances, will be preceded by the "Great Tribulation", a period when the biggest persecution and onslaught on the Jews and Christians will take place that the world has ever seen throughout the history of the Church.

The idea of this article is not to speculate about the events that will take place during this period, but to prove that the rapture will take place, just as the Bible predicts. There are many views on the timing of the rapture, whether it is before, during or at the end of this period called the Great Tribulation.

We will share some scriptures in context that point to a rapture taking place quite deep into the Great Tribulation:

2Th 2:1-4 (NASB)

(1) **Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him,**

(2) that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

(3) Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

(4) who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. "



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Firstly, verse one states that we will be "...gathered together to Him..." Secondly, "...it will not come unless the apostasy (falling away) comes first..." Thirdly, "...the man of lawlessness..." aka the anti-Christ, needs to be revealed first...

The above passage points to a rapture and 2nd coming that will take place after the falling away (1 Tim 4: 1-5) and after the anti-Christ is revealed and worshipped as God.

In Matthew 24 Jesus' Disciples ask Him 3 question in 1

Mat 24:3 (NASB)

(3) As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

Please read the whole chapter, but note what Jesus says in the following verses:

Mat 24:9-14 (NASB)

(9) "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.

(10) "At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.

(11) "Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.

(12) "Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.

(13) "But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

(14) "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

It is evident that He is talking to believers (His disciples) about believers, who will be persecuted as well as many who will fall away.

Although the above is happening already, Jesus is talking about a specific period in time. Read further and you will see why the rapture can't precede the Great Tribulation in verse 15:

Mat 24:15 (NASB)

(15) "Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand)..."

Who is this "ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION" other than the anti-Christ and who will be reading the Bible during that time, other than believers...

Mat 24:21 "For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of



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the world until now, nor ever will.

Mat 24:22 "Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

Mat 24:23 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There He is,' do not believe him.

Mat 24:24 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect."

Jesus clearly says that for "the sake of the elect those days will be cut short..." Who is the elect, other than those true believers who follow Jesus and not Satan?

Verses 29 -31 go on to say:

Mat 24:29 "But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Mat 24:30 "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.

Mat 24:31 "And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

Verse 31 clearly states that only then will we be "GATHERED TOGETHER..."

We can't be sure how deep into this terrible period the Church will be raptured, but it is evident that the Church will go through immense persecution.

Jesus further warns that it will be just like in the days of Noah:

Mat 24:36-42 (NASB)

(36) "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

(37) "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.

(38) "For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

(39) and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

(40) "Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.

(41) "Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.

(42) "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming."

Verses 40 – 41 mentions that "one will be taken and one will be left..."



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In the context of the scriptures that we have handled this is clearly pointing to the rapture. Do not be fooled in thinking that the Western Church will escape persecution. Believers in China, Indonesia, Sudan and Nigeria as well as other parts in the world are being killed for confessing their faith in Jesus.

What makes us unique that we will not experience this persecution they are going through?

For more on the "Types of the Rapture" as well as a clearer understanding on this topic, please read the article "Types of the Rapture" by Jacob Prasch.

I sincerely hope that each one of you reading this will be inspired to study God's Word even more heartily and that you will test what I have written according to God's Word... Never accept what is said about the Word of God without testing it and remember that "The words of the LORD are pure words as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times." (Ps 12:6).

Also read the following scripture which joins with the above passage:

Pro 30:5 "Every word of God is tested; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Add nothing to his words, lest he reprove you, and you be exposed as a deceiver."

The Lord also says in His Word in Rev 22:18 "I warn everyone who hears the prophetic words in this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words in this prophetic book, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city described in this book. "

The question remains... Do you believe that God's Word is perfect...?

I pray that our Lord, Jesus Christ will call your name and that you will answer to His call and accept Him as your Savior and by believing in Him you will have eternal life... Amen.