

# The Mystery Rapture

The Rapture vs. The Second Coming  
1 Peter 1:9-12

In Luke 17 Jesus was challenged as to the time-frame of establishing His Kingdom. Jesus responded to the unsaved Pharisees and then spoke to the saved about 7 characteristics of His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming to establish His Kingdom. Having studied those characteristics, our understanding of the rapture comes into focus.

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## 1. Development of Understanding

- 1) Jewish Expectation – Coming Messiah to Rule
- 2) Confusion w/ OT Prophecy – 1 Peter 1:9-12
- 3) Acts 1 – Kingdom, Coming 2<sup>nd</sup> Time
- 4) Early New Testament – Imminence, Expectancy  
Probably 1<sup>st</sup> NT epistle written – James 5:7-9
- 5) Mystery Revealed via Paul – Church Age  
Confusion over timing of timing – 2 Thess 2
- 6) Ongoing Revelation – Rapture

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## 2. Comparison of Rapture to 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming

### THE RAPTURE VERSUS THE SECOND COMING

<i>The Rapture</i>	<i>The Second Coming</i>
(1) Saints meet Christ in the air – 1 Thessalonians 4:17	(1) Christ descends to the Mt. Of Olives – Zechariah 14:4
(2) No judgment of unbelievers associated with the rapture	(2) Judgment is an emphasis of the Second Coming – Revelation 19:11-21

(3) There is no mention of the millennial kingdom being established after the Rapture	(3) One reason for the Second Coming is to set up the long awaited millennial kingdom – Revelation 20:4
(4) Living and dead saints receive glorified bodies upon being translated – 1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 15:51, 53	(4) No translation and no glorified bodies received
(5) The Rapture occurs before the wrath of God is poured out on the world – 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10	(5) The Second Coming follows this time of wrath – Revelation 19:11-18
(6) The coming of the Lord in connection with the Rapture is seen as imminent – 1 Peter 4:7; 1 Thessalonians 4:17	(6) Numerous signs and events must take place prior to the Second Coming
(7) The Lord goes to heaven with His saints – 1 Thessalonians 4:17	(7) The Lord comes from heaven with His saints – Revelation 19:14
(8) All believers will be removed from earth leaving only unbelievers – 1 Thessalonians 4:17	(8) All unbelievers will be removed from earth leaving only believers to be part of the millennial kingdom – Matthew 24:40-41

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### 3. It's Always the Same

The next appearance of Jesus is always a motivation for holy living.

For Jews during the Tribulation – Jesus' teaching and parables in Olivet Discourse. Mt. 24:42, 44; 25:13

For us today – Titus 2:11-13; Hebrews 10:24-25; 2 Peter 3:11-14

***Watch & Be Ready!***