



Will I get out of here before the catastrophic tribulations judgments destroy this world?!?!?

B.L.U.F. (Bottom Line Up Front): *Let's understand the rapture – what it is and when it will happen.*

Context: We've learned about the great teaching of the 2nd Coming from Jesus' teaching on the Mount of Olives. The rest of the New Testament tell us of an unrevealed period of time (church age) and a catching away of saved people to heaven. Where does this fit in?

1. What is the R _____?

1 Thessalonians 4:17 – "...we...shall be caught up...to meet the Lord in the air...."

John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11; 1 Corinthians 15:51-58

2. Is the Rapture the S _____ as the 2nd 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 Thess. 4:16; 1 Cor. 15:51, 53 | (4) No translation and no glorified bodies received. |

| The Rapture | The Second Coming |
|---|--|
| (5) The Rapture occurs before the wrath of God is poured out on the world. – 1 Thess. 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 Thess. 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 Thess. 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 Thess. 4:17 | (8) All unbelievers will be removed from earth leaving only believers to be part of the millennial kingdom. – Matthew 24:40-41 |

3. Are there Different as to When the Rapture Occurs in Reference to the Tribulation Period?

- 1) Rapture is AT the END of the Tribulation Period – Post Trib.
- 2) Rapture is in the MIDDLE of the Tribulation Period – Mid Trib.
- 3) Rapture is at the BEGINNING of the Tribulation Per. – Pre Trib.

4. Why Do You Believe/Preach the Rapture is at the B of the Tribulation Period?

- 1) Flow of the Book of Revelation
 Revelation 1-3 – churches on earth
 Revelation 4-5 – saints in heaven
 Revelation 6-18 – unsaved on earth judged
 Revelation 19 – saints in heaven return to earth with Jesus
 Revelation 20-22:21 – kingdom on earth, then new heaven/earth
 Revelation 22:6-21 – back to John & churches on earth
- 2) We are Promised a “Hope” and “Escape” Rather than Judgment
 Titus 2:13; Revelation 3:10; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
- 3) Populating the Millennial Kingdom with People

Gettin' ready to GO!



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