

The Rapture

is not

The First Resurrection

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Timing of the Rapture

The majority of Christians hold to a pre-tribulation rapture for, perhaps, no other reason than having been taught to believe that the saints will be removed from the trials of the week of years ushering in the new millennium. Of course, those who teach it offer a solid foundation in scripture to back it up. However, mid-tribulationists as well as post-tribulationists have just as strong an argument for their belief. It seems that the key for the differing viewpoints would be the interpretation of scripture, with a subjective twist added here or there to “make” things fit their belief.

Personally, I have been a firm believer in the first option, that is, a pre-trib rapture. And this came about as a result of many years of applying myself in the study of the subject.

However, very recently I became convinced that this event will not occur until the end of the 7 year tribulation period. I came to this conclusion as a result of revisiting several expositions by the more eminent of Bible teachers on Eschatology, despite the fact that I carried a nagging doubt on certain points, but I just could not place my finger on any solid enough reason for my doubt. But, deep down, my doubts persisted. And then it happened.

AND NOW I'VE CHANGED MY MIND

AND THIS IS WHY

It could not have been by chance, but rather by revelation that I “stumbled” upon something that I have not heard or seen being taught by anyone before. And as a result of my discovery I have reverted to my former belief in a pre-tribulation rapture. I will now attempt to substantiate the reason for my turnaround by going over what I would refer to as the “hot” scriptures in this regard.

I will not be exhaustive in this exposition and expect those readers who already have extensive knowledge to stretch their minds and focus in on related verses of scripture which, undoubtedly, will serve to further substantiate my findings, for what I am about to put forward represents the switching on of powerful spotlights in areas previously overlooked.

DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN THE RAPTURE (BEING CAUGHT UP) AND BEING RESURRECTED.

Spotlight No. 1:- Those who are **CAUGHT UP**

These are the verses of scripture that Christians place their hope in - regarding them as a clear indication that they will indeed escape the horrors of the tribulation.

1Thess 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.

1Thess 4:15. 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.

1Thess 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:

1Thess 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.

1Thess 4:18. Wherefore **comfort one another with these words.**

Except for our Lord Jesus Christ who died and rose again, there is no other

resurrection to be found in the above verses. In “the dead in Christ shall rise first” refers to Christians who have already died and whose spirits are already with the Lord in Heaven. It is their bodies that are being raised to be transformed to glorified bodies and to be united with their spirits which “God will bring with him”. And “we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord” shall be caught up “together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air”.

Those who have already died in Christ were not resurrected complete with body, soul and spirit as was the case with Jesus. Their spirit-borne souls were already in Heaven and they were being brought with God in the clouds to receive their own bodies in glorified form to be just like Jesus.

Those of us who are alive “unto the coming of the Lord” are changed “in the twinkling of an eye” (also to be just like Jesus) and are “caught up” without dying first. We are, therefore, not resurrected from the dead.

1Cor. 15:51. Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

1Cor. 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.

Please note that it is not the catching up (rapture) that will happen “in the twinkling of an eye”, but it is the changing of the bodies of those who are alive that happens that quickly. It is likely that our actual ascent to meet the Lord in the air will be slow enough for it to be witnessed by those left behind on the Earth. After all, we are to meet the Lord in the air and from there we will be seen coming “with” Him in the clouds. The unsaved world will probably see this as an abduction by aliens to rid the world of its unconfirming element.

Note further that the raising of the bodies of those who have died in Christ and the raising of those who are alive may be considered a form of resurrection, but not a resurrection in the true sense of the word, as I will explain later when I move the spotlight. It was Jesus who died and who was resurrected in the true sense of the word.

The Rapture, therefore, is not a resurrection of Christians. And this “catching up” does not constitute The First Resurrection of Revelation 20. (Coming up later)

WHO ARE THE ONES BEING CAUGHT UP?

Jesus warned us to be ready at all times, living our lives in obedience to His Word and not be conformed to this world. I am sure all Christians know what is expected of them, but many are flirting with the ways of the world and many are falling away completely, giving way to the temptations of the flesh.

There are two classes of Christians. Those who confess Christ and are truly in Christ and there are those who profess Christ with their lips for appearance sake, but are not truly in Christ.

We are told to WATCH

Mark 13:34. For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to **watch**.

Mark 13:35. **Watch** ye therefore: for ye know not **when** the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:

Mark 13:36. Lest coming suddenly he find you **sleeping**.

Mark 13:37. And what I say unto you I say unto all, **Watch**.

It is clear that there will be many who will not be watching and, therefore, not be ready. Only those who are CONSTANT in their faith will be ready and always WATCHING. What would be the point of watching if the rapture is only to take place during the tribulation period. We would all know then to be ready at any time.

As a THIEF in the night

1Thess 5:2. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as **a thief in the night**.

1Thess 5:3. 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.

1Thess 5:4. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should **overtake you as a thief**.

Those that are ready are not in DARKNESS. The thief will never catch them off guard.

WHY ARE THEY BEING CAUGHT UP?

Just like Noah and his family and Lot and his family were removed to safety from the wrath of God that fell and destroyed the wicked, so we too are being removed to safety prior to the wrath ahead, but it is not the wrath of God we are looking at, as is clear from the following.

1Thess 5:9 .For God hath not appointed us to **wrath**, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

1Thess 5:10. Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live **together with him**.

THEN WHOSE WRATH IS IT?

Re 12:12. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for **the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath**, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

It is clear, therefore, that it is the wrath of the devil about to be unleashed just after the rapture and at the start of the tribulation. The Christians who were watching and who were ready will be gone – having been caught up, for they were not appointed to wrath. They had oil in their lamps.

Those without oil in their lamps remain behind to go through the tribulation and face the wrath of the devil. They realize their horrible mistake and are having to “wash their robes” and are likely to be martyred for their faith in Christ.

It is clear that the rapture can occur unexpectedly.

It is clear that we need to be ready at all times.

It is clear that we need to watch.

It is clear that the event could come upon us like a thief in the night.

It is clear that we do not know on what day or hour it will happen.

And it is clear that all Christians should be able to tell from the signs that the rapture should be close when the signs take on the proportions as indicated in the Bible.

THIS MEANS THAT THE ONLY TIME WHERE THESE WARNINGS CAN FIT IN IS IF THE RAPTURE DOES INDEED OCCUR PRIOR TO THE TRIBULATION PERIOD, FOR IT CAN EVEN TAKE PLACE SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE THE TRIBULATION PERIOD COMMENCES

BUT, SHOULD THE RAPTURE OCCUR SOMETIME DURING THE TRIBULATION PERIOD, THEN EVERY CHRISTIAN WILL KNOW, EVEN PINPOINT, THE TIME OF THE RAPTURE. WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS?

The implications are DANGEROUS!

Apart from the warnings not making any sense, we'll be facing a scenario where:

1. Those Christians who believe, without a shadow of a doubt, in a mid-trib or post-trib rapture can not possibly see the need for an always-ready stance prior to start of the tribulation period. This could lead to lethargy and some might even feel no need for an apprehensive “fear” of an imminent or unexpected rapture and that they can relax a little, leading to worldliness and a falling away from the faith.
2. They will feel they know when it is going to happen and therefore only need to start being “a really good Christian” once the tribulation period starts, even if it means having to die for their faith.

In other words, if having to go through the tribulation, then living a Christian life to the fullest extent prior to the rapture would not be all that “necessary” anymore - although a true Christian won't be influenced either way.

TWO THINGS ARE TRUE

We all know that millions of Christians have died for their faith over the centuries and even right now Christians are being persecuted and slain for their faith in certain countries. This would make a pre-trib rapture for Christians living in comfort-zone countries seem “unfair”.

We also know that many Christians have died from natural causes - having lived relatively quiet, uneventful and happy lives - and we probably have family members and friends who have gone on to be with the Lord.

Is it “unfair” that some have to suffer and some just simply go to Heaven without suffering?

MANY ARE INVITED, BUT MANY ARE TAKING IT LIGHTLY

Mt 22:1 And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said,

Mt 22:2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,

Mt 22:3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.

Mt 22:4 Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.

Mt 22:5 But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:

Mt 22:6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.

Mt 22:7 But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

Mt 22:8 Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.

Mt 22:9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.

Mt 22:10 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.

Mt 22:11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:

Mt 22:12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.

Mt 22:13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Mt 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

So we see here that many are called, but few are chosen – or few are “choice ones” - which is the actual meaning.

THOSE WHO ARE READY, LIVING CLEAN CHRISTIAN LIVES – AND WATCHING – WILL BE WEARING THE RIGHT GARMENTS FOR THE WEDDING SUPPER OF THE LAMB. THEY WON'T BE CAUGHT UNAWARES WHEN THE RAPTURE TAKES PLACE.

SO IT IS NOT A MATTER OF FAIRNESS OR UNFAIRNESS IF CHRISTIANS HAVE “CHOSEN” WRITTEN ALL OVER THEM IN THEIR FAITH WALK.

Spotlight No. 2. Those who are **RESURRECTED**

There is only ONE resurrection for Christians. It is called **THE FIRST RESURRECTION** and these are the Christians who have had to go through the tribulation to suffer the **wrath** of the devil.

Rev 6:7 And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.

Rev 6:8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

Rev 6:9 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 6:10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

Rev 6:11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

Rev 6:12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

Rev 6:13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

Rev 6:14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

Rev 6:15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

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 6:17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

The souls under the altar belong to Christians who were not ready when the pre-tribulation RAPTURE took place and who have died at the hand of the devil during the course of the tribulation. Apparently they remain there “until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.”

AND THEN IT HAPPENS – BETWEEN THE SIXTH AND SEVENTH SEALS

Rev 7:9 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;

Rev 7:10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

Rev 7:11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

Rev 7:12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Rev 7:13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

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.

Rev 7:15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

Rev 7:16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

Rev 7:17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

IT'S OVER. HERE WE SEE THEM RAISED FROM THE DEAD. THEY ARE NOW IN HEAVEN.

But they had to go through the act of "washing their robes" during the tribulation period, implying they were not ready and not watching for the rapture.

Those who were raptured were ready. They had clean robes washed in the blood of Jesus. They were the "choice ones".

The tribulation Christians had to repent (wash their robes) and be prepared to be martyred. They were "called" but were not ready. The door was shut to them and they had to get oil for their lamps.

Rev 20:4 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.

Rev 20:5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. **This is the first resurrection.**

Rev 20:6 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.

THIS IS THE FIRST RESURRECTION. THEY SUFFERED. THEY DIED. AND THEY WERE RAISED - BODY, SOUL AND SPIRIT.

BUT IN THE CASE OF THE RAPTURED SAINTS, THEY WERE CAUGHT UP ALIVE - BODY, SOUL AND SPIRIT.

THOSE WHO WERE “RESURRECTED” (together with those who were caught up) AT THE TIME OF THE RAPTURE WERE ALREADY IN HEAVEN IN SPIRIT AND SOUL. ONLY THEIR BODIES WERE RAISED.

THE RAPTURE IS NOT “THE FIRST PHASE” OF THE FIRST RESURRECTION.

IT IS THE REMOVAL OF A “NOAH” AND A “LOT” TO SAFETY. THE ONES WHO HAVE MADE THEMSELVES READY.

Matthew 24

Mt 24:1 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to show him the buildings of the temple.

Mt 24:2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

Mt 24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

THREE QUESTIONS FROM THE JEWISH DISCIPLES. JESUS ANSWERS ALL THREE, BUT NOT IN THE ORDER THAT THE QUESTIONS ARE ASKED. HE FIRST PAINTS THE COMPLETE SCENARIO FROM BEGINNING TO END. IT IS INTENDED FOR BOTH JEWISH AND GENTILE BELIEVERS.

Mt 24:4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

Mt 24:5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

Mt 24:6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

Mt 24:7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

Mt 24:8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Mt 24:9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

Mt 24:10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

Mt 24:11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

Mt 24:12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

Mt 24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Mt 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Mt 24:15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

Mt 24:16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

Mt 24:17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:

Mt 24:18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

Mt 24:19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

Mt 24:20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

Mt 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Mt 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

THE ELECT ARE ALL THOSE WHO ARE SAVED DURING THE TRIBULATION – BOTH JEWS AND GENTILES.

Mt 24:23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

Mt 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Mt 24:25 Behold, I have told you before.

Mt 24:26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.

Mt 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.

Mt 24:28 For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

Mt 24:29 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:

THE TRIBULATION IS OVER. JESUS COMES AT THE END OF IT
RESURRECTION FOR THE ELECT – THE TRIBULATION SAINTS. THIS IS
THE BEGINNING OF THE SECOND COMING AND NOT THE COMING
FOR THE CHOICE ONES TO REMOVE THEM TO SAFETY AS WITH NOAH
AND LOT.

Mt 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.

Mt 24:31 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.

Mt 24:32 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:

Mt 24:33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

Mt 24:34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

Mt 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass

away.

Mt 24:36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

FINALLY, JESUS ANSWERS THEIR QUESTION CONCERNING THE TIME OF HIS COMING FOR THE CHOICE ONES. (“MANY ARE CALLED, BUT FEW ARE CHOSEN”) 1Thess 4:15. 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.

Mt 24:37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Mt 24:38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

Mt 24:39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

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

Mt 24:41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

THE ONE TAKEN AND THE ONE LEFT REFERS TO CHRISTIANS, WHETHER THEY BE GENTILES OR JEWS. AND IT WOULD APPEAR THAT APPROXIMATELY ONE HALF OF ALL CHRISTIANS WOULD BE FULLY READY, HAVING CLEAN GARMENTS. FOR THEM THE LORD DID NOT COME AS A THIEF IN THE NIGHT.

THE ONES WHO ARE LEFT HAD NO OIL IN THEIR LAMPS (here we also see a 50/50/ split of 5 foolish and 5 wise virgins).

THEY WILL HAVE TO START WASHING THEIR ROBES AS THE TRIBULATION COMMENCES.

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

Mt 24:43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have

suffered his house to be broken up.

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

Mt 24:45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

Mt 24:46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

Mt 24:47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

Mt 24:48 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;

Mt 24:49 And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

Mt 24:50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,

Mt 24:51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

INDEED, THERE WILL BE GREAT REMORSE FOR THOSE WHO DID NOT WATCH. IMAGINE THE EMOTIONAL IMPACT UPON THE HALF-HEARTED CHRISTIANS LEFT BEHIND, KNOWING WHAT AWAITS THEM – MARTYRDOM!

Now how can we be absolutely sure that there are to be “choice ones**” raptured before the tribulation?**

Spotlight No. 3. The **Manchild.**

REVELATION CHAPTER 12 DOES NOT REPRESENT A PICTURE OF ISRAEL AND THE BIRTH OF JESUS. IT DEPICTS THE STORY OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST FROM BEGINNING TO END.

Re 12:1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

Re 12:2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

THE WOMAN BEING WITH CHILD REPRESENTS A SYMBOL OF THE CHURCH ABOUT TO GIVE BIRTH TO ANOTHER SYMBOL – THAT OF A COMPANY OF A SPECIAL GROUP OF PEOPLE.

Re 12:3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

Re 12:4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child **as soon as it was born.**

ONCE AGAIN, THE DRAGON REPRESENTS A SYMBOL – THAT OF EVIL .

Re 12:5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a **rod of iron**: and her child was **caught up** unto God, and to his throne.

THE MANCHILD - THE SYMBOL OF THAT SPECIAL GROUP OF PEOPLE. THEY ARE THE SAINTS OF THE RAPTURE. THEY ARE CAUGHT UP. THEY ARE THE INVISIBLE CHURCH OF CHRIST COMING OUT OF THE VISIBLE CHURCH.

THE MANCHILD DOES NOT SYMBOLIZE JESUS. JESUS WAS NOT CAUGHT UP AT BIRTH (“**as soon as it was born.**”). HE REMAINED ON THE EARTH FOR OVER 30 YEARS AND HIS ASCENSION WAS SLOW AND OBSERVED BY THE DISCIPLES.

Acts 1:9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, **he was taken up**; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

Acts 1:10 And while they **looked** stedfastly toward heaven **as he went up**,

behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

Acts 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

TO RULE WITH A ROD OF IRON APPLIES TO THE MANCHILD, ALONG WITH CHRIST.

Rev 2:26. And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

Rev 2:27. And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

NOW WE SEE THE WOMAN, THE SYMBOL OF THE VISIBLE CHURCH AND REPRESENTING A BODY OF PEOPLE LEFT BEHIND TO FACE THE WRATH OF THE SYMBOL OF EVIL – THE DRAGON. THEY ENTER THE TRIBULATION PERIOD. THEY ARE IN THE WILDERNESS OF DESTRUCTION AND DEATH.

Re 12:6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

Re 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

Re 12:8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

Re 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Re 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Re 12:11 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.

THEY HAVE REPENTED OF THEIR ERRORS AND HAVE WASHED THEIR ROBES, BUT NOW FACE MARTYRDOM FOR THEIR FAITH IN CHRIST.

Re 12:12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

Re 12:13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

THE TRIBULATION SAINTS ARE AFFORDED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PROTECTION AND MANY ESCAPE DEATH.

Re 12:14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

Re 12:15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

Re 12:16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

BUT A GREAT MANY ARE SLAIN, REMAIN UNDER THE ALTAR – AND THEN ARE RESURRECTED. THIS BECOMES THE FIRST RESURRECTION.

Re 12:17 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.

THOSE CHRISTIANS WHO MAKE IT THROUGH THE TRIBULATION (WRATH OF SATAN) AS WELL AS THE WRATH OF THE LAMB, FORM PART OF THE TWO GROUPS GATHERED TOGETHER BY JESUS AT THE END – THEY ARE THE SHEEP OF THE GOATS AND THE SHEEP OF THE NATIONS. THEY ARE KNOWN AS “THESE MY BRETHREN”.

Mt 25:40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of **these my brethren**, ye have done it unto me.

THE GOATS ARE PUNISHED, BUT THE BRETHREN (SHEEP) ENTER THE MILLENNIUM AS “THE RIGHTEOUS”.

Mt 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the

righteous into life eternal.

SO HOW CLOSE ARE WE?

2 Thess 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, **by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,**

2 Thess 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

2 Thess 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, **except there come a falling away first,** and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

We have already fallen away. The world is in turmoil. And in the one country where one would not expect it - the United States of America - the Bible has been banned from use in schools and other public places and their President has ridiculed the Bible.

2th 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

2th 2:5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

2th 2:6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

2th 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

2th 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, **whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:**

ADHERENTS TO THE MID- OR POST-TRIBULATION THEORY CONSIDER THE ABOVE AS FURTHER PROOF THAT ALL CHRISTIANS WILL FACE THE TRIBULATION BEFORE BEING RAPTURED, BUT “**whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:**” IS A REFERENCE TO WHAT THE LORD SHALL DO TO THE WICKED ONE WHEN THE TIME COMES – AND NOT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE POINT OF HIM BEING REVEALED.

CANDIDATES FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE UNITED STATES ARE
"REVEALED" WELL BEFORE THE TIME OF THE INAUGURATION
CEREMONY FOR THE WINNER.

When a certain man appears on the world scene and is at the forefront of a
Peace Treaty with Israel that would be set for seven years, then **LOOK UP!**

**HE IS ALREADY HERE AND IS ABOUT TO BE INTRODUCED TO THE
WORLD.**

Lu 21:28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift
up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

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

SO THE TIME FOR US TO LOOK UP IS NOW!!!

THE RAPTURE IS ...

IMMINENT!!!

ARE YOU READY?

*Your comments are welcome. You may direct them to me at my e-mail address:
jackv357@gmail.com*

FOR READERS WHO DON'T QUITE KNOW

A closer look at the human make-up

A better understanding of how we function as human beings will unravel many mysteries of human life for us and open the door to total freedom for all.

THE PLACE WE CALL HOME

Planet Earth's human population is approaching the 7 billion mark. This means that the physical bodies of 7 billion humans are “glued” to this terrestrial sphere by the force of gravity. Had it not been for the covering of flesh and bone, our range of mobility would certainly not have been confined to the Earth. In other words, we would have been spiritual beings capable of travelling any distance through the ordered universe faster than the speed of light. But there's a problem. As purely spiritual beings there would not have been any process of procreation for us for the simple reason that the Creator God made this planet specifically to be inhabited by the creatures He designed for it, that is, living spiritual beings “encased” in physical bodies. And that is why there are 7 billion of us.

The air we breathe and the food we eat are not for the benefit of our spirit. Food and air are purely for the purpose of keeping our physical bodies energized and in good condition. Of course, the longer our physical body remains in good condition, the longer our spirit will occupy its place on Earth. We procreate with our physical bodies and God supplies the inner life (spirit) for each new human entrant to this world. You could say that human beings are like angels bound to the Earth by physical bodies.

THE DIET OF DESTRUCTION

Over the millenniums we have veered away from the intake of nourishment designed for us and developed an appetite for junk food, as it is known today. For this reason the globe is a display case of obesity in motion and graveyards holding those who no longer move – courtesy of diet-related sicknesses and diseases. We are supposed to live healthy lives for about 70 years or much longer.. Many prevail under the mistaken idea that the body is for food and not that food is for the body. Mankind has completely lost its sense of purpose in many more ways than just the food aspect.

THE FUNCTION OF THE BRAIN

The majority of earthbound human spirits are not even aware that they are, in actual fact, spiritual beings living within an outer covering of flesh and bone. Not many know that their human brain is merely used for transmitting an enactment of the real life within where their consciousness and individuality are seated. And neither do many realize that emotions are spirit driven and that memories are stored within the heart of their spirit and not their brain.

Academic excellence is not achieved by the so-called power of one's brain, but rather by the absorption of knowledge through the brain by the spirit. Without the spirit, the brain would be as dead as a refrigerator without an electrical supply. And while the brain is empowered by the spirit it is able provide a window to a visible, physical world for the spirit. Under this same spirit-power, the brain performs the necessary functions by means of the nervous system, to keep the various parts of the body working correctly. Brain damage, depending on the parts affected, can block the spirit from reaching the “outside world” - and perhaps hearing, eyesight and other bodily functions can be impaired.

Similarly, the spirit does not incur long or short term memory losses. It is the ageing of the associated parts of the brain that prevents the spirit from directing the content of memory files through the brain. For example, something spoken or done a minute ago is filed as a memory by the spirit, but there is a struggle to relay same back through the brain because of the poor condition of the brain, despite the fact that the memory is intact. It is the mind of the spirit that can not get it through the brain. And it is the mind of the spirit that does all the processing. For the mind it would be something like a person trying to get the attention of a deaf person whose back is turned.

WE KNOW NOT WHO WE ARE

So we see then that we are totally unfamiliar with who and what we really are. And not knowing that we are earthbound spiritual beings dressed in a covering of clay, we have been led by other earthbound spirits to believe in anything they conjure up by means of their overworked, demonised minds. Books, movies, television, immorality, lies, drugs, terrorism, crime, conflict, greed, corruption and war are the means by which certain earthbound spirits enslave their fellow human beings culminating in destruction and death.

God, the Holy Spirit, using the hand of man, documented the purpose and destiny of man. In that Book, the Bible, it is made clear that we were created for God's pleasure, to have fellowship with Him and to be favoured by Him concerning every aspect of our lives. The Book points out our failures and the reason for our failures, but that He had provided the way for our redemption from our condition of sin and the punishment for sin. But the majority have turned a deaf ear, preferring to heed the ideas contained in books written by other God-created earthbound spirits. Some have even swallowed hook, line and sinker the idea that we have evolved from monkeys.

THE SIGNS ARE UPON US

The Bible also tells us that God will not always contend with fallen man and He has revealed the signs that will usher in the last days prior to a severe judgment upon the Earth. All of those signs are now playing out and we are hurtling towards that day.

Man will always be man – a spiritual being contained by a physical body. But for all those who have been redeemed and are ready to face God's hand of judgment upon the Earth, a transformation is close at hand. Their bodies are soon to be changed in the twinkling of an eye to take on a glorified state of existence with the ability to move through the universe in response to a mere thought, just like their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ – and all those who have already passed on to meet Him in that place called Heaven, where no monkey-related humans will be found.

There is no longer time to say, "Okay, but I have a lot of things on my plate right now. I'll look into it later and "fix" my life so that I am ready."

There are two things that can send that plate flying and render it of no consequence. Either an unexpected end to one's life or that imminent moment leading to the day of judgment. The one can be as close as the other. And both spell the end for any 'fix' planned for some future time.

Life is but a vapour for most – and just a quick mist for many