

# The Rapture

## Introduction

1. The term “rapture” comes from the Latin word “rapere”, which means “to carry away, snatch away”.
  - A. Although the term is not found in the Bible, it expresses the essence of the doctrine. It teaches that Jesus is going to come and silently snatch away the righteous.
2. There are variations among those who hold the theory of “The Rapture”. All do not agree.
  - A. However, in spite of these disagreements those who subscribe to the basic doctrine do not let denominational lines make much difference.
  - B. Many have just blindly accepted the theory without serious investigation of the scriptures to see if the doctrine is true.
3. If this theory is true, here are some things that will happen when the righteous are silently snatched away:
  - A. Driverless cars will collide in the streets.
  - B. Airplanes will crash when pilots are carried away.
  - C. Husbands and fathers will fail to return home from work.
  - D. Righteous wives will suddenly disappear.
  - E. All the righteous saints who have died before this great event will be resurrected and carried away!

- 4. Then will be “the Great Tribulation” which will last for seven years.**
  - A. During this time the wrath of the lord will be poured out upon the unrighteous because they rejected Him.**
  - B. The Antichrist will be revealed.**
- 5. At the end of “the Tribulation” Christ will return to the earth with 10,000 of His saints to fight “The Battle of Armageddon”.**
  - A. The Lord and His army will be victorious and they will execute judgment on the ungodly, and Antichrist will be destroyed.**
- 6. After the great victory, according to the Rapture theory, Christ will set up His kingdom, with headquarters in Jerusalem, and reign on David’s throne with His saints for a thousand years.**
- 7. At the end of the thousand years reign of Christ there will be a second resurrection and all who remain in their graves from Adam on will rise and the judgment will take place.**
  - A. All will receive their just reward.**
  - B. The wicked will be raised and punished.**
  - C. The saints will return to heaven with Jesus where they will live forever.**

## What Does the Bible Say?

- 1. Neither the term “The Rapture” nor the doctrine described above is found anywhere in the Bible.**
- 2. The return of Christ will not be done in secret.**

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Revelation 1:7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

- 3. The Tribulation of the Rapture theory is based on a misinterpretation of Matthew, chapter 24.**
  - A. This tribulation spoken of by Jesus was associated with the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70 and was given in answer to the first question asked Him by the disciples.**  
**Matthew 24:1-3**
  - B. The tribulation indeed did take place before that generation passed away.**

Matthew 24:34 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

**4. According to the word of God there is going to be but one literal resurrection.**

**A. It will include the righteous and the unrighteous.**

**John 5:28-29**

Acts 24:15 I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.

**5. According to the Bible the kingdom of Christ is not to be established in the future, as the rapture advocates would have us believe — but has been in existence for nearly 2,000 years.**

**A. It is a spiritual, not an earthly kingdom.**

**John 18:36**

**B. Christ gave to the apostle Peter the keys to the kingdom.**

**Matthew 16:18-19**

**C. On the day of Pentecost, AD 33, Peter opened the kingdom to the Jews (Acts 2) and about eight years later to the Gentiles (Acts 10).**

**D. Later John stated he was in the kingdom.**

Revelation 1:9 I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

**E. The Colossians had been translated into the kingdom.**

Colossians 1:13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

**F. The writer of Hebrews taught that the Christians had received a kingdom.**

Hebrews 12:28 Therefore, **since we are receiving a kingdom** which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

**G. All of these things were written in the first century, and the kingdom was referred to as being in existence then.**

**A. Mark 9:1 definitely puts the beginning of the kingdom in that generation who heard Christ promise its coming.**

Mark 9:1 And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here **who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.**"

**6. The book of Revelation, as recognized by all Bible scholars, is a highly symbolic book, and to literalize a 1,000 years reign of Christ on earth is a gross misrepresentation of the highly figurative context of Revelation 20:1-7.**

**Revelation 20:1-7**

**A. It is not an earthly reign, but one that is spiritual with victorious saints (v. 4).**

**B. In Revelation 6:9-11 the souls of the martyred saints were under the alter, but in Revelation 20 they are pictured on thrones reigning with the Lord.**

**1) This is a prophetic indication that Christianity will be triumphant over its enemies.**

**2) The 1,000 years apparently symbolized the completeness of that victory.**

## Conclusion

1. **Right now Jesus Christ is the** "blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords" **(1 Timothy 6:15).**
2. **Jesus is reigning over His people right now, and He will continue to reign until all enemies are put under His feet (1 Cor 15:25).**

1 Corinthians 15:28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

3. **Jesus Christ is reigning today. All people are either in His kingdom or they are not.**
  - A. **Only those in His kingdom and are faithful until death will be able to live with Him in the eternal kingdom.**

