

Chapter 17A+B

Great Tribulation:

What is/When is the Rapture?

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17A. What is the Rapture?

Mark 16:19-20

“So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.

And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with *them* and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.”

- Our Resurrected Jesus rose up to heaven!

What is the Rapture?

Luke 24:50-52

“And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them.

Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven.

And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,”

- Our Resurrected Jesus was carried up into heaven!

What is the Rapture?

1 Thessalonians 4:17

“Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up [Strong's G726 - Greek *harpazō*, Latin *rapio*] together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord.”

- Rapture comes from the Latin word ‘Rapio’ that is being caught up just like Jesus rose up into heaven!
- The Saints however will rise to meet Jesus in the air!

What is the Rapture?

Revelation 11:3,7,11

“And I will give *power* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy *one thousand two hundred and sixty days*, clothed in sackcloth.

When they finish their testimony, *the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit* will make war against them, overcome them, *and kill them*.

Now after the three-and-a-half days *the breath of life from God entered them*, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.”

What is the Rapture?

Revelation 11:12

“And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” And **they ascended to heaven in a cloud**, and their enemies saw them.”

- The 2 Witnesses that have a special task in the last 1,260 days that is 3½ years!
- While they will be killed God will have them resurrected and also Raptured into heaven!

RECAP: What is the Rapture?

- Rapture comes from the Latin word 'Rapio' that is being caught up just like Jesus rose up into heaven!
- The Saints however will rise to meet Jesus in the air!

17B. When is the Rapture?

2 Thessalonians 1:3-5

“We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer;”

When is the Rapture?

2 Thessalonians 1:6-8

- “...since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us **when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance** on those who do not know God, and **on those who do not obey** the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

When is the Rapture?

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

“Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.”

- Paul emphasizes that we should not be troubled in our mind, as though our Lord Jesus had already come!
- Interestingly, Paul connects Jesus' return with “the Day of Christ” that is the Day of the Lord!

When is the Rapture?

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

“Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless

- the falling away comes first, and
- the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”

When is the Rapture?

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

Paul in Thessalonians gives specific prerequisites for the 2nd Coming of our Lord Jesus:

- First, what a pity but according to the Scriptures many -including believers- will be offended and fall from persevering and trusting in the true God, as they will believe Satan's lies and connect with technology, as we saw in previous Chapters!
- Second, the Antichrist must be revealed!

When is the Rapture?

1 Thessalonians 1:6; 4:13-14

“And you became followers of us and of the Lord, **having received the word in much affliction**, with joy of the Holy Spirit, ...”

“But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so **God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.**”

When is the Rapture?

1 Thessalonians 4:15-16

“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 by no means precede those who are asleep.**

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and **with the trumpet of God.”**

When is the Rapture?

1 Thessalonians 4:17-18

“And the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

- Paul declares that the Rapture is AFTER the dead in Christ are resurrected!

When is the Rapture?

Revelation 20:4-5

- “And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.”

When is the Rapture?

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; Revelation 20:4-5

- The previous Scriptures show that the dead will rise first, which actually is the First Resurrection!
- Judgment thrones were given to those that were martyred as they did not take the Mark of the Beast during the Great Tribulation; these together with those that died in Christ are the ones who are resurrected first and will reign one thousand years (Millenium) together with King Jesus!
- The Rapture therefore -so it seems- happens after the Saints come out of the Great Tribulation!

When is the Rapture?

1 Thessalonians 5:1-4

“But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.

For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.”

When is the Rapture?

1 Thessalonians 5:5a-6,8-9

“You are all sons of light and sons of the day ... Therefore, let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober ... But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and *as* a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,”

- It looks like the Rapture is Pre-Wrath. However, God could protect and hide His children from His vengeance!

When is the Rapture?

Matthew 24:29-30b

“Immediately **after** the tribulation of those **days** the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. **Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven**, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, ...”

- None other than Jesus clearly states that the Rapture is **AFTER** the Tribulation, in other words, Post-Tribulation!

When is the Rapture?

Matthew 24:30c-31

“... and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect

[Elect, Strong's G1588] from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

- Jesus also declares that it will be at the Trumpet sound!
- The Rapture is Post-Tribulation and Pre-Wrath of God?



"His Elect": Matthew 24:31

The KJV translates Strong's G1588 in the following manner: *elect* (16x), *chosen* (7x).

Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

- I. picked out, chosen
 - 1. chosen by God,
 - A. to obtain salvation through Christ
 - i. Christians are called "chosen or elect" of God
 - B. the Messiah is called "elect", as appointed by God to the most exalted office conceivable
 - C. choice, select, i.e. the best of its kind or class, excellence preeminent: applied to certain individual Christians

Strong's Definitions [?]

(Strong's Definitions Legend)

ἐκλεκτός *eklektós*, ek-lek-tos'; from G1586; select; by implication, favorite:—chosen, elect.

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His Elect: Ephesians 2:14-18

“For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to **create in Himself one new man from the two**, *thus* making peace, **and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross**, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. **For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.**”

His Elect: Galatians 3:26-29

“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. **There is neither Jew nor Greek**, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; **for you are all one in Christ Jesus**. And if you *are* Christ’s, then **you are Abraham’s seed**, and heirs according to the promise.”

- Paul explains there is no distinction anymore between a born-again Greek (non-Jew) or Jew, as we have become spiritual Jews!

His Elect: Romans 2:28-29, HCSB

“For a person is not a Jew who is one outwardly, and true circumcision is not something visible in the flesh. On the contrary, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is of the heart-by the Spirit, not the letter. That man’s praise is not from men but from God.”

- Paul explains there is no distinction anymore between a born-again Greek (non-Jew) or Jew, as we have become spiritual Jews!



“His Elect”: Matthew 24:31

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It is therefore safe to say that Jesus in Matthew 24 is not only directing His message to Israel, but also to the Born-Again Christians!

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When is the Rapture?

2 Peter 3:10-11

“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. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* **ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ...**”

- Rapture “as a thief in the night” on the Day of the Lord!

When is the Rapture?

2 Peter 3:12-13

“... looking for and hastening **the coming of the day of God**, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, **being on fire**, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for **new heavens and a new earth** in which righteousness dwells.”

- **The Day of the Lord with fire!**

When is the Rapture?

Daniel 12:9-10

“And he said, ‘Go *your way*, Daniel, for the words *are* closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.’ ”

When is the Rapture?

Daniel 12:12

“ ‘And from the time *that* the daily *sacrifice* is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, *there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days*. [1,290 days, that is 3 ½ years] ‘*Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.*’” [1,335 days, that is an additional 45 days]

- The ones that are spared and have gone through the 1,335 days of Tribulation are blessed!

When is the Rapture?

1 Corinthians 15:50-52

“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery:

We shall not all sleep, but **we shall all be changed - in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.** For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

- **The Rapture is at the Last Trumpet!**

When is the Rapture?

Revelation 8:1-2; 9:13-15

“When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets ... Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.”

When is the Rapture?

Revelation 11:3-5

“And I will give *power* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. [1,260 days=3 ½ years]

These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.”

When is the Rapture?

Revelation 11:6-8

“These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.”

When is the Rapture?

Revelation 11:15-16

“Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’ And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, ...”

- The 7th Angel sounds the Last (7th) Trumpet and finally the kingdoms of this world are given over to Christ Jesus!

When is the Rapture?

Revelation 15 and 16

- After these Trumpets there are still 7 more last plagues to fill up the Wrath of God!

When is the Rapture?

Leviticus 23:1-44

- On another note, God is a God of seasons, of order and of perfection; His ways are perfect!
- There are seven (7) Major Jewish Feasts on specific times appointed by Almighty God!

“And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim *to be* holy convocations, *these are My feasts.*” [Leviticus 23:1-2]

When is the Rapture?

- God's Feasts are:

1. Passover: Jesus, the Lamb of God, rides on a donkey.
2. Unleavened Bread: Jesus is crucified.
3. First Fruits: Jesus is resurrected from the dead.
4. Feast of Weeks (Pentecost): Holy Ghost comes down.
5. Feast of Trumpets: Jesus' Second Coming.
6. Day of Atonement: Day of the Lord (Repentance, Judgment).
7. Feast of Tabernacles or Booths: God dwells with us.

- <https://www.wycliffe.org/blog/posts/7-feasts-that-point-to-christ>

When is the Rapture?

- Our Lord Jesus and the Holy Ghost already fulfilled the first 4 of these Feasts exactly on that specific day.
- It is highly probable that Yeshua Hamashiach will return on the Feast of Trumpets, Jesus indicated that the exact day of this Feast Day is unknown, as it depends on which of the 2 days the New Moon appears! [Matthew 24:36]
- The upcoming Day of Atonement is the day of Israel's repentance when the Jews finally welcome the One and Only Real Yeshua Hamashiach [Isaiah 53, Zechariah 12:10]!

Some Prophecies that Still Need to Occur Before the Rapture?

Not in specific order:

- The Third (3rd) Temple is built on the Temple Mount and sacrifice rituals are ongoing! [Revelation 11:1-2]
- The Abomination of Desolation is erected at the Temple, which most likely is the (Quantum AI) Image of the Beast that the people must worship or be killed! [Revelation 13:14]
- The Antichrist stops Temple offerings and persecutes anyone not taking the Mark! [Daniel 9:27; 11:31-36]

Some Prophecies that Still Need to Occur Before the Rapture?

- Damascus is no longer a city! [Psalm 83; Isaiah 17]
- The Great Tribulation! [Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:21; Revelation 13:8]
- With the 6th Seal stars fall from heaven, while with the 7th Seal the first of seven Trumpets start! [Revelation 6:16-17; 8:1-2]
- The 3rd Trumpet with the great burning star Wormwood falls on the waters! [Revelation 8:10-11]
- The 5th Trumpet of torments lasts 5 months! [Rev. 9:5]

Some Prophecies that Still Need to Occur Before the Rapture?

- During the 6th Trumpet one third (1/3) of earth's population is slain by 4 death angels! [Rev. 9:14]
- This 6th Trumpet will last 1 year, 1 month, 1 day, and 1 hour! [Revelation 9:15] *
- The Rapture at the last 7th Trumpet! [1 Corinthians 15:51-52; Revelation 11:15-18]

* As the 5th and 6th Trumpet lasts over 18 months (13+5), this would entail that Satan has less than 2 years!

Prophecies that Still Need to Occur Before the Rapture?

The following are after the Tribulation and after the last (7th) Trumpet:

- There are 7 more last Plagues poured out as vials of God's Wrath [Rev. 15:1-8; 16:1-21]; Jesus declares, "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed *is* he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."! [Revelation 16:15]
- The Battle of Armageddon [Ezekiel 39; Revelation 16:12,16-21; 18:3-5; 19:11-21]

RECAP: When is the Rapture?

- Considering all the aforementioned -that is what Jesus says, what Enoch, Early Christians, Daniel and Apostles said- the holy body of Christ, Yeshua's Bride, does not seem to be Raptured soon and will need to persevere and overcome!
- According to Paul, these two conditions must be met prior to Jesus' return:
 - i. Many believers will be offended and fall from the faith!
 - ii. The Antichrist will be revealed in the Temple!

RECAP: When is the Rapture?

- In addition, in line with Isaiah 28:10, “For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little”, in other words based upon numerous Bible verses while considering context, **it seems obvious -contrary to common belief- that the Saints will go through the Great Tribulation and that many will be killed. This is nothing new, as many are already persecuted in different parts of the world!**
- However, a remnant will be kept safe and nourished “in the wilderness”, while they await the Rapture! [Daniel 12:12]

RECAP: When is the Rapture?

- Only after the faithful dead in Christ, including those that were faithful and beheaded during the Great Tribulation, are resurrected (the 1st Resurrection) will those that are still alive and ready be caught up! [Revelation 20:4-5]
- You may have another opinion about the Rapture timing and that is no problem; ultimately it is about always being ready as God can call us any day!
- Nonetheless, let us be prepared for the worse and continue doing God's will and welcome God's decision for our lives, as He knows what is best for each one of us!

RECAP: When is the Rapture?

- Thessalonica Christians were persecuted and Paul encouraged them by telling them that our Lord Jesus would return in flaming fire as the Eternal Judge, again indicating that both the Rapture and 2nd Coming of Jesus as Judge on the Day of the LORD are one event!
- The studied Scriptures indicate that this event is Post-Tribulation at the last (7th) Trumpet and Pre-Wrath “for God did not appoint us to wrath”! [1 Thessalonians 5:9]
- Persevere till the end, and do not be deceived!

RECAP: When is the Rapture?

- “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
- looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God”!
[Hebrews 12:1-2]

RECAP: When is the Rapture?

- “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”! [Revelation 12:11]
- Finally, Jesus will most likely return on the Day of the Feast of Trumpets, “at the last Trump(et)”!