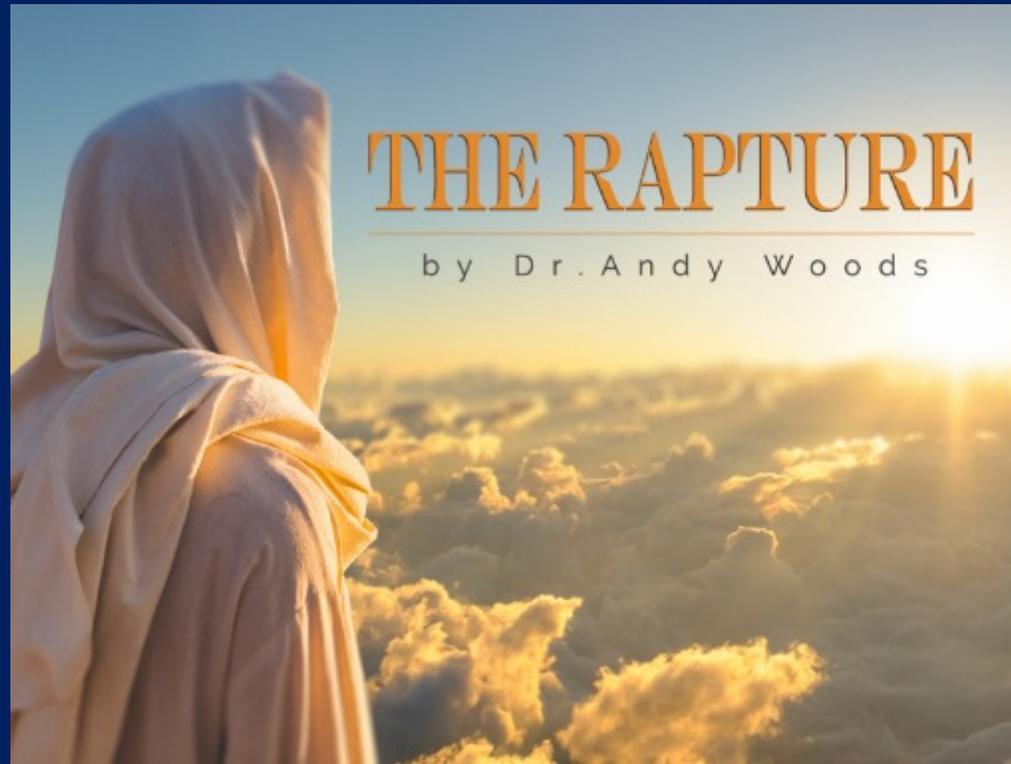


THE RAPTURE

What and When? – Part 55



Andrew Marshall Woods, Th.M., J.D., Ph.D.
Sr. Pastor, Sugar Land Bible Church

The Rapture

Course Overview

- I. What is the Rapture?
- II. When is the Rapture?
- III. Strengthening the Pre-Tribulational case
- IV. The opposing views
- V. One second after the Rapture



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What is the Rapture?



1. An important doctrine
2. Distinct from the Second Advent
3. Catching away of all living believers (1 Thess 4:17)
4. Reunion (1 Thess 4:14-16)
5. Resurrection (1 Cor 15:50-54)
6. Exemption from death (1 Cor 15:51, 54-56)
7. Instantaneous (1 Cor 15:52)
8. Mystery (1 Cor 15:51)
9. Imminent (1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)
10. Traditional doctrine now being recovered

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When is the Rapture?

7 Arguments Favoring the Pre-Tribulation View

1. Tribulation's purpose concerns Israel (Jer 30:7; Dan 9:24)
2. No biblical reference to the church on earth during the Tribulation period (Rev 4-22)
3. Church is promised an exemption from divine wrath (1 Thess 1:10; 5:9; Rom 5:9; Rev 3:10; 6:17)
4. Rapture is imminent (1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)
5. Rapture is a comfort (1 Thess 4:18)
6. Antichrist cannot come to power until the restrainer is removed (2 Thess 2:6-7)
7. Symbolic parallels (2 Peter 2:5-9)

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Strengthening the Pre-Tribulation Case

1. John 14:1-4
2. Revelation 3:10
3. First Thessalonians 4–5
4. Second Thessalonians 2:3a
5. Matthew 24–25



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When Will the Rapture Take Place Relative to the Tribulation Period?

- Pre-tribulation rapture theory
- Mid-tribulation rapture theory
- Post-tribulation rapture theory
- Pre-wrath rapture theory
- Partial rapture theory



Problems with Partial Rapturism?

1. Every divine blessing is given on the basis of His grace and not human effort (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 12:6)
2. Symbolic parallels mandate that carnal as well as sanctified Christians will be taken up in the rapture (Gen. 19:22)
3. The promise of the rapture is mentioned in Paul's letter to the carnal Corinthian church (1 Cor. 15:51)
4. A partial rapture would sever Christ's body (1 Cor 12:12-14)
5. The partial rapture view subjects believers to God's wrath (Thess 1:10)

Problems with Partial Rapturism?

6. Partial rapturism makes the Bema Seat Judgment unnecessary (1 Cor. 3:10-15)
7. Partial rapturists never objectively quantify the exact degree of faithfulness or spiritual maturity that is necessary to participate in the rapture
8. Partial rapturists appear individually biased
9. Partial rapturists dispensationally misapply Bible passages (Matt. 25:1-13)
10. Partial rapturists misapply passages promising a reward to faithful believers (Rev. 3:11)

DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES

Revelation 2–3

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The 7 Churches in Revelation

Rev. 1:11



Revelation 3:10

‘Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.



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Problems with Beginning the Sentence in Rev. 3:10 with “Because”

1. Not part of the original manuscripts: chapter & verse divisions & punctuation marks (periods, commas, or exclamation points).
2. These things were all added by later copyists.
3. Most English translations separate the two verses with a period.
4. Thus, it becomes cause for participating in the Rapture and not a cause for their enemies to worship before their feet.
5. However, the period should be placed in the middle of verse 10.
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7. Rev. 3:10b becomes an additional unconditional promise of Rapture participation beyond the promises of Rev. 2:9b.
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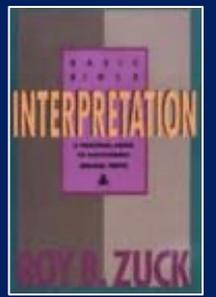
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Dr. Roy B. Zuck

Basic Bible Interpretation, p. 43.



“Stephen Langton (ca. 1155–1228), Archbishop of Canterbury, held that spiritual interpretation is superior to literal interpretation. Therefore in the Book of Ruth, the field is the Bible, Ruth represents students, and the reapers are the teachers. **Langton is the one who made chapter divisions in the Vulgate Bible.**”

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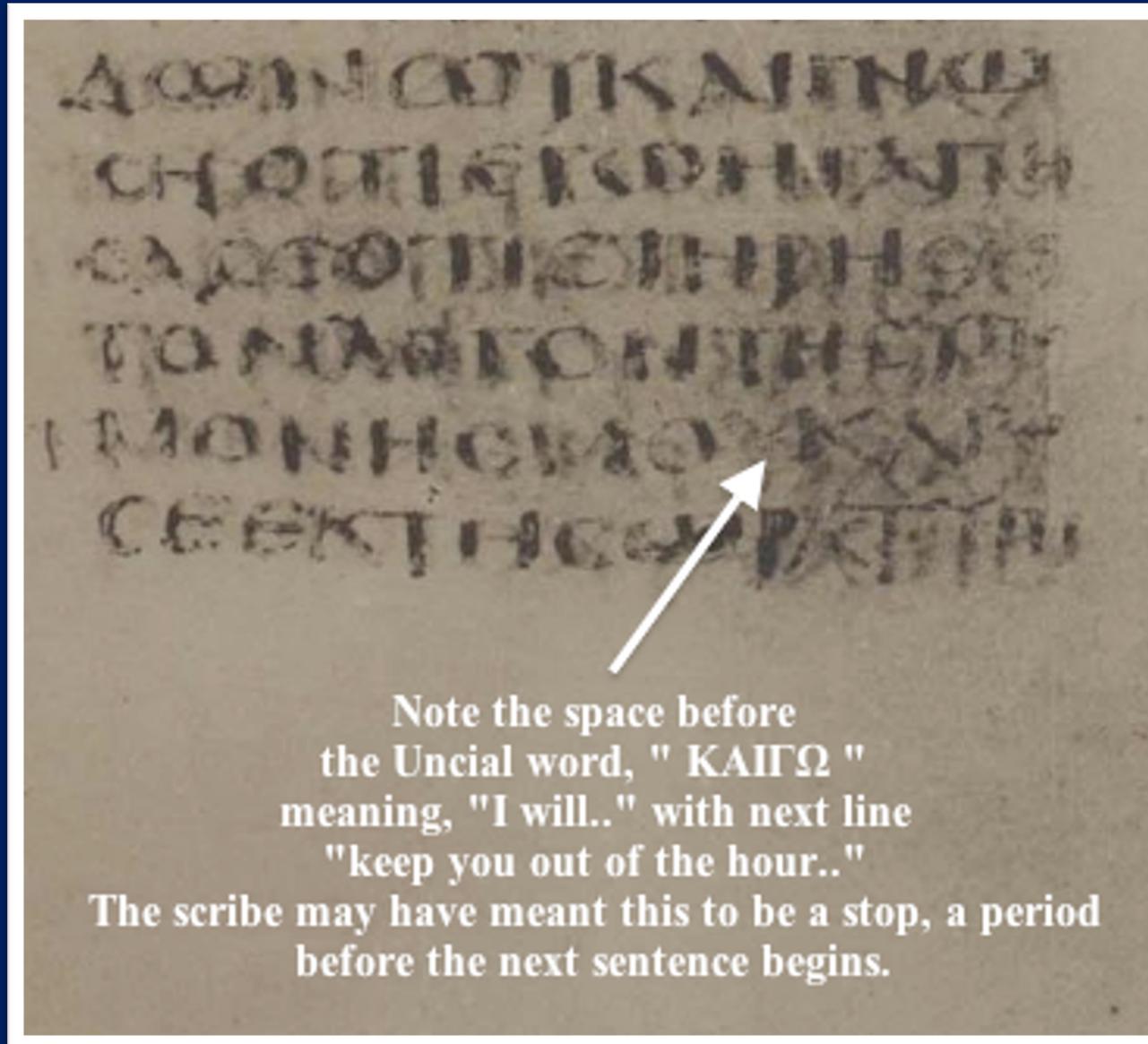
Revelation 3:9-10

MacDonald's Idiomatic Translation (MIT)

“⁹ I would put at your disposal those from the synagogue of Satan who call themselves Jews but are not; they are lying. See: I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will know that I loved you ¹⁰ because you kept my enduring word. I also will keep you from the time of trial that is about to come...”



Keith R. Moritz



Note the space before
the Uncial word, " ΚΑΙΩ "
meaning, "I will.." with next line
"keep you out of the hour.."

The scribe may have meant this to be a stop, a period
before the next sentence begins.

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Sardis	3:1-6	Dead
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Laodicea	3:14-22	Man-centered

The 7 Churches in Revelation

Rev. 1:11



Revelation 2:22

“Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds.”



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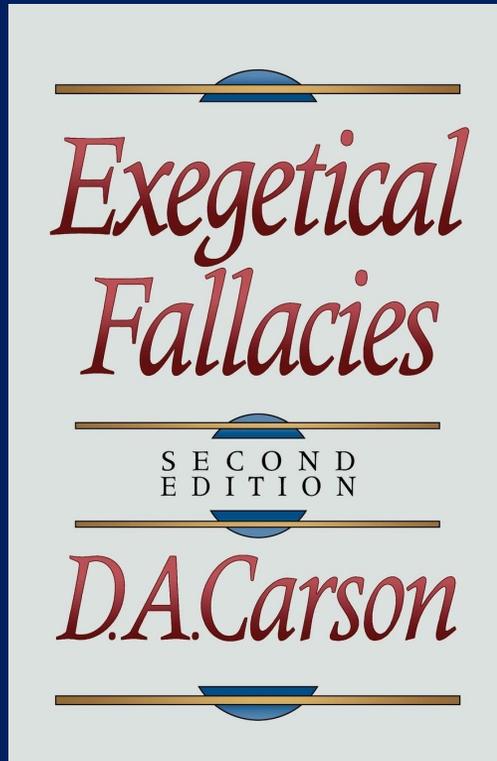
Revelation 7:13-14

“¹³ Then one of the elders responded, saying to me, ‘These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?’ ¹⁴ I said to him, ‘My lord, you know.’ And he said to me, ‘These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.’”



Illegitimate Totality Transfer

D. A. Carson, *Exegetical Fallacies*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 1996), 60-61.



“Unwarranted adoption of an expanded semantic field: The fallacy in this instance lies in the supposition that the meaning of a word in a specific context is much broader than the context itself allows and may bring with it the word’s entire semantic range. This step is sometimes called **illegitimate totality transfer.**”

George Gunn

John 14:1-3 – The Father’s House: Are We There Yet?, 30. www.pre-trib.org

“I ran out of ingredients for the salad, so I decided to make a quick run down to the store. While at the store, I left the car engine running while I made my purchase, thinking that I would be right out again. However, while I was in the store, I ran into my good friend Edward who was running for county supervisor. This resulted in my having to endure a somewhat long-winded rundown on how his campaign was running. Finally, fearing that my car would run out of gas, I ran with great haste out to the parking lot and returned home with the car surely running only on fumes.”

Great Tribulation?

Scripture	Rev 2:22	Rev 7:13-14
Circumstance	Letter to the Church	Tribulation Period
Situation	Divine Discipline	Divine Wrath
Opening Scroll	Before	After
Daniel's 70th Week	Before	After
Audience	Church-Age Saint	Tribulation Saint
Church Presence?	Yes	No
Hebrew Context?	No	Yes

Distinctions Between 144,000 & Multitude

144,000	MULTITUDE
Revelation 7:1-8	Revelation 7:9-17
Numbered	Innumerable
Jews	All nations
Sealed	Slain
Sealed <u>before</u> the Tribulation	Converted <u>out of</u> the Tribulation

Hitchcock and Ice, *The Truth Behind Left Behind*, 77

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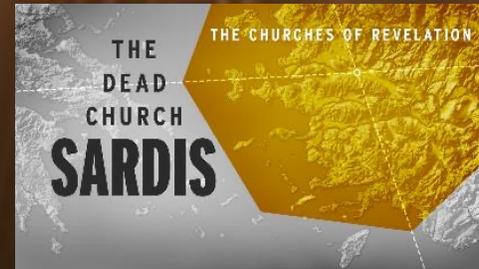
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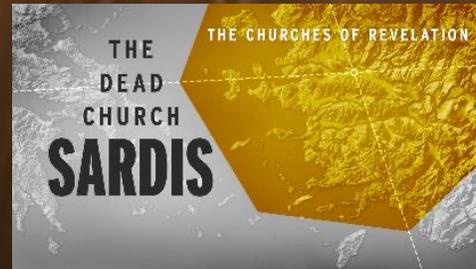
Revelation 3:2-3

“² Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. ³ So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.”



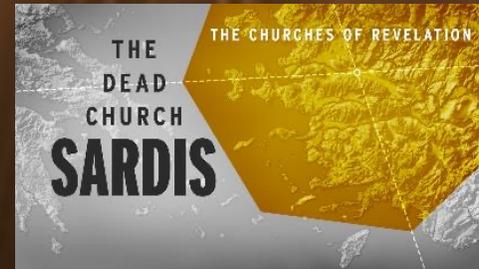
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4. Rapture is imminent (1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)
5. **Rapture is a comfort (1 Thess 4:18)**
6. Antichrist cannot come to power until the restrainer is removed (2 Thess 2:6-7)
7. Symbolic parallels (2 Peter 2:5-9)

John 14:1–4

¹ **“Do not let your heart be troubled;** believe in God, believe also in Me. ² “In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³ “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also. ⁴ “And you know the way where I am going.”



1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³ "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ 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 not . . .



1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

...precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words."



Titus 2:13

“Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.”

Hope
Hope



Hope
Hope



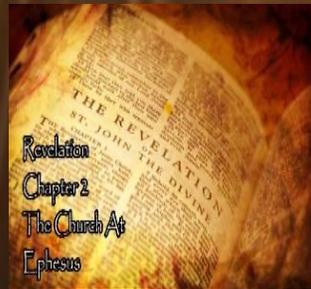
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Revelation 2:4-5

“⁴ But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵ Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent.”



CONCLUSION

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