



The Rapture

What and When?

Part 1

Dr. Andy Woods

What is the Rapture?

- An important doctrine
- Distinct from the Second Advent
- Catching away of all living believers (1 Thess 4:17)
- Reunion (1 Thess 4:14-16)
- Resurrection (1 Cor 15:50-54)
- Exemption from death (1 Cor 15:51, 54-56)
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An Important Doctrine

- Thessalonians were new believers (1 Thess 1:9)
- Rapture (1 Thess 1:10) mentioned along with the Holy Spirit (1 Thess 1:5) and conversion (1 Thess 1:9)
- Rapture (1 Thess 4:13-17) mentioned along with sanctification (1 Thess 4:3, 18; 5:23)

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Rapture Distinct from Second Advent

RAPTURE

(1 Thess 4:13-17; 1 Cor 15:51-57)

Christ comes in the air (1 Thess 4:16-17)

For His saints (1 Thess 4:15-17)

Blessing (1 Thess 4:18)

Effects only believers (1 Thess 4:16)

SECOND COMING

(Rev 19:11-16)

Christ comes to the earth (Zech 14:4)

With His saints (Rev 19:14)

Judgment (Rev 19:15)

Effects both believers and unbelievers (Rev 19:15)

Rapture Distinct from Second Advent

RAPTURE (1 Thess 4:13-17; 1 Cor 15:51-57)	SECOND COMING (Rev 19:11-16)
Invisible (1 Thess 4:16)	Visible to all (Rev 1:7)
Announced only by an archangel (1 Thess 4:16)	Involves myriads of angels (Jude 14)
Resurrection (1 Cor 15: 51)	No resurrection
Rescue of the church (1 Thess 1:10)	Rescue of Israel (Matt 23:37-39)

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Catching Away of All Living Believers (1 Thess 4:17)



- *Harpazo* = seized or caught up by force
- *Harpazo* (Greek) = *rapere* (Latin) = rapture (English)

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Reunion

(1 Thess 4:14-16)

- Thessalonians' concern (1 Thess 4:13)
- Dead Christians resurrected first
- Alive Christians resurrected second
- Both deceased and living Christians are taken to be with the Lord
- Do not grieve as the world grieves (1 Thess 4:13)
- Be comforted (1 Thess 4:18)

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Resurrection

(1 Cor 15:50-52)

- Resurrection definition
- Resurrection importance (1 Cor 15:50, 53-54)
- Resurrection of living believers (1 Cor 15:51)
- Resurrection of deceased believers (1 Cor 15:52)

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Exemption from Death (1 Cor 15:54-56)

- Enoch (Gen 5)
- Elijah (2 Kings 2)
- Christ (Acts 1:11; Rev 12:5)
- Philip (Acts 8:39)
- Paul (2 Cor 12:2, 4)
- John (Rev 4:1-2)
- Two witnesses (Rev 11)



Exemption from Death

(1 Cor 15:54-56)

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Instantaneous (1 Cor 15:52)

- Twinkling of an eye
- Flash or moment
- Split second
- *Atomos* (Greek) = atom (English)



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Mystery

(1 Cor 15:51)

- Mystery definition
- Paul's assignment
- How church age will end
- Second coming taught in both the Old and New Testaments
- Rapture taught only in the New Testament

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- Imminency definition
- James 5:8; 1 Thess 1:10; 1 Cor 1:7; Philip 3:20
- We are to be looking for Jesus Christ and not the Antichrist!
- Motivator (Holiness, Evangelism)

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Traditional Doctrine Now Being Recovered

- *Sola scriptura*
- Negative influence of Augustine and Origen
- Pseudo Ephraem (4th-6th century A.D.)

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“Why therefore do we not reject every care of earthly actions and prepare ourselves for the meeting of the Lord Christ, so that he may draw us from the confusion, which overwhelms all the world...For all the saints and the elect of god are gathered, prior to the tribulation that is to come, and are taken to the Lord lest they see the confusion that is to overwhelm the world because of our sins.”

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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

RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISON

PRETRIBULATION



RAPTURE



7 YEAR
TRIBULATION

1000 years
Millennium

MIDTRIBULATION



RAPTURE



7 YEAR
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POSTTRIBULATION



RAPTURE & REVELATION



7 YEAR
TRIBULATION

1000 years
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PREWRATH



RAPTURE



No Wrath

Beginning of
Sorrows

Great
Tribulation

1000 years
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“I personally do not believe that by the year 2020, any credible person will be teaching the secret pre-trib. rapture doctrine. I think the events that are coming in the next five years will utterly destroy the doctrine.” -- Rick Wiles

When is the Rapture? Seven Arguments Favoring the Pre-Tribulation View

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The Tribulation's Concerns Israel (Jer 30:7; Dan 9:24)



- Jer 30:7; Dan 9:24
- God uses Israel and the church on a mutually exclusive basis

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Revelation 1:19

- Seen (1)
- Are (2–3)
- After these things (4–22)

The Missing Church

- Rev 4-19
- Rev 13:9
- Revelation's Jewish nature



God's Work Through Israel

- Revelation 7-144,000 Jews
- Revelation 11-Two Jewish witnesses
- Revelation 12-Israel flees

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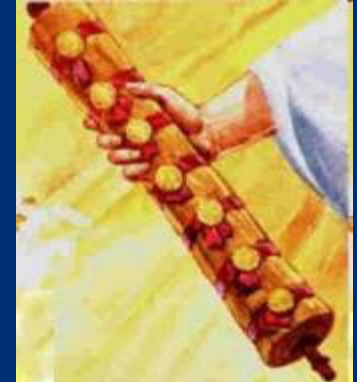
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Promised Exemption from Divine Wrath

- The promise (1 Thess 1:10; 5:9; Rom 5:9; Rev 3:10)
- Tribulation = divine wrath (Rev 6:16-17; 11:18; 15:1, 7; 16:19)

God's Role in Redemption (Rev 5)

- Seven sealed scroll (5:1)
- John weeps (5:2-4)
- Christ is qualified to open the scroll (5:5-6)
- Christ takes the scroll (5:7)
- Christ praised by various entities (5:8-14)





Rev. 6:16-17

"The verb *ēlethen* ("has come") is aorist indicative, referring to a previous arrival of wrath, not something that is about to take place. Men see the arrival of this day at least as early as the cosmic upheavals that characterize the sixth seal (6:12-14), but upon reflection they probably recognize that it was already in effect with the death of one-fourth of the population (6:7-8), the worldwide famine (6:5-6), and the global warfare (6:3-4). The rapid sequence of all of these events could not escape notice, but the light of their true explanation does not dawn upon human consciousness until the severe phenomena of the sixth seal arrive."

1st Six Seals (Revelation 6)

- 6:1-2 – Advent of antichrist
- 6:3-4 – War
- 6:5-6 – Famine
- 6:7-8 – Death
- 6:9-11 – Martyrdoms
- 6:12-17 – Cosmic disturbances

Pretribulationism is not Escapism

- Trials (John 16:33)
- Man's wrath (2 Tim 3:12)
- Satan's wrath (Eph 6:11-12)
- World's wrath (John 15:18-19)

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Comfort



- John 14:1; 1 Thess 4:18; Titus 2:13
- Other rapture views are not comforting since they place the church into divine wrath

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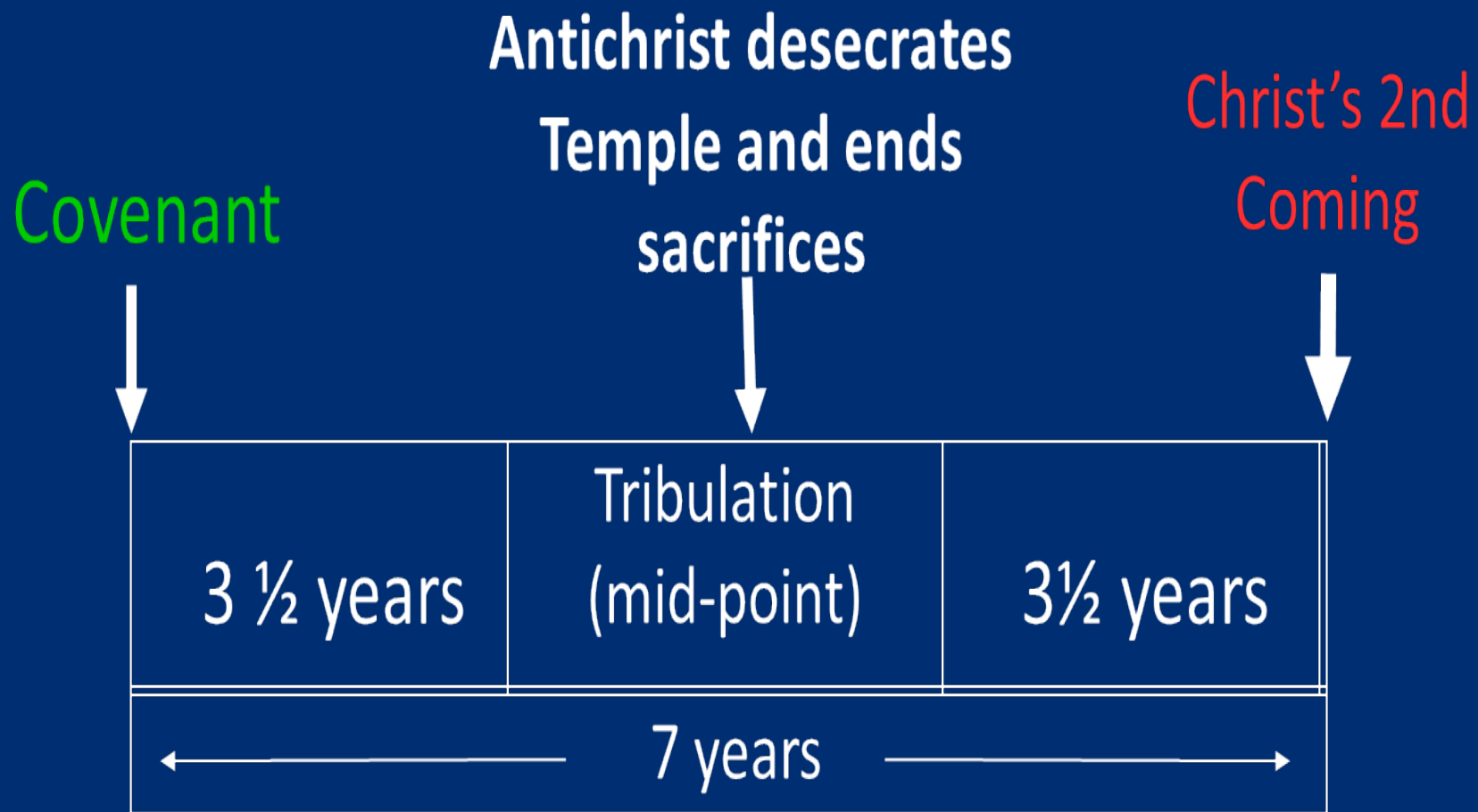
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DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



Restrainer Must First be Removed

- Restrainer holds back the Antichrist (2 Thess 2:6-7)
- Restrainer = the omnipotent Holy Spirit (2 Thess 2:9)
- Holy Spirit permanently indwells all Christians (John 14:16; Rom 8:9)
- Spirit indwelt Christians must first be removed prior to the Antichrist's advent

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Trinity

Father

Son

Holy
Spirit



Three Reasons Why the Restrainer is the Holy Spirit (2 Thessalonians 2:6-7)

- The Holy Spirit is omnipotent
- The Holy Spirit view handles well the switch in gender from the neuter (vs. 6) to the masculine (vs. 7)
- The Holy Spirit is active in the world (Gen. 6:3; John 16:7-11)



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Late Date (A.D. 95)

“But if it had been necessary to announce his name plainly at the present time, it would have been spoken by him who saw the apocalypse. For it was not seen long ago, but almost in our own time, at the end of the reign of Domitian.”

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Symbolic Parallels



- 2 Peter 2:5-9
- Enoch taken before the flood (Gen 5:24)
- Noah protected before the flood (Gen 7:6-7)
- Lot taken before judgment upon Sodom (2 Pet 2:7; Gen 19:22)

Conclusion

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