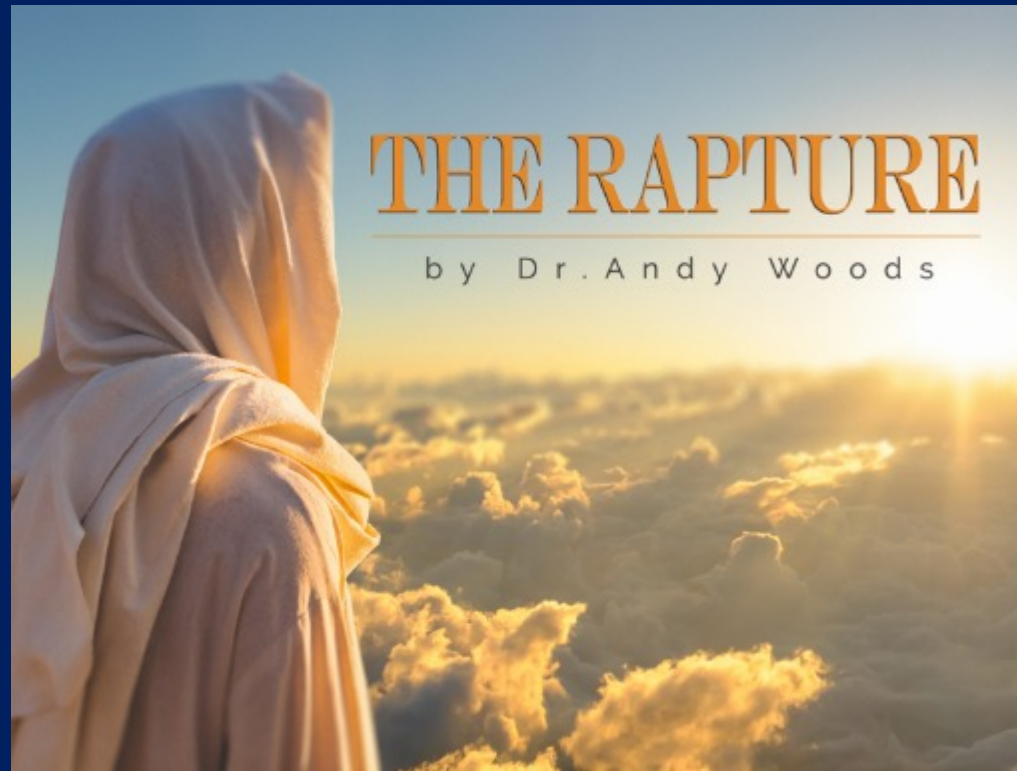


THE RAPTURE

What and When? – Part 54



Andrew Marshall Woods, Th.M., J.D., PhD.
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



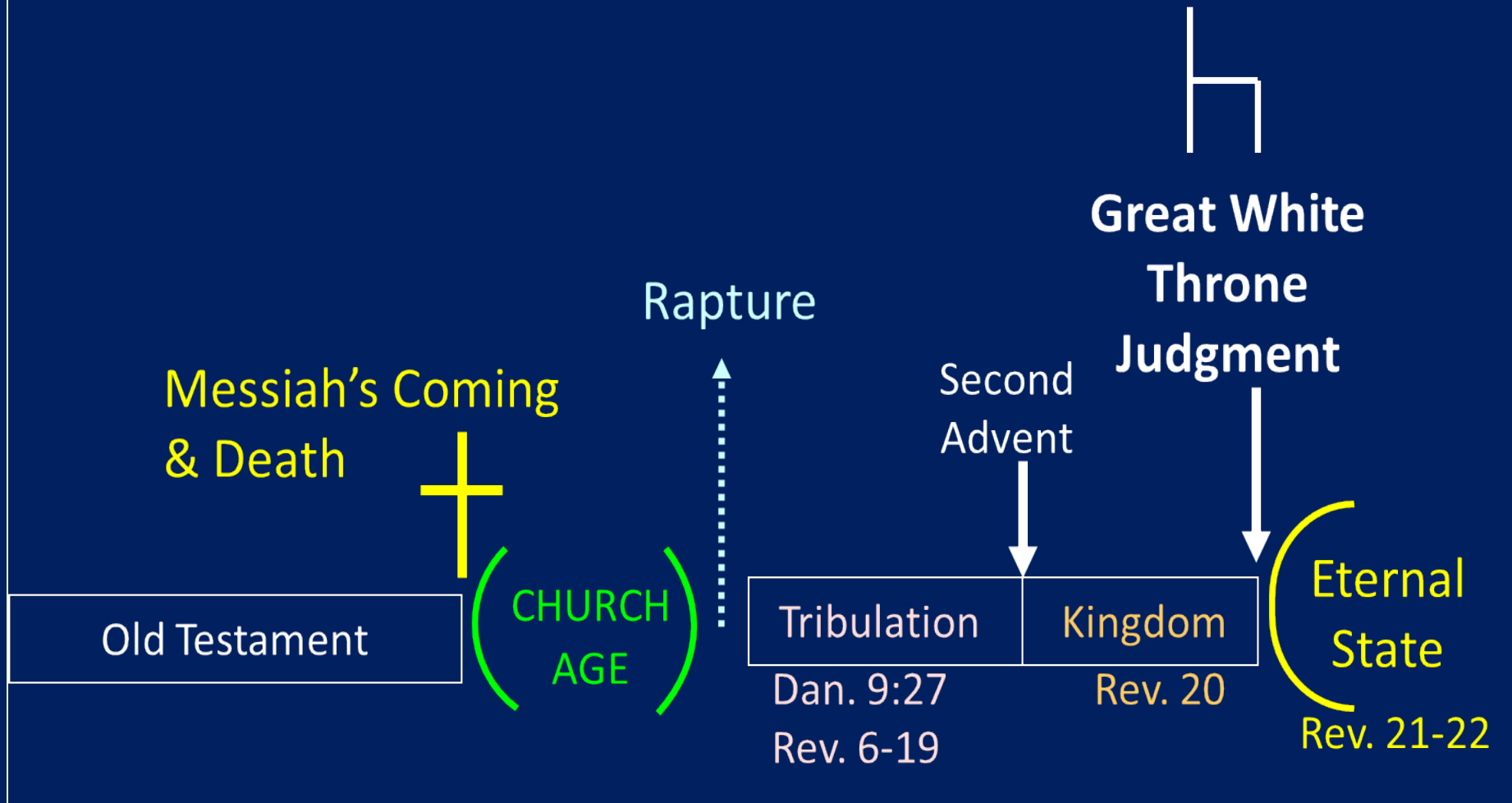
Problems with Partial Rapturism?

1. Every divine blessing (Grace Package) 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)**

Prophecy Panorama



Why?

- Not to judge sin (John 19:30)
- Not to determine salvation (John 5:24)
- But rather to give or not give rewards



Scripture's Five Crowns

(Rev 4:10: 3:11; 2 John 8)

SCRIPTURE	CROWN	PURPOSE
1 Cor. 9:24-27	Incorruptible	Gaining mastery over the flesh
1 Thess. 2:19-20	Rejoicing	Soul winning
Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10	Life	Enduring trials
1 Pet. 5:2-4	Glory	Shepherding God's people
2 Tim. 4:8	Righteousness	Longing for His appearing

1 Corinthians 3:15

“If any man’s (carnal believer’s) work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

Work That Burns Is Not Rewarded

“If his work is burned up, he will suffer the

loss. However, he will be saved, though it will be like going through a fire.”
1 Corinthians 3:15 GWT



www.PrayerThoughts.com



1 Corinthians 9:24-27

“²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.
²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; ²⁷ but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.”



2 John 8

“Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.”

Work That Burns Is Not Rewarded

“If his work is burned up, he will suffer the **loss**.

However, he will be saved, though it will be like going through a fire.”

I Corinthians 3:15 GWT



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Revelation 3:11

“I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.”





Samuel Hoyt

“The Judgment Seat of Christ in Theological Perspective,”
Part 2, *Bibliotheca Sacra*, electronic media.

“The judgment seat of Christ might be compared to a commencement ceremony. At graduation there is some measure of disappointment and remorse that one did not do better and work harder. However, at such an event the overwhelming emotion is joy, not remorse. The graduates do not leave the auditorium weeping because they did not earn better grades. Rather, they are thankful that they have been graduated, and they are grateful for what they did achieve. To overdo the sorrow aspect of the judgment seat of Christ is to make heaven hell. To under do the sorrow aspect is to make faithfulness inconsequential” (underlining mine).

Inheritance vs. Reward

Distinctive?	GIFT	REWARD
Received by?	All believers	Some believers
Basis?	God's child	Faithfulness
Example?	Inheritance	Crown
Scripture?	Colossians 1:12	1 Cor. 3:15 1 Cor. 9:24-27 2 John 8 Rev. 3:11

2 Timothy 4:8

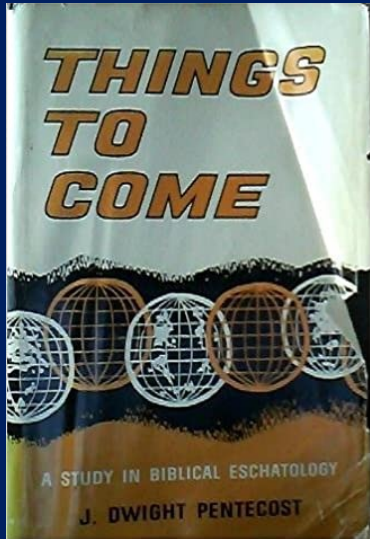
“In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”





J. Dwight Pentecost

Things to Come, Page 163



“This [2 Tim. 4:8] is used by the adherents of this position to show that the rapture must be a partial one. However, it is to be noticed that the subject of the translation is not in view in this passage, but rather the question of reward. The Second Advent was intended by God to be a purifying hope (1 John 3:3). Because of such purifying a new life is produced because of the expectancy of the Lord's return. Therefore, those that truly ‘love his appearing’ will experience a new kind of life which will bring a reward.”

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)
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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 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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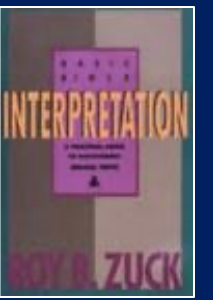
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Dr. Roy B. Zuck

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...”



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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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.”



Revelation 2:22

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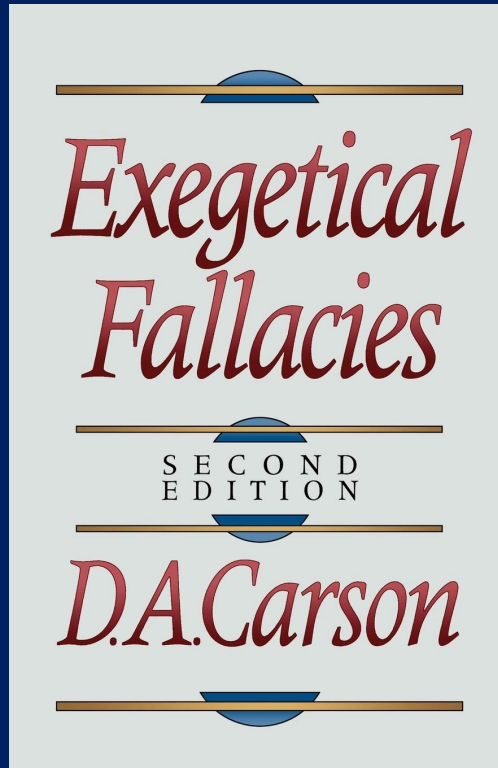
Revelation 7:13-14

“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.”

CONCLUSION

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