

## **RAPTURE – TRUTH or heresy?**

To begin with this study, we need to be AWARE of the following fact . . .

The “Rapture” doctrine did not exist before the days of John Darby. Research shows that he invented this theory in 1830 after Messiah. Before this, no one had ever heard of a secret rapture doctrine.

### **What we ALSO have to take in consideration, is the following facts . . .**

What is the doctrine of the secret rapture? Simply put, it is the teaching that Messiah will return twice! First there will be a **secret, unheralded return in which He will “rapture” all “Christians”, both living and dead, off to heaven to be present there during the time that the Great Tribulation is taking place on earth.** Years later Messiah will return openly in power and esteem to destroy the wicked and to establish His Kingdom.

**The term "rapture" is used nowhere in Scripture.** It is a term that has been **invented by men and applied by them to what they term "the first phase" of the Second Coming.** Scripture, however, **nowhere says that Messiah’s coming will occur in phases.**

**Matthew 24** teaches us about the events that will lead up to the second coming of our Master יהושע Yehusha Messiah.

#### **Matt 24:13**

“But he who shall have endured to the end shall be saved”.

Notice that Messiah Yehusha is saying – those who endure TO the end. He did NOT say those who endure until the tribulation begins.

See also **Mat 10:22** and **Mar 13:13**

Rev 3:10 confirms this:

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“Because you have guarded My Word of endurance, I also shall [guard you from the hour of trial] which shall come upon [all] the world, to [try] those who dwell on the earth.

NOTE that the Bride (set-apart ones guarding The FATHER and SON’S commands) will be GUARDED in the hour of trial – she will NOT be “raptured”, but go THROUGH the trial. This trial will come upon ALL the world – every human still alive when the tribulation begins. Read also **Rev 2:10.**

#### **Matt 24:21-23**

“For then there shall be great distress, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. “And if those days were not shortened, no flesh would be saved, but for the sake of the chosen ones those days shall be shortened. “If anyone then says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe.

For the sake of the CHOSEN ONES those days (of the tribulation) will be SHORTENED – the chosen ones will NOT be “raptured” prior to these events.

Who is Yehusha Messiah talking to? His Followers! And what is He telling us? Did He say anything that His followers would not be here? NO! What He is doing, is trying to prepare His followers by telling us when the ‘great tribulation’ comes - the persecution will be so bad that the days will be shortened for the sake of the elect, if not then no ‘FLESH’ would be saved!

In **verses 23 to 28** we read that even the elect would be *deceived* into thinking that the false messiah is the TRUE (Hebrew) Messiah. But He has told us that there will be great signs and wonders. When He comes He will not be in some secret place.

The 'rapture' doctrine teaches just the opposite - that Messiah will come secretly for His Bride, leaving all unbelievers in the dark about where their loved ones vanished to. What will happen when He comes . . . is that everyone will see and many will mourn and be ashamed. They would want to hide, because they already thought He was here!

There is **no secret return of the true Messiah**. The 'son of perdition (man of lawlessness),' shows up at the 6th trumpet and the TRUE MESSIAH comes at the last trumpet - the 7th. He is not coming back two or three times, ONLY ONCE.

What is extremely disturbing - is that the majority of believers will be led to believe they are not going to be here during the tribulation. So when the false messiah shows up (in the name of Jesus) many will be tricked into thinking this one is the real one, even if it were possible the elect also.

**1Corinthians, 15:50-55** teaches us when this will take place - at the last trump (NOT the first, sparing the Bride of Messiah of going through the tribulation). These verses also teach us that the *pre-tribulation* and *mid-tribulation rapture* are nothing more than *heresy*.

These verses go along with **1Thessalonians 4:17**. People have this false hope that they will be removed from the earth. They have this illusion that, when the FALSE "rapture" takes place - all that will remain for their loved ones is their neatly folded clothes, wedding rings, glasses, etc.

The fifth seal, described symbolically in **Revelation 6:9–11**, describes a future martyrdom of set apart believers (those who guard the commands of ELOhim). Messiah Yahusha referred to this in **Matthew 24, verses 9 and 21**. He talked about a time when His followers would be persecuted and even killed. In **Jeremiah 30:7** we read of a time called "Jacob's trouble" described as the worst ever. **Daniel 12:1** also describes a "time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation." This is an almost identical expression to that used by Messiah in **Matthew 24:21**. There surely cannot be several times, each being the worst ever. These verses are all describing the same event!

**Revelation chapter 12** teaches us that the woman (spiritual Yisra'el – those guarding the commands of Almighty YHUUH) WILL GO THROUGH the TRIBULATION. She will FLEE to the wilderness, and will be nourished at a place PREPARED for her beforehand by ELOhim (Almighty).

In **verse 13** we find that after satan is cast back down to the earth, he launches all-out persecution upon the set-apart ones. At this time, we are told, the woman (spiritual Yisra'el) will be taken to a place in the wilderness to be supernaturally nourished and protected during the final three-and-a-half year period preceding Messiah's return. Note, however, that all believers are NOT taken to this place of safety. Rather, we learn in **verse 17** that satan then goes to make war with the "remnant." These are clearly true set-apart believers because they are described as those who "keep the commandments of YAHUAH and have the testimony of YAHUSHA Messiah."

### **Why are many not protected from satan's wrath?**

The answer is found in a careful study of **Revelation 3**. Here, in messages to the last two of the seven churches, those at Philadelphia and Laodicia, we find a contrast between two different groups of ELOhim's people at the end time. The assembly at Philadelphia is used to characterize those who are zealously going through the open door to witness the besorah/good news that Messiah has set before them. The **assembly at Laodicia** is characterized as **being lukewarm, lacking in zeal**.

They are **complacent, prideful and self-centered**. It is upon this group, that YAHUAH will allow satan to pour-out his wrath. This is a last resort on YAHUAH's part, as these people have not been stirred to repent of their lawlessness by any prior event.

**Revelation chapter 9 (especially verses 3 to 6)** also teaches us that those who have the SEAL of ELOhim (bearing the Father's Name (YAHUAH) and guarding His commands) will NOT be harmed when the rest of men - who do NOT have Elohim's seal are tortured for five months. See also **Rev 7:3**.

**Revelation 7 (verse 14)** teaches us that the Bride (those who were clothed in white robes, washed by the blood of the Lamb Yahusha - who have PREPARED themselves) came OUT OF the great distress (tribulation) – once again CONFIRMING that the Bride will GO THROUGH the tribulation and NOT be “raptured” prior to it.

The parable of the ten virgins (**Matt 25**) teaches us to **STAY AWAKE/ALERT**. The five wise virgins, who had oil in their lamps stayed and waited for their Messiah – they were ready and prepared for His coming. The five foolish virgins were NOT alert, as they were deceived by the lawless one and became complacent. When the Bridegroom comes, the ones that prepared themselves and were ready will go in with Him to the marriage ceremony.

**Rev 19:7-8**

“Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him praise, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife prepared (**made herself ready – cleansed herself from all lawlessness and had oil in their lamps**) herself.” And to her it was given to be dressed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the set-apart ones (**those guarding the commands/Torah of Almighty YAHUAH**).

**1Thessalonians 4:17** is the one verse that many base the FALSE “*rapture*” teaching on. This verse has been taken out of context, but after we take a look into it (**verses 13-18**), we get a fuller picture and understanding of what exactly Sha’ul (Paul) is telling us. Remember how Yahusha Messiah told us that when he comes everyone will know about it - there will be no secret return, but it will be open for every eye to see. Now we know that He will return at the trump of His Father Yahuah. We learned earlier in **1Cor 15:52**, that this trump is the very LAST trumpet.

According to, The **New Strong's Complete Dictionary of Bible Words** . . .

‘caught’ means: ‘to grasp, possess, to take, to snatch together, to catch.’ This is where many get the word “*rapture*” from, even though this word cannot be found anywhere in the original Scriptures (written in Hebrew).

The word, ‘clouds’ mean:

‘flash of lightning, hollow of hand: paw; sole of feet, leader, raising mist, fog, firmament.’

The word ‘air’ means: ‘breath, wind, life-spirit, sky.’

We know Yahusha Messiah said that when He comes everyone will know, as lightning comes from the east even to the west - so shall His coming be. Notice that the word clouds mean ‘flash of lightning’. Notice how Sha’ul tells us that we will be gathered to Yahusha, and we also know from **1Cor 15:52**, that we will be changed, in an instant twinkle of an eye - we will leave this corruptible body and put on a new non-corruptible body. This body is our ‘spiritual body’.

**Therefore, when Yahusha comes on the clouds [like lightening], we who remain at the last trump will be changed in an instant and meet him [in the spirit]!**

Looking at [2Thessalonians chapter 2: 1-17](#) . . .

Sha'ul is telling us about that great day when we will be gathered together with our Messiah.

Notice he says two very important things:

(a) that day shall not come ... except there comes a falling away first.

(b) that man of sin be revealed - the son of perdition.

The falling away is the *great apostasy (falling away into lawlessness)*. This one verse alone throws out the *whole heresy* of the *pre-tribulation belief*. That day will not come until after the man of sin is revealed. Many *pre-tribulation believers* believe we will be taken before the *tribulation*. That cannot be, because the man of sin must be revealed **FIRST**.

### **A secret rapture?**

Scripture does **NOT teach such a thing!** It does teach, however, that Yahusha Messiah is going to come back in power and esteem to rule this world and bring salvation to His people. We can and should be aware of the signs of the times, not ignorant to the events that are going to plunge the world into the darkest time in its history.

May all the set-apart ones be ready and prepared for the coming tribulation – that we will GO THROUGH, but be protected by our Master at a place He has prepared for us.