

What Does The Bible Teach About the Rapture?



What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

- Much speculation, confusion, and even debate exists over the topic of the Rapture.
- Supposedly spoken of in the Book of Revelation, this topic is claimed by many in the religious world to be the way in which Satan will ultimately be defeated, the Saints will live with Christ, and the world will end.

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

- The goal of our study this morning is to understand the following:
 1. Define the Rapture.
 2. Determine the Biblical Accuracy of the Rapture.
 3. Demonstrate from a Biblical Standpoint what Christ Will Do upon His return.

Defining the Rapture



What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

- The doctrine of the rapture has been around for hundreds of years and has been a topic that continues to surface again and again in recent years.
- It has been made popular by writers like Hal Lindsey who wrote a book called "*The Late Great Planet Earth*" and from the more recent books and movies of the "*Left Behind*" Series.

**Most of us at some point or another
have seen a sign or a bumper sticker
that looks a lot like this:**

WARNING

**in case of rapture
this car will be unmanned**

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

So What Exactly is the Rapture?

- The word “**Rapture**” comes from a Latin word – *rapio*- meaning to “**Seize**” or “**Snatch Up**”
- The Basic doctrine of the rapture contends that at some point soon Christ will return to earth in a silent way to “rapture” the Saints and the Righteous who have died.

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

- This will then trigger a seven year tribulation, in which the Anti-Christ will rise and those who remain on earth will suffer. This will all be culminated by the Battle of Armageddon.
- Following the Battle of Armageddon it is then contended that Christ will begin His 1,000 year reign while sitting on David's throne in Jerusalem.

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

- There are, however, some issues with this doctrine that provide major Biblical contradictions.
- To begin with, the word “**Rapture**” itself provides a very large problem ...

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

- The Bible, The Old and New Testaments, were written in three languages total:
 1. Hebrew (Majority of the Old Testament)
 2. Aramaic (Portions of Daniel and Ezra)
 3. Koine Greek (The New Testament)

There is **no Latin in the Bible**, and **–*rapio*–** is Latin. Furthermore there is no Hebrew, Greek, or Aramaic equivalent (as used in the same way) to the word “rapture” in the Bible.

A Misunderstanding of Sorts

THE REVELATION OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE.

CHAPTER I.

*ation to the seven churches of Asia, signified
middlesticks. 7 The coming of Christ. 14
majesty.*

of Jesus Christ, which
him, to shew unto his
ich must shortly come
at and signified it by
vant John:

of the word of God,
Jesus Christ, and

adeth, and the
this

day, and heard behind me
as of a trumpet,
11 Saying, I am Alpha and
first and the last: and, Who
write in a book, and send
seven churches which are
Ephesus, and unto
Pergamos, and unto
Sardis, and unto
Laodicea.

12

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

- The word Rapture is not found anywhere in the Bible.
- Overall this doctrine comes from a basic misunderstanding of several Biblical verses, including the books of: **1 Corinthians, 1 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 John, and The Book of Revelation.**

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

- We can confidently say that some Scriptures are hard to understand.
- We can also equally say that the Bible can be misinterpreted and incorrectly taught.
- This is confirmed by both Jesus and the Apostle Peter.

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

And consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures.

~ 2 Peter 3:15-16

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: *‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’* and, *‘In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’*”

~ **Matthew 4:5-6 (Psalm 91:11-12)**

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

Jesus said to him, “It is written again, *‘You shall not tempt the LORD your God.’*”

~ **Matthew 4:7**

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

- The verses that are commonly used to justify the rapture as a Biblically accurate doctrine are done so according to the standards set forth by Peter.
- Let's examine and explain these verses used...

ANTICHRIST

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

- Supposedly the man or individual controlled by Satan during the seven years of tribulation.
- This person will supposedly be Satan's puppet, possessed by him and acting out for Him.
- Over the years there has been great speculation as to whom this individual would be...

EMPEROR NERO



ATILLA THE HUN



**VLAD
THE
IMPALER**



JOSEPH STALIN



ADOLF HITLER





BARNEY

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

- The title **Antichrist** is actually found in the Bible.

Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the **Antichrist** is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

~ **1 John 2:18**

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

- We must remember that John was writing to a particular audience in a real place and time during history.
- The church was facing persecution from Jews and from Rome, where Christians were being fed to lions and burned alive to light Nero's evening garden parties.

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

- However to be an Antichrist in the sense that we see it used in the Bible one must only be **AGAINST CHRIST.**
- This would include being against Christ Himself, the church, The Word, and God The Father.
- According to the very definition of the word, Satan is an Antichrist, and at one point so was the Apostle Paul.

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

“Even now many antichrists have come,” shows that the title **DOES NOT BELONG TO ONE INDIVIDUAL ALONE**, but to all who stand against Christ and the Church.

The Title “Antichrist” according to its biblical definition is not what premillennialists claim it to be, John tells us that it can include anyone...

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is **antichrist** (against Christ) who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

~ **1 John 2:22-23**

Thousand Year Reign



What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

- According to advocates of the rapture, Following the Battle of Armageddon the Thousand Year Reign of Christ on Earth will begin.
- The belief that both of these events are literal events comes from a misunderstanding of the Book of Revelation.

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

- The Book of Revelation is a Divine book that is largely represented in Old Testament Style Apocalyptic language.
- This means that the book conveys its message to the Seven Churches of Asia Minor, to whom it was written, in figures and symbols that would have been understood to them.

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

- At the time this book was written either Emperor Domitian, or Nero ruled the Empire of Rome.
- Both men launched heavy persecutions of the Lord's church during their reigns.

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

- The theme of the Book of Revelation deals with the church and its victory and endurance despite persecution.
- The vast majority of the Book of Revelation has come to pass, however, there is still great application left for the church today.

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

- The Symbolic verses that are taken out of context and implied in a literal sense are:

And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

*who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him **(Hebrews 4:12; John 1:1-3)** who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.*

~ Revelation 19:19-21

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

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.

~ **Revelation 20:4**

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

- This is not talking about a literal battle no more than it is speaking of a literal reign.
- Satan's torture of the church through the Jews would be ended in the Fall of Jerusalem, and Rome's persecution would be ended with Domotians death.
- The thousand years is simply symbolic of a complete period of time.

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

~ 2 Peter 3:8

This is figurative, Peter does not mean that God views 24 hours as a thousand years. It is symbolic to show that God is not bound by time as are we...

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

- If a literal Battle of Armageddon and the One Thousand Year Reign were truly part of God's plan then why do we only read of it in the Book of Revelation?
- Does it not stand to reason that this would be spelled out plainly in the Old Testament and the New Testament?

The Rapture



What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

- This is the silent taking of the Saints, by Jesus Christ without warning.
- Advocates of the rapture claim that cars on the road will suddenly have no drivers, airplanes will fall from the sky, piles of clothes once occupied by people will be littering the streets.

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

Advocates of this doctrine claim that the rapture is taught in **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**

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

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

- **Some Things to consider:**
 1. This is not a quiet taking, it is heralded by the trumpet, and the shout of the archangel.
 2. If it is the beginning of the rapture then why does Paul not go on to explain the rest?
 3. It is **never stated anywhere** that Christ will set foot on the earth again (not even in Revelation)
 4. It is stated that all people will be taken, not just some.

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

- The key elements of the Rapture are easily explained:

Antichrist – Not a single person but all who oppose Christ.

The Defeat of Satan and the Thousand Year Reign - are Figurative and Symbolic of events that have already happened.

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

- **The Rapture** – Actually the second coming of Christ to receive the Saints and Judge the World.

The Rapture does not stand up to be true from a logical, grammatical, and especially biblical standpoint. It is a manmade doctrine and therefore it must be rejected.

What does the Bible Teach about the Rapture? It doesn't because it is not in the Bible.

What Does the Bible Teach?

19 And when even was come, he went out of the city, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.

20 And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.

21 And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away.

22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against

11 And the disciples asked him, saying, Lord, when shall these things be? and what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?

12 But he said unto them, That no man knoweth the day or the hour, which the Son of man shall come.

13 But take heed to yourselves, lest at any time ye shall be counted unworthy to stand before the Son of man.

14 And they answered him, saying, Lord, we know not what day, nor what hour thou shalt come.

15 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the Son of man shall come in like manner as ye see him go.

16 For as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

17 For as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

18 For as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

19 For as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

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22 For as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

23 For as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

24 For as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

25 For as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

CHAPTER 12

1 And he began to speak unto them by parables. A certain man planted a vineyard, and digged a hedge about it, and digged a place for the winefat, and built a tower, and went into a far country. (rented) bandmen, and went into a far country. (rented) 2 And at the season he sent the husbandmen a servant, that he might receive from the

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

- When Christ Returns:
 1. The Shout of the Archangel, and the trumpet of God announce the Second Coming of Christ and the dead in Christ will rise first (**1 Thessalonians 4:16**).
 2. The remaining people will then meet the Lord in the air (**1 Thessalonians 4:17**).

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

3. At this point we are changed in the twinkling of an eye and given a spiritual body (**1 Corinthians 15:52-56**).
4. Mankind Will Be Judged (**John 5:22; Romans 14:10; Matthew 7:21-23**)
5. The physical world destroyed (**2 Peter 3:10-12**)
6. Christ delivers the Kingdom to God (**1 Corinthians 15:24-28**)

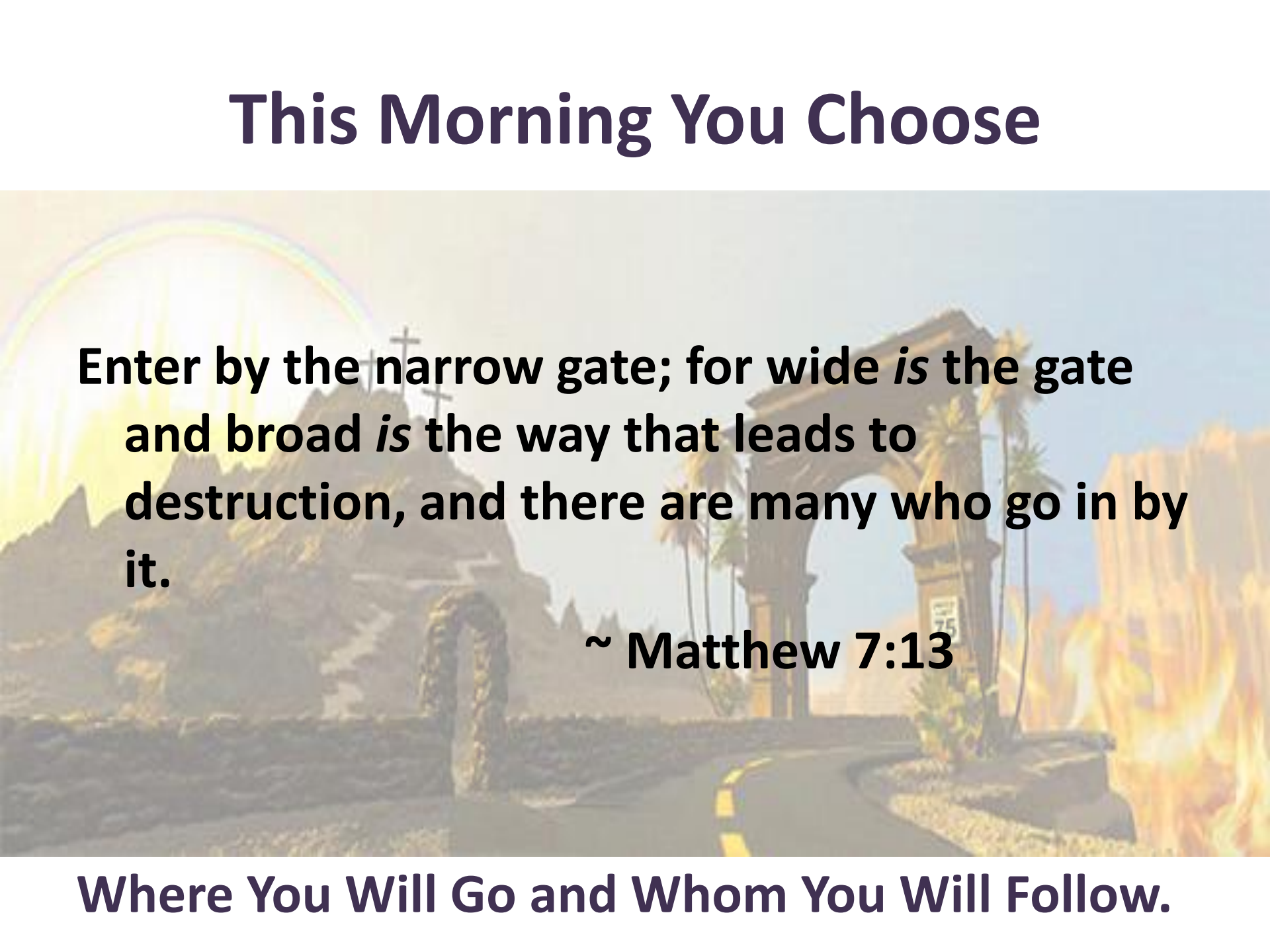
What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

- There is no speculation in this.
- The Bible clearly states what will happen when Christ returns.
- We have no need for stories, or manmade creeds about His second coming because the Bible is crystal clear on this.

What The Bible Teach About the Rapture?

- Our responsibility is to make sure that when he does return that we have either lived a life of service to Him as a Christian if we have passed, or that we are still doing so if He returns while we live.
- It is our choice to accept Him or reject Him, to follow His Word or follow the creeds and doctrines of men...

This Morning You Choose



Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

~ Matthew 7:13

Where You Will Go and Whom You Will Follow.