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RAPTURE WEEKS



Why the Rapture must be AFTER

“First, Last, Keep, After” - words matter

Christopher Mantei - August 24, 2020

My rapture journey...

- Raised Catholic but always loved Revelation and Daniel
- Checked out all the end times books from my local Library
- The “smart people” all agreed so I believed and taught pre-trib rapture from 1995-97
- God asked me “what makes you better than them?”
- Which Christians were “Christian enough” to be raptured anyway?



It was time to go back to school.

Turns out, it's actually very easy
to understand when we let
God speak for Himself!

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LAST means LAST

“The Last Trumpet”

1 Corinthians 15:50-54

1 Corinthians 15:12-58 (50-58)

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on

incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?”

The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. 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 precede those who have fallen asleep. 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. 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. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman.

And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day.

We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

Paul was quoting from Daniel 12:1-3

At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.

Last means Last

- 1 Cor. 15:50-58 - Last Trumpet. v12-49 also: flesh vs resurrection bodies
- Last Trumpet is the 7th (Joshua 6 and Rev. 8-11)
- Last Trumpet detailed in Rev. 10:7 and Rev. 11:15-19 - Mystery of God finished = The Church - one new man; fullness of the Gentiles has come into Israel - Rom. 11:25, 1 Cor. 2
- 1 Thes. 4:13-18 - dead in Christ “come with Him” - “caught up together” = gathering. 5:1-11 - SAME THOUGHT FROM ch. 4 - same “time” as the “Day of the Lord”, “Wrath of God”, - “wake or sleep will be together” connection.
- Dan 12:1-3 - sleep and awake

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FIRST means FIRST

“The First Resurrection”

Revelation 20:4-6

Revelation 20:4-6

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 came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

Revelation 6:9-11

When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

Revelation 7:9-14

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen.” Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?” And I said to him, “Sir, you know.” So he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

The “First Resurrection”
includes all Christian martyrs
who were killed during the
Great Tribulation

John 6:39-40, 44, 54

This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day...No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day...Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 11:21-25

Now Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I AM the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.”

First means First

- Rev. 20:4-6 - First Resurrection includes those beheaded in the great tribulation
- Rev 6:9-11 vs Rev. 7:9-14 - white robes are martyrs
- John 6:39-40, 44, 54 (cf John 11:21-24)
- Rapture/Gathering = Resurrection = Last Day



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KEEP means KEEP

“I will Keep you”

Revelation 3:10

Revelation 3:8-11

I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name... Because you have kept (tereo) My command to persevere, I also will keep (tereo) you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

tēreō

verb, strongs #G5083

“to keep watch over, guard, observe”

John 17:13-16

But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep (tereo) them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

Revelation 16:15

“Behold, I am coming as a thief.
Blessed is he who watches, and keeps
(tereo) his garments [remains clothed],
lest he walk naked and they see his
shame [be shamefully exposed].”

Keep means Keep

- The word “keep” in Rev. 3:10 is the Greek word “tēreō” - “to keep watch over, guard, observe”. Same word earlier in the same verse “Because you have kept (tereo) My command to persevere”.
- Same word in other contexts used in the Gospels to “keep the commandments”, “keep my word”, “keep the Sabbath”.
- Same word in same context in John 17:15 - “I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep (tereo) them from the evil one.
- Rev. 3:10 is the EXACT OPPOSITE of a rapture to remove us from the earth!



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AFTER means AFTER

“After the Tribulation”

Matthew 24:29, Mark 13:24

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of the Lord had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless (1) the falling away comes first, and (2) the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way (Michael: Dan 12, Rev 12). And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

Matthew 24:15-28 (cf Daniel 7, 8, 9, 11, 12)

Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand. Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

Matthew 24:29 - Signs in Sun Moon Stars

Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Matthew 24:30-31 - Coming in Glory

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Mark 13:24-25 - Signs in Sun Moon Stars

But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Mark 13:26-27 - Coming in Glory

Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.

Luke 21:25-26 - Signs in Sun Moon Stars

And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Luke 21:27-28 - Coming in Glory

Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.

Everyone sees Him coming on the clouds,
He returns to sit on David's Throne in
Jerusalem and Judges the nations

“Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye
will see him, even those who pierced him. And all
the tribes of the earth will mourn over him.”

Revelation 1:7 (Isaiah 40:5, Daniel 7:13, Zechariah 12:10, Acts 1:11)

After means After

- The Rapture event is impossible until AFTER the Great Tribulation: The Abomination of Desolation is seen (Antichrist in the temple), Jerusalem is invaded (greatest time of Trouble in history for Israel), Great Falling Away (mass denial of Jesus by Christians).
- Impossible until AFTER the signs in sun, moon and stars. They begin the Day Of The Lord.
- AS Jesus returns to the earth in Wrath (IE the Wrath of the Lamb, the The Day of the Lord Jesus)

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THE END means THE END

“he who endures to the End
will be saved”

Matthew 24:13, Mark 13:13

Matthew 24:3

Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

Matthew 24:8-14

All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Matthew 28:18-20

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Endure until “the very last day of the Age”, Jesus will be with us as we take the Gospel to all nations, ending where it began, Israel. The end of the age cannot come until the Jews of Jerusalem call for Him...

Luke 13:34-35

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate; and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' ”

Witnesses = Martyrs - for Israel

“Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses (“*martus*”) to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

1 Corinthians 2:7

- the wisdom we speak of is the mystery of God—his plan that was previously hidden...
- The “plan” was the opening up of the Kingdom of Israel to the Gentiles. IE The Church.
- Israel will call for Jesus as their Messiah at the 7th Trumpet - the “end” of the Gentiles being grafting into their Kingdom. All Israel will then be saved - the dead will come back to life / resurrection. (Romans 11:15)

**Before the Last Trumpet/First Resurrection,
there is the entire 3.5 year Great Tribulation**

Revelation 12:7-17 tells us plainly: the Great Tribulation is NOT God's Wrath against His enemies, it is Satan's wrath against the Jews and the faithful Church. The mature Bride who are willingly martyred to ensure Israel's survival. They must call on Him to literally save the nation...

What I learned was: The last generation of the Church is no better than the first...or any in-between. Persecution, suffering & martyrdom for the name of Jesus has always been with us and will be until the very last day of the age. Fleshly desire to “escape” from those things is not a mature Christian attitude and it is not what the Bible teaches.

The Rapture / Gathering scriptures are there to encourage us to endure to the end!

- As is our Father's heart, these Scriptures are given to us to grow our faith in the midst of trial and trouble. The promise of His Coming and our Gathering to Him is our anchor we can hold tightly to - let us all love His Appearing on that Day!
- "You will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved." - Jesus



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