



The next major biblical event prophesied in scripture that will take place is referred to as “The Rapture”. This is when every Christian presently living (also known as “The Church”) will instantly be called to meet Jesus in the clouds. It is not known whether all Christians will disappear completely taking our bodies with us, or whether our bodies will drop dead and only our souls will go on to meet Jesus. There are no further biblical prophesies that must happen before this event takes place so it could occur at any time. We should be prepared for this event by living holy lives and we should also not speculate as to the date or time when this will occur.

“Caught Up” – The Rapture

In Paul’s 1st Letter to the Thessalonians, he is giving words of support and trying to let them know that they should not worry about their loved ones who have died (fallen asleep). This is one of the main passages that explains “the rapture”.

[1st Thessalonians 4:15-18] 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 by no means precede those who are asleep. 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. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

The term “caught up” comes from the Greek word “harpazo” which means to seize, pluck, take, or catch up. Nowhere in the English translations of the bible is the word “Rapture” used. The term “rapture” is a transliteration of the word “rapturo” that’s used in the Latin Vulgate translation. “Rapturo” means “we shall be snatched”, “we shall be grabbed”, or “we shall be carried off”.

Summary:

- 1) Jesus Christ will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God.
- 2) The dead in Christ will rise first (Christians who have died).
- 3) Then the living Christians will be “caught up” or “raptured”.
- 4) We will all come together in the clouds to meet Jesus.
- 5) We will always be with Jesus after this.

Views on Rapture Timing

There are 3 main views on when the rapture will occur. The views are centered around the seven-year tribulation period that is spoken of in the books of Daniel and Revelation.

- 1) Pre-Tribulation – This view believes that the rapture will take place before the tribulation period. The tribulation period is for the Jews and non-believers only. The bible supports this view.
- 2) Mid-Tribulation – This view believes that the Church will remain on earth for the first 3 ½ years of the tribulation (they call this “the beginning of birth pangs”) but will be raptured before the last 3 ½ years known as “the great tribulation” or “the time of Jacob’s troubles”. This view goes against most scripture.
- 3) Post-Tribulation – This view believes that the Church will experience the entire seven-year tribulation period. This view is not supported by scripture.

Other Related Scriptures

- Lawless one and strong delusion– **2nd Thessalonians (2:8-11)**
- Parable of the ten virgins – **Matthew (25:1-13)**
- Enoch was “raptured” by God – **Genesis (5:23-24)**
- Christians are to be saved from God’s wrath – **Romans (5:9), 1st Thessalonians (1:10, 5:9), Revelation (3:10)**
- NOT rapture verses – **Matthew (24:40-41), Luke (17:34-36)**

The Mystery

In Paul’s 1st letter to the Corinthians he tells of “a mystery”...

[1st Corinthians 15:50-53] 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.

Summary:

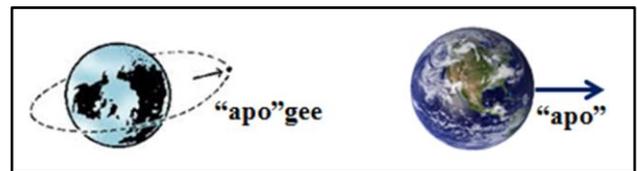
- 1) A trumpet will sound.
- 2) All dead Christians will be raised and given a perfect body.
- 3) All living Christians will be “changed” into a perfect body.

Falling Away (Apostasy)

[2nd Thessalonians 2:1-4] 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 Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and 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.

The Greek word translated as “falling away” above is “apostasia” which can be defined as defection from truth, falling away, forsaking. Many believe this defines a mass turning from God; however, by realizing the original Greek root of the word “apostasia” is “apo”, we can see a more meaningful translation of the word apostasia here.

apo – Denotes motion from the surface of an object, as a line drawn from the circumference. It is used to describe motion away from a place or marking the distance that separates two places as in the term “apogee”.



I believe that the “apostasy” or “falling away” is actually the rapture which will remove the Holy Spirit from the face of the earth. This is because in order for the anti-Christ (son of perdition) to be revealed and come to power, the Holy Spirit (He who now restrains) must be taken out of the way.

[2nd Thessalonians 2:7] 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.

Presently, the Holy Spirit is covering the earth within Christians and He’s keeping the anti-Christ from coming to total power.