



A Review of the Major Events in the Last Days
Part One

The Rapture

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • When Pastor Joe's commentary is added, God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with commentary in the smaller faced text. • Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets.

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A. The Reliability of Holy Scripture

How Will We Decide the Questions of Life and Death?

Hebrews 2:1, NLT -¹ So we must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it.

2 Peter 1:16–21, NASB -¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷ For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased”—¹⁸ and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ So we have the prophetic word made more sure,

to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. ²⁰ But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

2 Timothy 3:16–17, NLT -¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

May God's Holy Word be the book that guides our lives, convictions and decisions. May we live with it, may we live by it and may we seek to die for its sacred principles. – Pastor Joe

B. The Rapture

1. Where does the word “Rapture” come from?

The word, “rapture,” comes from the Greek word, “Harpodzo” (and the Latin word, “rapturo”) and means “snatched up, caught up quickly by force.”

2. Why should we believe in a rapture of the church?

Answer: It is clearly taught in the Scriptures.

- **1 Thess. 4:13-18** teaches the resurrection of the dead and rapture of the church.
- **1 Cor. 15:51-54** teaches the resurrection of the dead and rapture of the church.
- **John 14:1-6** teaches the resurrection of the dead and rapture of the church.
- **Also cf., Matthew 24:36-42; Luke 17:20-37, 21:36; 1 Thess. 5:9 and Rev. 3:10.**

3. Why should we believe in a pretribulation rapture?

A. A pretribulation rapture is built on the promises of Scripture.

- **1 Thess. 5:9** teaches the church will be spared from the tribulation.
- **Rev. 3:10-13** teaches the church will be spared from the tribulation.

B. The Church is conspicuously absent from Revelations 5 through 19.

C. “The Known Day” vs. “The Unknown Day”

- **Matthew 25:13**, Jesus says to the church, He will return at an unknown time.
- **Rev. 12:6**, the Jews will have to wait a known 1,260 days for the Lord to return.

D. There are stark differences between and rapture and the second coming.

At the Rapture...

The saints meet Christ in the air
The Mt. of Olives is untouched
Living saints are “changed”
The saint's body goes to Heaven
Christ comes for the saints
World is not judged/sin gets worse
It is NOT preceded by detailed signs/warnings
Only concerns the saved

At the Second Coming...

Christ returns to earth with the saints.
The Mt. of Olives is touched
No saints are “changed”
The saint's body comes to Earth
Christ comes with the saints
World is judged/ sin is dealt with.
It IS preceded by specific detailed signs.
Concerns both the saved and the lost

E. There is no reason for Christians to be on Earth during the Tribulation.

• **The Tribulation has three purposes:**

- To bring the Nation of Israel to repentance (cf., Rom. 9-11; Rev. 7:1-8).
- To reach gentiles open to the gospel (cf., Rev. 7:8-9).
- To bring judgement to gentiles not open to the gospel (cf., Rev. 8-19).

F. The Christian's Judgment was at Calvary.

- **John 3:36** teaches the believer's judgement was taken upon the cross.
- **1 Thess. 5:9-11** teaches the believer's judgement was taken upon the cross.

4. When will the rapture come?

- **We don't know the day** (cf., Mark 13:32; Matt. 24:36, 25:13, 24:44; 2 Pet. 3:10).
- **We are told we can know the season** (cf., Matt. 24:37ff; Luke 17:26ff).

5. How can we be ready for the Rapture?

You must receive Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior as the rapture is specifically a rescue, by God, for all believers (cf., Rom. 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9-10, 10:13).