

27 November 2016

The Two Raptures

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. The rapture of the church-age saints.

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: **Then** we which are alive [and] remain shall be **caught up together** with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (1Thes.4: 16 & 17).

See also: Eph.1: 10.

What is the age? The church age where believers are “in Christ”, those who are the audience of the Pauline epistles. When does the rapture of the church take place? At the end of the age when they hear the trump of God – the voice of God which sounds like a trumpet (Rev.4: 1, 2) and thunder (Jn.12: 29 and Job 37: 4 & 5).

2. The rapture of tribulation-age saints.

“Immediately **after the tribulation** of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light...And **then** shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall **gather together his elect** from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

See also: Mk.13: 26 & 27.

What is the age? – “the tribulation” predominantly Jews – “his elect”, “all the tribes of the earth” who did not get raptured at the end of the church age. When does the rapture of the tribulation saints occur? “Immediately after the tribulation”.

Additional comments on our two points.

“According to the Oxford dictionary rapture means: “Act of transporting a person from one place to another place”. The end result is that the people being transported “gather together”, which is a phrase used in verses that support both our points. The saints that are raptured in both cases meet the Lord in the clouds. The first rapture is known as the rapture of the church, or the pre-trib rapture, and the second rapture is known as the post-trib rapture. Some believe there is a third rapture – known as mid-trib, but the scriptures do not record a third event where believers “gather together” or are “caught up together” in the clouds mid-way through the tribulation age.

Applying the teaching to our life today.

Many traditional churches believe they will go through the tribulation age, and so miss the rapture of the church. **If** they are correct then **they** cannot be in the body of Christ, they cannot be Christians, because the rapture of the church-age saints transports both those who are dead in Christ, and those who are alive in Christ, up to the clouds. Therefore, Jews and Gentiles that remain cannot be in the body of Christ in this age, and will then go through the tribulation age.

Question to think about.

What is the significance of this topic to Christians today?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

Whether the scriptures teach a pre-trib, or post-trib rapture, and which one applies to us today determines what we hope in, and what we wait for. There are generally two groups:–

i) Those churches who teach that believers will go through the tribulation and are not to receive the mark of the beast are waiting for “the tribulation”.

ii) Those churches who teach a pre-trib rapture, where the next big event on their calendar is Christ coming in the clouds to signify the end of the church age prior to the tribulation age, will hear “a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God”, and they will “be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air”. Which group are you in? IF you are in-Christ be encouraged to “wait for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1Cor.1: 7), when the church saints will be raptured, prior to the tribulation, to meet the Lord in the clouds.