

Matthew 24:4-28 is not about the tribulation. In short, Matthew 24 is divided into two categories (Destruction of Jerusalem and Second Coming of Jesus) and some say three (Destruction of Jerusalem, coming of church, and Second Coming of Jesus). The first 25 verses are about the Destruction of Jerusalem because of

- The context.
- Josephus' record of historical matches to Jesus' words.
- The opportunity to flee (Matthew 24:16).
- Jesus' words in Matthew 24:34.

While such an event was great "tribulation" for the Jews, this passage is not a reference to some future tribulation for saints now.

Paul, John, and the rest of the apostles were living in the last days. Note

- "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son" (Hebrews 1:2).
- "Little children, it is the last time" (1 John 2:18).

The last days began with the establishment of the church and are continued to be lived in today.

The Great Tribulation Jesus talks about in Matthew 24 is not here, nor is it coming.

Reason 5: Jesus Commands evangelism until the end of the world (Matthew 28:18-20).[9] The rapture cannot be true because it would contract Jesus' command to evangelize. This command is applicable to all Jesus' followers and Jesus said He would be with them to the end of the world. How could this be if the faithful were going to be raptured before the world ended? Such contradicts plain Bible teaching and pushes aside a simple command from Jesus.

Jesus is coming and it will be a wonderful event. The rapture doctrine must be taught against, for it has taken hold of many. Instead of such a wrong view of the coming of Christ, we as Paul can look for "that blessed hope and the glorious appear of the Great God and our Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13) and know that we will be with Him forever and ever! Let us not ruin such anticipation with impurities of ignorance.

Endnotes

- [1]<https://www.brazenchurch.com/endtimes-rapture-bible/>
- [2]<https://www.etymonline.com/word/rapture>
- [3]<https://christiancourier.com/articles/what-does-the-bible-say-about-the-rapture>
- [4]gbtnv.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Topical/2-Winton-Premillennialism.pdf
- [5]Ibid.
- [6]John Renshaw, *STUDY of THE DOCTRINE of PREMILLENNIALISM*, "Rapture," p. 3
- [7]Ibid, p. 5.
- [8]Johnny Ramsey, *The Rapture and the Tribulation*, "Premillennialism, True or False?" The First Annual "Fort Worth" Lectures, Winkler Publications, 1978, p. 189
- [9] Ibid, p. 187.

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Why the Rapture MUST Be Left Behind

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Why the Rapture MUST Be Left Behind[1]

By: Noah Olson

Imagine being surrounded by a world of chaos as the car in front of you plunges into the ocean, falling off the bridge on which you are driving. As you stop to see what just happened, you look up to see a plane crash into the Empire State Building. You try to call your mother, but she will not answer. As you approach the city, thousands run frantically up and down yelling, “where did they go,” “what has happened,” or “where is she?” This situation described is what is known as the rapture.

The word rapture is “from Latin *raptus* ‘a carrying off, abduction, snatching away.’”[2] The rapture doctrine did not begin with Paul, Peter, or Jesus, but instead began in the 19th century according to Wayne Jackson [3]. The rapture teaching is associated with the false teaching of premillennialism, which involves a host of other teachings not congruent with Scripture. Unfortunately, many attempts have been made to promote the rapture theory. Included, are a number of movies that have been made based off the best-selling novels by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins. There is even an “After the Rapture Pet Care” where one can register one’s pet to ensure the welfare after one is taken away.

Alarming, this doctrine is advocated today as if it were true; however, Scripture does not support it. Here are five reasons why YOU and I will not be left behind or secretly raptured.

Reason 1: The Second Coming of Christ will not be a

secret (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17). Rapture advocates believe that all of a sudden the faithful will disappear from society, from socialization, or from sleep, and be taken to heaven without anyone noticing. If the rapture theory were true, Paul likely would have mentioned it to the brethren at Thessalonica since his letter (1 Thessalonians) heavily touched on the Second Coming. However, not one mention of the rapture is made in all 1,837 words.

Bob Winton[4] notes that rapture advocates find a difference between the Greek words *parousia* and *epiphaneia*. They say that *parousia* refers to the rapture and *epiphaneia* is the final coming. If all the faithful are going to be raptured and in heaven with Jesus then, “If so much as one passage can be pointed out which teaches that believers are to remain on earth until the Epiphany (final coming of Christ-NO), the whole argument for a secret rapture is dissolved.”[5] Since rapture theorists see *epiphaneia* as a broad, final coming, then there should be no saint waiting for it because all saints were already taken to heaven by the rapture. However, Paul told Timothy that he should keep the commandment until the *epiphaneia* of Jesus (1 Timothy 6:14) and he told Titus about the *epiphaneia* of the Lord which was going to be anticipated by Christians (Titus 2:13).

Nothing in Paul’s discourse on Jesus’ coming indicates a secret coming, in fact, it denotes the opposite. Note:

- “shout.”
- “voice.”
- “trump of God.”

Billy Bland would say there is “too much noise in the chapter for the rapture,” and Wayne Jackson stated that 1 Thessalonians 4 is the “noisiest verse of the Bible.”

Reason 2: There is only one resurrection. Those who teach Dispensational Premillennialism say there are two resurrections: the Rapture and the Final Coming of Christ. However:

When Christ comes there is the end (1 Corinthians 15:22-24).

When Christ comes the earth will be destroyed

(2 Peter 3:10-12).

When Christ comes death is destroyed (1 Corinthians 15:51-54). Rapture theorists say that an abundance of death will arise after the rapture with the tribulation.

When Christ comes it will be on ONE DAY (John 6:39, 40, 44, 54; 11:24). Renshaw asks, “How many days are there after the **Last Day???** Certainly not a thousand years.”[6] Also, John 5:28-29 shows that “all” will be raised in that day, not the righteous only, and Acts 24:15 shows a singular day.

Truly, there is only ONE resurrection.

Reason 3: There is only one judgement. Some teach multiple judgements; however, the Bible teaches that there will be ONE day of judgement (Acts 17:30-31). After death then comes the judgement--singular (Hebrews 9:27). It is Jesus’ words that will judge man at the last day-- singular (John 12:48). Note that at the judgement (Matthew 25:31-46)[7]:

- Both the righteous and unrighteous are there.
- The sheep and the goats are there (verse 32).
- Two different answers are given (verses 34 and 41).
- Two different outcomes are laid forth (verse 46).

Truly all will stand before the judgement seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10) in the same judgement.

Reason 4: Because the last days are now, not to come. Rapture advocates believe we are not living in the final days; they are going to come they assume. But,

The word tribulation is never used to refer to the premillennial seven-year tribulation. The word “tribulation” appears 20 times in the New Testament, yet it is never used in reference to the false doctrine of the tribulation. Instead, Boettner noted that the word “is used to describe (1) the sufferings of Christians during this present age; (2) the sufferings inflicted upon worldly rejectors of Christ; and (3) the sufferings especially prophesied for the Jewish nation at various times in its past history. The most general use is to describe the sufferings of Christians during this present age.”[8]