

# **The Differences Between the Rapture and the Second Coming**



There is a lot of confusion among believers today about “the end of the world.” The Bible tells us that, at the end, Christ is involved in two separate gathering events, one for each of God’s peculiar peoples. Many churches combine these 2 events into one, and further confuse the issue.

The two groups of God’s peculiar people are Israel,

Deuteronomy 14:2

For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and **the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself**, above all the nations that are upon the earth.

and the Church, the Body of Christ (us.)

Titus 2:13-14

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; **Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.**

The first group to be gathered is the Church, the Body of Christ. The event, known as the Rapture, is described by Paul.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. **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.** Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

The word “rapture” does not appear in the Bible. It is referred to as “the adoption.”

### Romans 8:23

And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for **the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.**

Paul also calls it a mystery. He explains that the “redemption of our bodies” means that our bodies will be changed from corruptible to incorruption and mortal to immortality.

### 1 Corinthians 15:50-54

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. **Behold, I shew 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 trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the **dead shall 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 shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

Ever since Paul first told the Thessalonians about the Rapture, it was always understood that they (and we) should expect it at any time. In his second letter, Paul showed that the Thessalonians were concerned that they had missed Christ's coming for them. Paul assured them that they hadn't, and reminded them of the things that will happen on earth after the Rapture. The man of sin will be revealed and declare himself to be God. Since that hadn't happened, he said, Christ had not yet come.

### 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That **ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.** Let no man deceive you by any means: for **that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.**

Daniel calls this event, where antichrist shows himself as God, the abomination of desolation. (Daniel knew nothing about the Rapture.)

### Daniel 12:11

And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

The second coming of Christ, unlike the Rapture, has a very specific timeline. One thousand, two hundred and ninety days after the abomination of desolation, Christ will return to set up His Kingdom.

Jesus tells His followers that when they see the abomination of desolation, they should flee into the mountains.

### Matthew 24:15-18

**When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation**, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) **Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:** Let him which is on the

housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

John, in the book of Revelation, says that after they have fled into the mountains, believing Jews in Israel will be fed by God for 3 ½ years, 1260 days.

In the verses below, Israel is “the woman.” The man child Israel brought forth is the Lord Jesus Christ who will rule all nations with a rod of iron. “She” (Israel) has a place prepared in the wilderness where God will feed her for 3 ½ years.

Revelation 12:5-6

And **she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron:** and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. And **the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.**

The reason that the abomination of desolation is the signal for the Jews to head to the mountains,

is because at the same time, Satan and his angels are thrown out of heaven, into the earth.

Revelation 12:7-9

And there was war in heaven: **Michael and his angels fought against the dragon**; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. **And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**

Satan, now trapped on the earth, will take his great wrath out on Israel, “the woman.” This is why God has to feed and protect Israel from Satan for 3 ½ years.

Revelation 12:12-13

Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! **for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.** And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he

**persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.**

Satan's last chance is to prevent Israel from calling for the return of their King, the Lord Jesus Christ. Satan will try to kill all of Israel.

Christ has told Israel that He will not return to earth to set up His kingdom until they acknowledge their sins and seek His face.

Hosea 5:15

**I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face:** in their affliction they will seek me early.

The return of the Lord Jesus Christ will be that of a conquering hero.

Revelation 19:11,14-15,19-20

<sup>11</sup>And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. <sup>14</sup>And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. <sup>15</sup>And out

of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

<sup>19</sup>And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

After the beast and the false prophet are thrown into the lake of fire, the 3<sup>rd</sup> part of the unholy “trinity,” Satan, is bound in a bottomless pit for the entire duration of Christ’s kingdom, 1000 years. That is a big part of why it is the kingdom of heaven on earth!

### Revelation 20:1-3

**And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and**

**Satan, and bound him a thousand years,** And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, **till the thousand years should be fulfilled:** and after that he must be loosed a little season.

If you notice, God is going to protect Israel for 1260 days before Christ's return in victory, but Daniel's timeline adds 30 days after that.

Daniel 12:11

**And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.**

In the next verse, he adds another 45 days. He says that people will have to wait another 45 days, total 1335 days, for the Kingdom to be set up.

Daniel 12:12

**Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.**

Although the Bible doesn't explain why, the timeline differences can be explained by 2 of the events described by Christ when sets up His kingdom.

One of the events is the judgement of the nations. The nations that helped Israel during the terrible persecution of Satan are the sheep nations, and the nations that did not help Israel are the goat nations.

### Matthew 25:31-33

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, **then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations:** and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: **And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.**

Here is what Jesus says to the sheep nations on His right hand.

Matthew 25:34

**Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:**

Here is what Jesus says to the goat nations on His left hand.

Matthew 25:41

**Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:**

Another task that will be done is a “clean up” of unbelievers who cannot enter Christ’s kingdom. To set up His kingdom, Christ will send His angels to gather up all things that offend— a “clean-up” of sorts. Unbelievers will be sent to hell’s fire.

Matthew 13:41-43

**The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall**

**be wailing and gnashing of teeth.** Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

The “clean up” at the second coming of Christ is described in Matthew. Unlike the Rapture, It is not good to be the one taken away when Christ comes to set up His kingdom.

#### Matthew 24:40-41

Then shall two be in the field; **the one shall be taken, and the other left.** Two women shall be grinding at the mill; **the one shall be taken, and the other left.**

#### Luke 17:35-36

Two women shall be grinding together; **the one shall be taken, and the other left.** Two men shall be in the field; **the one shall be taken, and the other left.**

Paul talks of the day of the Lord as sudden destruction! The unbelievers who will be gathered and burned up will think they are safe—they have survived the Tribulation and the battle between Jesus Christ and the antichrist—but

travail and sudden destruction, Christ's "clean up" comes upon them and they cannot escape.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-4

But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly **that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night**. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; **then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape**. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

Jesus' angels will also gather His elect from everywhere to enter into His kingdom. Notice in the verses below, "immediately after the tribulation," which would place these events in the extra 30+45 days that Daniel mentions (see page 92.)

Matthew 24:29-31

**Immediately after the tribulation** of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be

shaken: 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.**

God will then “clean up” the gathered people of Israel and give them new hearts. They now will get the Holy Ghost in their hearts and will follow God’s law.

Ezekiel 36:24-28

**For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.** Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. **A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.** And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do

them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

The millennial kingdom will be “heaven on earth.” No one will hurt nor destroy, and they will all know the Lord.

### Isaiah 11:5-9

And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. **They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.**

They will live in the land that God gave Abraham and God will, once again, live among them in His temple, like He did in David's time.

Ezekiel 43:7

And he said unto me, Son of man, **the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever, and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile**, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoredom, nor by the carcasses of their kings in their high places.

## Chart of Differences

<b>Rapture</b>	<b>Second Coming</b>
Next event on God's calendar--imminent	Comes at least 7 years after the Rapture
Involves all members of the Church, the Body of Christ	Involves everyone on earth—the Jews will get their kingdom
Believers are taken to heaven Unbelievers are left on earth	Believers are left on the earth Unbelievers are taken to hell
Christ meets believers in the clouds of heaven so we will forever be with Him in heaven	Christ comes to earth as King to defeat antichrist and all his armies on earth, and set up His kingdom
Happens before the Tribulation	Happens after the Tribulation
Those taken are judged at the Judgement Seat of Christ and given rewards	Those taken are sent to hell to await God's judgement at the Great White Throne, after Christ's 1,000 year kingdom.