

# **Q and A**

**Difference between the Rapture  
and the Second Coming**

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According to Google:

In the Bible, the Greek verb harpazo is used to describe the Rapture. It means "to seize upon, spoil, snatch away, or take to oneself". The Latin word of "harpazo" is "rapturo" which is where we get the word rapture. The following verses are examples.

Acts 8:26-27, 39-40

And the angel of the Lord **spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.** And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

<sup>39</sup>**And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip,** that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.

There is a problem with this example. Philip was not taken to heaven, he was moved from Jerusalem to Azotus.

Another Google example:

2 Corinthians 12:2-4

I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) **How that he was caught up into paradise**, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

This is much closer to the Rapture described in 1 Thessalonians, but Paul's body was not changed. In fact, he wasn't sure if he was taken up bodily or only his soul and spirit was taken.

Here is the actual Rapture, according the hope that Paul tells us, the Church, the Body of Christ, can look forward to.

## 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18

**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.

Here, in the book of Revelation, we know that the description cannot be talking about the Rapture of the Church because the book of Revelation tells of the events that occur after the Church has been raptured.

## Revelation 12:3-6

And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. 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.

In Christianity, the Rapture is a belief that living and dead believers will ascend into heaven to meet Jesus Christ at the Second Coming. *(We know that the Second Coming and the Rapture are separated by at least 7 years.)*

The Book of Matthew most clearly describes the Rapture, while it is also associated with the apocalyptic imagery of the Book of Revelation. *(Neither the book of Matthew or the book of Revelation applies to the Church, the Body of Christ.)*

At the second coming, the unbelievers, like weeds, will be taken out from among the good seed and sent to hell.

Matthew 13:27-30, 36-42

So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, **didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?** He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go

and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest **while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest:** and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, **Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.**

<sup>36</sup>Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. 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.”

This passage in Matthew is the description of the Second Coming, not the Rapture.

Matthew 24:40-42

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. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.