

THE RAPTURE: EXPOSING A GREAT DECEPTION

1. EXPOSING SATAN'S DECEPTIVE DEVICES.
 1. Removing opposition to his purposes in the earth.
 2. Rapture means of removing all opposition.
 3. False "pretrib rapture" diverts attention from God's purpose in the earth.

2. WHAT ABOUT THE RAPTURE?
 1. What purportedly takes place?
 2. How soon does it take place?
 3. Who will be in it?
 4. Two basic questions.
 1. What.
 2. When.

3. TRADITIONAL RAPTURE TEACHING.
 1. What is it?
 1. Catching away; removal from earth.
 1. Term "rapture" not in Bible.
 2. Comes from Latin word "rapio" meaning to rape.
 3. To seize violently.
 2. Traditional visions.
 1. Soaring through air.
 2. At any moment.
 3. Associated with chaos and disaster.
 3. Implications.
 1. To be with Jesus.
 2. Escape world.

3. Escape tribulation.
 - (1) Too weak to survive.
 - (2) God is far too good to allow it.
2. When is it?
 1. Pre-trib - born out of fear and selfishness.
 2. Mid-trib - confusing tribulation and wrath of God.
 3. Post-trib - go through tribulation, then taken out.
4. HISTORY OF PRE-TRIB RAPTURE.
 1. Early church did not teach it.
 2. 1830 - Margaret McDonald had a vision.
 3. Readily received by Edward Irving.
 1. Influenced John Darby - Plymouth Brethren.
 2. Influenced C. I. Scofield.
 3. Clarence Larkin - charts.
5. REMOVAL FROM EARTH?
 1. Righteous shall never be removed.
 1. Ps. 37:9 - *"Evil doers shall be cut off; but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth."*
 2. Ps. 37:11 - *"Righteous shall inherit the earth and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace."*
 3. Ps. 37:29 - *"The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein forever."*
 4. Pr. 2:21-22 - *"For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it, but the wicked shall be rooted out."*
 5. Pr. 10:30 - *"The righteous shall NEVER BE REMOVED; but the wicked shall NOT INHERIT THE EARTH."*
 2. Wheat and tares (Mt. 13).
 1. Tares gathered first.
 2. Righteous then shine forth in kingdom of Father.

3. As in the days of Noah.
 1. Flood came and took them all away.
 2. One taken, the other left.
 4. Father, I pray that you take them not out of the world, but to keep them from the evil.
6. WHAT ACTUALLY TAKES PLACE IF NOT REMOVAL?
1. Gathering to the Lord.
 1. I Thes. 4:17 - *"So shall we ever be with the Lord."*
 2. Eph. 1:10 - *"...gather together all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth."*
 3. II Thes. 2:1 - *"...by the coming of the Lord and our gathering together unto Him."*
 4. Mt. 24:31 - *"...shall gather his elect..."*
 2. Resurrection of sainted dead.
 1. Two resurrections - separated by 1000 years (Rev. 20).
 2. Hope of the deceased - I Thes. 4.
 3. Translation of living saints - I Cor. 15:51-52--there shall be a change.
7. WHEN SHALL IT BE?
1. Mat. 24:29-31 - *"Immediately after tribulation..."*
 1. Coming in clouds with power and great glory.
 2. Send forth angels with sound of trumpet.
 3. Gather his elect.
 2. Trumpets.
 1. I Thes. 4:16 - *"...with the trump of God..."*
 2. Mt. 24:31 - *"...sound of trumpet..."*
 3. I Cor. 15:51-52 - *"...at the last trump..."*
 3. The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of the Lord and

of His Christ (seventh trumpet of Revelation).

4. First resurrection after tribulation (Rev. 20:6).
5. Man of sin must be revealed first in order to be destroyed with brightness of Lord's coming (II Thes. 2:1-8).

8. HOW SHALL IT BE?

1. Behold the bridegroom comes--Go ye out to meet him - 10 virgins.
2. Caught up together in clouds.
3. Meet the Lord in the air.
4. So shall we ever be with the Lord.

9. SUMMARY.

1. No removal, but:
 1. Resurrection and translation.
 2. Gathering together unto the Lord.
2. After tribulation, preceding entrance into kingdom of God.
3. Blessed hope of the church.
 1. Titus 2:13 - *"Looking for that blessed hope and glorious appearing of the great God and savior, Jesus Christ."*
 2. I Jn. 3:3 - *"And every man who hath this hope in Him, purified himself."* (What hope? The hope of being like Him).
4. Coming of Christ, not going of the church.
5. Appearing of Christ, not disappearing of saints.