

The Taking Part I

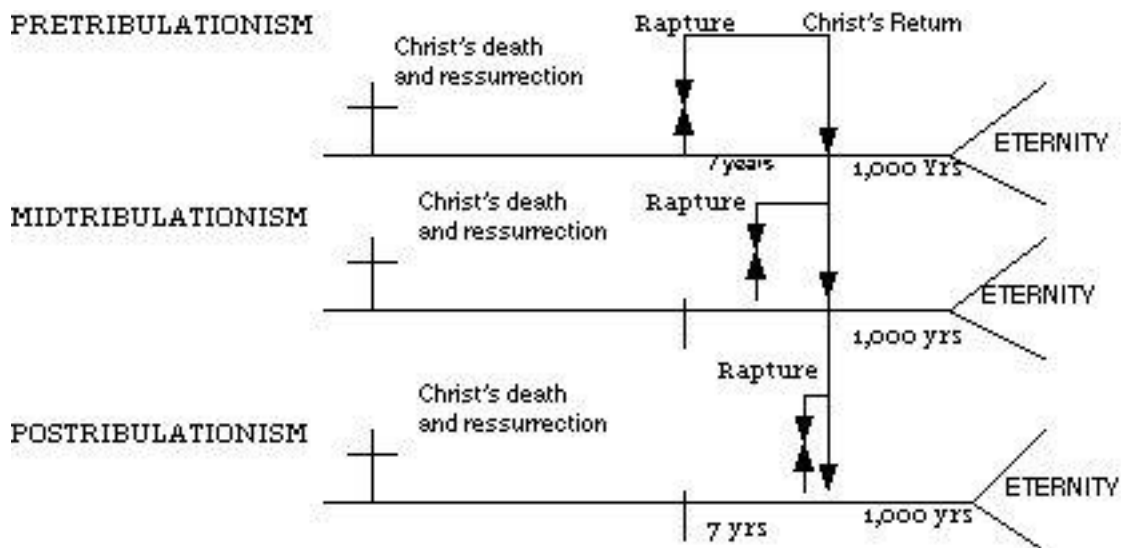
8-22-21

1. The word Rapture comes from the Latin word "**Rapturo**" meaning "the state of being taken away or the event when the taking occurs." It only appears in the Latin translation of the New Testament. The Latins translated **Harpazo** as **Rapto** from 1Th 4:17 and translated "**be caught up.**"

2. The Latin verb "**Rapto**" means "to be snatched away." The Greek word **Harpazo** can be found 13 times in Scripture where it is variously translated "take by force, catcheth away, pluck caught away, caught up" and "pulling them."

3. There are four major theories of the Rapture among Christians.

3.1 Pre, Post, Mid and Partial although the Partial tend to be of the Mid-Tribulation persuasion.



3.1.1 There is also the "Amillennialist" who allegorizes eschatological Scriptures and therefore, do not view the Rapture or the Second Advent as an event.

4. Why are there so many theories of the Rapture? because the etymology provides no real key in a technical sense.

4.1 There are three Greek words used interchangeably for the eschatological events called "the Rapture" and "the Second Advent;" the three words are also used to describe events non-technical, i.e., those uses which are not related to eschatology.

4.1.1 **Parousia**-to be near or to come along-side

4.1.2 **Apokalupsis**-to reveal, uncover, or unveil

4.1.3 **Epiphaneia**-to bring forth to light, to show forth

4.2 Uses of **Parousia**

4.2.1 **Parousia**-the word is used some 24 times in the New Testament.

4.2.2 Non-Technical in the sense--there is no eschatological meaning. Let's look at some of the non-technical uses.

- Stephanas and others arrive at Ephesus from Corinth.

1Co 16:17 I am glad of the "**coming**" of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus: for that which was lacking on your part they have supplied.

- Titus did well.

2Co 7:6 Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the "**coming**" of Titus;

2Co 7:7 And not by his "**coming**" only, but by the consolation wherewith he was comforted in you, when he told us of your earnest desire, your mourning, your fervent mind toward me; so that I rejoiced the more.

- Weak am I?

2Co 10:10 For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily "**presence**" is weak, and his speech contemptible.

- I look forward to visiting you Philippians.

Phi 1:26 That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my "**coming**" to you again.

- You must live your own life whether I am there, or not.

Phi 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my "**presence**" only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

4.2.3 Technical in the sense--it is used to describe an eschatological event.

- Give us a sign of Your coming: (Matthew Chapter 24 is a dissertation primarily on the end of the Tribulation, but there are references to the Rapture and the Second Advent in these passages.

Mat 24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy "**coming**," and of the end of the *world*. (A better translation is "*the end of the age*.")

- You will know when I come (Second Advent). The Second Advent can be determined with great accuracy because of the Rapture which begins the count down. There are numerous signs of the Second Advent but none for the Rapture. Both Rapture and the Second Advent will come suddenly. In His answer to the disciples Christ has reference to His Second Advent and not the Rapture.

Mat 24:27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the "**coming**" of the Son of man be.

- Things will be normal when I come at both the Rapture and the Second Advent.

Mat 24:37 But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the "**coming**" of the Son of man be.

Mat 24:38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark,

Mat 24:39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the "**coming**" of the Son of man be.

4.3 Matthew Chapter 24 Overview

- Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple.

Mat 24:1 Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings.

Mat 24:2 "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; everyone will be thrown down."

- The disciples ask the Lord when will this happen and what will be the sign of Your return? The disciples assume His coming will end the world. They know nothing about eschatology.

Mat 24:3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

- Jesus first explains there will be certain events taking place before the Rapture. These are things we see today: deception, wars, rumors of war, nation rising against nation, famines and earthquakes.

Mat 24:4 Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you.

Mat 24:5 For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

Mat 24:6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.

Mat 24:7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

Mat 24:8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.

- Jesus next moves to the events of the Tribulation.

Mat 24:9 "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.

Mat 24:10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,

Mat 24:11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.

Mat 24:12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,

Mat 24:13 but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

Mat 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

- Christ warns of the abomination that causes desolation. An event prophesied by Daniel. Daniel says this event will take place in the middle of the Tribulation. See the Doctrine of Daniel's Seventieth Week for more details.

Mat 24:15 "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel [Dan 9:27]--let the reader understand--

Mat 24:16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Mat 24:17 Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house.

Mat 24:18 Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak.

Mat 24:19 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers!

Mat 24:20 Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.

- Christ describes further details concerning the events following the abomination of that which causes desolation. It is during the last three and one-half years of the Tribulation--commonly called The Great Tribulation. The first three and one-half years of the Tribulation has been called "Satan's Failed Utopia."

Mat 24:21 For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now-- and never to be equaled again.

Mat 24:22 If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.

Mat 24:23 At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it.

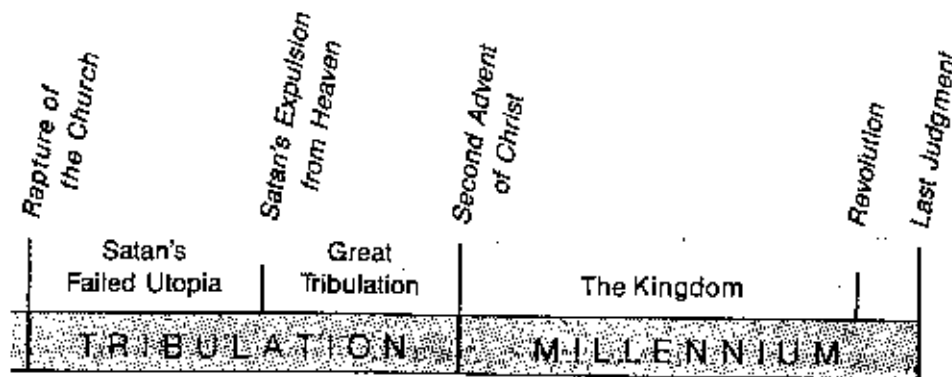
Mat 24:24 For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect-- if that were possible.

Mat 24:25 See, I have told you ahead of time.

Mat 24:26 "So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the desert,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it.

Mat 24:27 For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Mat 24:28 Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.



- King Jesus will return to deliver Israel at the end of the Tribulation.

Mat 24:29 "Immediately after the distress of those days ""the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'

Mat 24:30 "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.

Mat 24:31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.