

The Rapture: Is It Prophecy Or Heresy?

The Rapture is not mentioned once anywhere in the Bible. What is spoken of in the Bible, are the first and second resurrections. The first resurrection is only for the righteous; those who accepted Jesus as their Saviour and were walking with God, either at the time of their natural deaths, or at the time of the resurrection. Then the second resurrection, 1,000 years later, is for the people the Bible calls wicked, unsaved, evil doers, unrighteous, unbelievers etc. The sermon on this website titled: 'The Great White Throne Of Judgement' deals with both resurrections in detail. This particular text is solely about the modern, erroneous rapture teaching, and how it 'leaked' into the church. We will also explain the differences between the so-called 'rapture' and the true resurrection. Jesus, John and Paul all used the term 'resurrection'. Not once did they say 'rapture'. It is of no surprise that this teaching causes contention. Paul was placed on trial because he taught the truth about the first resurrection (Acts 24:21).

Jesus was the first to be resurrected from death and committed Christians will share in His resurrection (Romans 6:4 & 5). The first resurrection is to raise believers from the dead (1st Corinthians 15:21). The second resurrection is to raise the dead non-believers for judgement (Daniel 12:2; John 5:29). The first resurrection will take place at the last trumpet sound, and the dead in Christ will rise from death first, then those who are alive on earth, will be changed in an instant into our heavenly immortal bodies (1 Corinthians 15:50 to 54). Jesus said four times, that we Christians will be raised up at the last day (John 6:39, 40, 44 and 54). If Jesus said the same thing four times, then it must be important for us to know that we will be raised from the dead at the last day and not one day before! We should not doubt the teaching of Jesus regarding the first resurrection. Paul taught there would be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous (Acts 24:15). The scripture says the first resurrection will be at the last day of this age. The people who believe in the rapture, believe it will be midway through the tribulation, but that is not what the scriptures teach.

The teaching of the first resurrection is past the elementary stage of the teachings of Jesus, and is given to those that belong to spiritual maturity, and God wants to bring everyone to more advanced teaching – the teaching of the resurrection (Hebrews 6:1 to 3). Jesus taught about the first resurrection many times, which amazed people (Matthew 22:23 to 33; Mark 12:18 to 28; Luke 20:27 to 39). Martha knew about the first resurrection and she knew it would be at the last day (John 11:24). We will be recompensed for our good works at our resurrection (Luke 14:14).

Starting in Revelation 8:6 right through to Revelation 11:15, we can follow the seven trumpet blasts, and all that time Christians are still on earth, right up until the last trumpet sound. We know that because in Revelation 9:4, after five trumpets had sounded, Holy Spirit filled Christians were being protected. They are the people who have the seal of God on their foreheads. These calamities were sent by God in judgement of the people and the nations, and to bring the people to repentance (Revelation 9:21; 11:18) but the unGodly, the heathen, unbelievers etc, continued to rage against God. In the second half of Revelation 11:18, we see that it was time to destroy the corrupters of the earth. After that, in verse 19 we see that heaven was thrown open. John 5:28 says the dead will come out of their graves.

What was Paul's attitude to all this? He said his hope was in the resurrection of the dead (Acts 23:6). Paul explains more thoroughly the reason for his commitment to the Lord in Philippians 3:3 to 21. In verse 11 Paul says "If by any means I may attain to the

resurrection.” That means he would do anything to be part of the first resurrection. He also said this teaching was for the more mature Christian (verse 15). Paul taught about the resurrection of the dead – not a ‘rapture’ of the living (Acts 24:15 & 21).

In Jesus’ resurrection, He overcame the fear and sting of death and has made us to be conquerors. Jesus’ death was not futile (1 Corinthians 15:55 to 58). If people would put away the teaching of the rapture, where they think they don’t have to do very much for God, and use the word resurrection, where God expects a higher level of holiness, then Christians would grow up in God at a very fast pace and we would not have to keep feeding milk to weak carnal Christians, and we would be able to feed people the meat of the Word (1 Corinthians 3:2 & 3). There is no scripture that says Jesus will raise Christians from the earth 3½ or 7 years prior to His return.

Even the Old Testament prophet Job, knew about the first resurrection and even the timing of it. “But man must die and lie prostrate. Yes, man breathes his last and where is he? So man lies down and does not rise. Till the heavens are no more, men will not awake nor be raised out of their sleep [of death]. I will wait till my change [into his immortal body] and release [from suffering] shall come. Then You would call and I would answer (Job 14:10 to 15).” Till the heavens are no more = the last day.

People believe in the rapture, simply because famous preachers tell them it is true, and most people don’t like to question them. It is up to all of us to check out for ourselves, what the scriptures teach and compare that with what some church leaders are teaching. The rapture teaching is closely wrapped up with the ‘Great Tribulation’. Will the whole church go through tribulation? Absolutely yes! If we are alive on this earth as Christians, we will go through times of testing and pressure. This is not popular teaching in the western world, because people would prefer to believe they will miss times of pressure, but that is because of fear. They don’t like the thought they just might have to be faithful enough to be killed for their faith (Revelation 2:10), so a new doctrine has emerged that teaches them the ‘rapture’ will whisk them away and they won’t have to face hardship, but that is not what the scriptures teach. The Bible says all who desire to live Godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution (2 Timothy 3:12).

What does ‘tribulation’ actually mean? It simply means pressure, testing or trouble. If we hide ourselves in the Lord, then when trouble comes, we can endure it until God delivers us out of it (Psalm 91:1 to 16). The Lord does not say we will not have trouble – He says He will deliver us and we do not need to be afraid of it (Revelation 2:10). John 16:33 says we will have peace during times of tribulation, trials, distress, and frustration, and we are to take courage and have a cheerful heart. Acts 14:22 says ‘It is through many hardships and tribulations we must enter the Kingdom of God’. Romans 5:3 & 4; ‘Let us exalt in our troubles and rejoice in our sufferings for we know that pressure, affliction and hardship produce endurance, maturity, integrity and confident hope of eternal salvation’. Notice that? Tribulation produces maturity. Why then do some Christians want to run away from tribulation via the ‘rapture’? It shows their immaturity in God. They have more fear than faith.

Romans 12:12; ‘Rejoice and exult in hope; be steadfast and patient in suffering and tribulation; be constant in prayer’. 2 Corinthians 1:3 to 6; ‘Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of sympathy and mercy, and the God of every comfort, Who comforts us in every trouble, so that we may also be able to comfort those who are in distress, with the same comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For just as Christ’s suffering falls to our lot abundantly, so through Christ, comfort is also abundantly

through us. But if we are troubled, it is for your comfort and salvation. And if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which works in patient endurance, the same evils that we also suffer'. Notice that? Abundant suffering falls to our lot because we must share in the suffering of Christ. That fact won't make people feel all warm and fuzzy will it? Especially those who are being taught they will escape tribulation via the 'rapture'.

There are many other scriptures that tell us we will all go through tribulations right up until the day we die naturally, or until the last trumpet sound and we are to be courageous and rejoice in our sufferings. Suffering is God's way of chastising and disciplining us as a Father, and we are not to run from it nor are we allowed to resent it. Study Psalm 94:12 & 13; Proverbs 3:11 & 12; 13:18; 13:24; 15:10; 19:18; 22:15; Matthew 24:21; 2nd Corinthians 7:4; 1st Thessalonians 3:4 & 5; 2nd Thessalonians 1:6 to 10; Hebrews 12:2 to 14; Revelation 1:9; 2:9. Suffering is God's will for us (1 Peter 4:19) and suffering will continue till the last day. The sixth seal (Revelation 6:12), the seventh trumpet (Revelation 10:7 & 11:15) and the seventh bowl (Revelation 16:17) are all the last day of this age, after the Lord has poured His judgement upon the earth (Revelation 16:1 & 21). That time of judgement is what some call the 'Great Tribulation' and Christians will go through it to the end and will not be taken out half way through. The 'gate' or the way of salvation is very narrow (straitened by pressure) and very few people enter through it (Matthew 7:13 & 14).

We will digress here for a moment to explain three more erroneous beliefs surrounding the 'rapture' theory. Many believe we are living in the time of grace and believe that when the tribulation begins, grace will end so they will be raptured off the earth. What they are really saying is, they can live their lives as they choose, they do not need to be holy because all will be forgiven at the 'rapture'; they say God is patient and in His grace He will take no notice of their carnality. That belief is a bit of a 'cop out'. They confuse patience with God's grace, which is unmerited mercy and a state of God's favour. We need to stand for righteousness and be holy because God is holy (1 Peter 1:16). But what does the Bible say about that? Read Romans 6:1; "Are we to remain in sin in order that God's grace may abound? Certainly not!" Jude 1:4 says; "For certain men have crept in [to the church] stealthily, unGodly persons who pervert the grace of our God into lawlessness and immorality." Grace is unmerited mercy which should bring good Christian behaviour that abounds during tribulation, making us disciples for Jesus and should make us righteous and teach us wisdom (Acts 4:33; Romans 1:5; 3:24; 4:16; 5:2, 15, 17, 20 & 21; 11:5 & 6; Colossians 3:16). Some believe that the Holy Spirit will be taken from earth during the 'rapture'. If that was true, how would anybody be saved? It is the Holy Spirit Who draws us to God and without Him, nobody can be saved (John 6:44). Some people say the church must be 'raptured' away because there is no mention of the church after Revelation 3:14. That thought is also incorrect because in Revelation 22:16 & 17, Jesus again speaks to the church, but this time as His bride.

Back to tribulation. Hundreds of thousands of Christians believe that they will be 'raptured away' or taken out of this world before the 'Great Tribulation' and hundreds of church leaders are preaching this doctrine. What is dreadfully sad about this, is that thousands of Christians will fall away from God because they are expecting to be taken out before tribulation starts. Once things become unbearable, they will be offended, blame God for not rescuing them and leave the faith. They will be completely ill-prepared and taken by surprise. People who tend to believe in the rapture, live lives that are less than the level of holiness God expects of us, and they are less likely to serve the Lord with their whole heart. To them, Christianity is just a belief, instead of a whole way of life that is preparing us for eternity with our holy Father God, our holy Saviour Jesus and the holy angels. The 'rapture' people put more trust in their pastors and false prophets than in the words of

Jesus. What they should be doing now, is preparing themselves for a difficult time of immense pressure and persecution, not living their lives in a carnal way [in iniquity], believing they can do whatever they like and all will be forgiven when Jesus comes for them. Because of the damage the rapture teaching is doing right now, and is going to do in the future, the scripture says doctrines like this are from demons (1 Timothy 4:1), because they cause people to fall away and lose their salvation. That will happen when people realise there will never be a rapture and they will have to endure a time of extreme testing. What did our Saviour Jesus, say about it? Did He say we would be taken out of this world before the tribulation, or did He say we would suffer through tribulation?

Matthew 24:9 to 13; "Then they will hand you over to suffer tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended and will begin to distrust Him, Whom they ought to trust, and will stumble and fall away and betray one another and pursue one another with hatred. And many false prophets will rise up and deceive many and lead many into error. And the love of the great body [of Christ] will grow cold because of the iniquity. But he who endures to the end will be saved." Continue to verse 21; "For then there will be great tribulation ..." Verse 22; "But for the sake of the elect, the days will be shortened." Verse 24; "False Christs and false prophets will arise so as to deceive God's elect." Verse 25; "See I have warned you beforehand!" Verse 27; "Just as the lightning flashes in the east and is seen as far as the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be." Verse 29; "Immediately after the tribulation of those days ...verse 30; the Son of Man will appear in the sky Verse 31; He will send out His angels and they will gather His elect, His chosen ones, from one end of the universe to the other."

So we can see that Jesus was warning us about this time of judgement, or tribulation. Did Jesus say there was to be a secret 'rapture'? No! He said His coming will be as visible as a lightning flash. Does Jesus say He would gather His elect before or after the tribulation? He said after, and makes it clear His elect will be around during the tribulation phase and He will not be coming until afterwards. If you, as a Christian, were hoping to be 'raptured' beforehand, to escape this time of judgement or tribulation, then you have not been listening to Jesus' words, but rather you have been listening to a false prophet or to a doctrine demons teach, and you will be dreadfully disappointed. The 'rapture before the tribulation' teaching does not come from Jesus. He made it very clear, and He was careful to warn us beforehand, that the first resurrection would be after the Great Tribulation.

Jesus confirms this in Mark 13:19 & 20; "For at that time there will be such affliction ... but for the sake of the elect He has shortened the days." Again we see the elect being in the midst of it. What Jesus says in Luke 18:8 should be a warning to those who are expecting to be 'raptured' away. "However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find persistence in faith on the earth?" Is your faith strong enough to endure what is coming upon the whole earth? Will you stand or fall? Will the Lord find you being persistent in faith?

The false premise of the pre-tribulation 'rapture' comes from Bible stories from the Old Testament. Lot was rescued before Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed. Noah was rescued before the flood came. There are other passages that people use to 'prove' the rapture. Enoch was not because God took him (Genesis 5:24). We need to understand that no one was secretly 'snatched away' before the destruction of judgement came. Enoch preached to the people and warned of God's judgement before God took him (Hebrews 11:5; Jude 1:14). Lot's rescue was a very public matter (Genesis 19:1 to 15). Noah's rescue was also very public (Genesis chapters 6 & 7). Both men were preachers of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5 to 8). There is no scripture that backs up the 'secret' rapture

theory. When the first resurrection happens, it will be very quick, but not secret and Christians must be ready for it. In fact Jesus will come at the same time and that will be a global event and every person in the whole world will see Him (Revelation 1:7).

Other men of God mentioned in the Old and New Testament, who suffered terribly and yet were never 'raptured' out of their tribulations were Job, Joseph, Daniel, David, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and Jeremiah. Paul went through terrible persecutions and trials, Peter was crucified upside down and James was beheaded. Jesus Himself asked the Lord to spare Him the terrible death on the cross (Matthew 26:38 to 44), but He ceded to God's will and went through the suffering for us. He wasn't 'raptured' away from His trial. From Exodus 7:18 through to 12:42, we can see that the Israelites were in Egypt during the ten plagues of judgement but, they and their livestock were protected by the Lord. They were told to watch and be ready, for their departure would be sudden, just as the first resurrection will be sudden. The Israelites and the multitude that went with them, did not leave Egypt until immediately after the great tribulation of judgement and suffering.

To whom, or to what part of the world does this escapism 'rapture' teaching apply? Who would benefit? Would it apply only to those who are living in the western world? Does the western world feel they are more superior to the apostles who suffered terrible persecutions? Modern western Christians are so soft and unprepared, they would have no idea what Christians in some countries are already suffering. They are being terribly persecuted, beaten, imprisoned, their children are taken from them and some are killed for their faith. It is a crime in some countries to be a Christian. None of these Christians are being removed from tribulation. If we study the words of Jesus, we see that He warns His true followers to expect trouble, not comfort, safety, sweet convenience or an easy way out. Romans 8:35 to 39 spells out more suffering for the Christians; "Who shall separate us from God's love? Shall suffering? Affliction and tribulation? Or calamity and distress? Or persecution, hunger, destitution or peril? Even as it is written; for Thy sake we are put to death all the day long; we are counted as sheep for the slaughter." Verse 39; "Nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God." Does this speak of Christians being snatched away from trouble? No way! Quite the opposite. Revelation 13:10 says; "Herein is the call for patience and the faith and fidelity of God's people." Then in the next chapter (14:12) we are told; "Here comes a call for steadfastness, patience and endurance of God's people. Those who keep God's commandments and their faith in Jesus."

Matthew 10:22; 24:13 and Mark 13:13 all say we Christians will be hated for Jesus' sake but he who endures to the end will be saved. Nowhere in these scriptures are we told that some Christians will be taken to safety [raptured off] then only the others [the 'left behind' ones who are, it is supposed, saved later, or were not good enough to be raptured] will have to endure the terrible tribulation. All of the scriptures say we have to have patience, we have to endure, we have to have faith and we will suffer. It is dreadful that the people who teach the 'rapture' have in fact cheapened the wonderful, upcoming experience of the first resurrection. Authors who have written about the 'rapture', have to be declared false prophets because most of what they have written simply cannot take place because the world has changed and their aforesaid events can never happen, yet some church leaders cling to this incorrect teaching to keep pushing this theory. Some pastors have admitted they don't believe in it themselves, but don't want to 'rock the boat' by telling the truth. For them, it is easier than standing up for righteousness. False prophets and authors make millions of dollars from this teaching, but they do not like to teach on holiness, obedience, submission to the Lord's will, integrity, pure holy love, steadfastness, endurance under trials and the persecution of Christians. It is very obvious in the New Testament teachings, we must go through suffering. Were the apostles and the early Christians 'raptured' away?

No they were not, yet if anyone deserved to be rescued from tribulation, it was them. If terrible sufferings were there for them, then suffering will be there for us too and we must be prepared for it, because if we are not, the suffering will cause us to stumble and possibly fall away. Our suffering will never stop God from loving us, but it could stop us from loving God when we realise with horror, that we will have to go through the Great Tribulation of the earth's judgement.

Where did this erroneous 'rapture' teaching start? Before 1830, the 'rapture' theory was never heard of nor was it taught in any church. In 1830, a 15 year old Scottish girl named Margaret MacDonald had an 'end-time' vision. Margaret was heavily involved in the occult and was seen standing like a statue, barely touching the ground, in a supernatural levitation. The word 'rapture' was used in medieval mystic circles, to explain the levitation from a few centimetres off the floor to a metre or higher. These 'raptures' were condemned by the church. Margaret belonged to a tiny Protestant sect known as the Irvingites. Her so-called 'vision' gained some credibility and the story spread through the Plymouth Brethren. One of the Brethren's leaders, John Darby, took the idea as a new doctrine to the United States. Decades later it was adopted by the American Fundamentalists. The Fundamentalists added more to the heretical theory, like the mid-tribulation 'rapture', the secrecy of Jesus' return, and an anti-Christ who will set up a one-world government. Even more years later, 1 Thessalonians 4:13 to 18 was taken completely out of context, and used to promote this new doctrine, even though the words of Jesus says the opposite. Then further still, these false teachers added more scriptures and created more confusion about the mark of the beast, the 144,000 men, the saints dressed in white robes etc. They took scriptures from the Old Testament to back up their 'theory', and relying on the ignorance of most Christians regarding the Hebrew Scriptures, they twisted passages of scripture like Daniel's seventy weeks, Daniel's interpretation of the image, the abomination of desolation and others, until we now have a whole huge doctrine, twisted into a confusing, weakened form of Christianity, where the people falsely believe they don't have to do any more than just believe, and they don't have to be actively serving God, because they are told they will be 'raptured away' before the tribulation. The church has fully embraced the teaching it once condemned. The truth is we need to be the salt of the earth, and if the salt has lost its flavour, it is good for nothing and it is to be thrown away (Matthew 5:13). It is time the false doctrine of the 'rapture' was thrown away.

What does Jesus say about the wicked? He said the wicked will be removed from the earth first, not the righteous. Now that is exactly opposite to what the 'rapturists' teach. Matthew 13:30 says the darnel [tares] will be gathered first, bound and burned. Go to verse 38; The darnel [tares] are the children of the evil one. Verse 41; The angels will gather out of His Kingdom, all causes of offence. Jesus taught us that the children of the evil one will be gathered first. There are many more scriptures that explain to us, that the righteous will be left on earth, and it is the wicked that will be removed. Remember, the wicked are not going to inherit the earth, we Christians are! (Psalm 37:9 & 29; Matthew 5:5). The righteous are not removed (Proverbs 10:30). The righteous will be recompensed on earth (Proverbs 11:31).

On the other hand, the wicked are thrown away (Psalm 119:119; Matthew 13:48). The wicked are destroyed (Psalm 52:5; 145:20; Isaiah 13:9; Luke 17:29). The wicked are tossed into the furnace and are burned like stubble (Malachi 4:1; Matthew 13:50). The wicked will not escape (1 Thessalonians 5:3). The wicked will be rooted out of the earth (Psalm 52:5; 101:8; Proverbs 2:22). The wicked will be cut off (Psalm 37:9). Wickedness will be shaken out of the earth (Job 38:13). The wicked will be consumed and will be no

more (Psalm 104:35). So we see in these scriptures, that it is the wicked that are removed and taken out first. It is the wicked that are removed from earth, not the righteous.

Now let's look at some of the scriptures that are used to promote the 'rapture' theory. In 1st Thessalonians 4:13 to 18, Paul is speaking about the first resurrection. If we carefully read the whole passage, we can see that Paul was trying to reassure the Thessalonian church that they would not miss out, nor were they superior to those Christians who had already died. They were told not to grieve for the dead as the rest [unbelievers] do, who have no hope. Verse 18 tells them to comfort one another with these words, and from that we can see there was some concern about missing out on the first resurrection. That passage of scripture was not put there to build a new doctrine, but to comfort the people. Prior to 1830, these scriptures were accepted as referring to the first resurrection.

Daniel's 70 weeks and the Abomination of Desolation are fully completed and ended in 70 AD. They were given to Daniel 490 years prior to that date (Daniel 9:24 to 27). The 'code' for seven years is a 'week' so 70 weeks = 490 years. At 69 'weeks' Jesus came and was killed (verse 26). Before He died, Jesus told the disciples to remember and to watch out for the fulfilment of these prophecies written in the book of Daniel (Matthew 24:15 & Mark 13:14). Daniel 9:27 describes the terrible persecutions by the despotic Nero in 70 AD which literally ended the Jews' animal sacrifices in the temple. They had no choice because the temple was destroyed as Jesus said it would be (Matthew 24:2 & Mark 13:2). The animal sacrifices had to cease because Jesus became the final sacrifice for all mankind, including the Jews. The destruction of the temple [the sanctuary] completed the 490 years of Daniel's 70 weeks. The 'Lawless One' [the antiChrist] mentioned in 2nd Thessalonians 2:3 to 10, was accepted by the early church as being Nero, who entered into a covenant for 7 years, then he broke it after 3½ years when he destroyed the temple, which made the sacrifice and offering cease. He committed dreadful abominations and slaughtered thousands of Christians and Jews, right up until he died. Daniel's image has been fully explained in the sermon titled 'Daniel's interpretation of the Image' on this website. The mark of the beast, the antiChrist and 666 have been explained in the sermon titled 'The Mark of the Beast and 666' on this website. The subject of the 144,000 men has been explained in the sermon titled 'Who are the 144,000?' on this website.

The people in white robes mentioned in Revelation 7:9, 13 & 14 are people from all over the world who have died for their faith. People who have accepted Jesus as their Saviour and have their names written in the Lamb's book of Life (Revelation 21:27). They were patient and kept their faith in Jesus through all kinds of persecutions (Revelation 14:12). They asked the Lord how long they would have to wait before their blood was avenged (Revelation 6:10). They will rise again and live and rule with Jesus for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:4).

The rapture story has the believers disappearing before the famous Battle of Armageddon. Remember we read that the first resurrection was not until the last day of this age, and Christians will be on earth until then. When is the battle of Armageddon? It is just before the last bowl of God's wrath is poured out (Revelation 15:16 & 17), so Christians will be on earth then, but will be protected by the seal of God. Jesus spoke of the end of this age (Matthew 13:39 & 40; 24:3; 28:20). The end of this age is not the end of the world (Matthew 13:38 to 43). This 'age' will end when Jesus returns.

The scripture says there will be another major battle after the first resurrection and after we Christians have lived and ruled with Jesus for 1,000 years. Read Revelation 20:1 to 9 very carefully. It is after the 1,000 millennium rule that the devil is released again, and then he

will go forth to muster the deceived people to war. They swarm around Jerusalem to wage war on Jerusalem and Jesus. The army chiefs are called Gog and Magog. Read Ezekiel 38:1 to 3. The same words are used to describe the army chiefs – Gog and Magog – and God is against them and He will destroy them. After that time, all Jews will be in Israel and God will pour His Spirit upon the house of Israel (Ezekiel 39:28 & 29). Then the devil will be hurled into the lake of fire and will stay there forever. After that, the judgement of the wicked begins (Revelation 20:10 to 15). That is the time of the end of this earth; the end of the world, which takes place a little more than 1,000 years from now. This earth will be burned by fire (2 Peter 3:10 to 13) and we Christians will then go to the new heaven and the new earth to dwell there forever (Isaiah 65:17; 66:22; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1&2).

Let's now have a look at the bigger picture from God's point of view [as much as is humanly possible]. God put mankind on earth where the devil was thrown (Ezekiel 28:17). Eve was deceived by the devil (Genesis 3:1 to 6) and Adam was disobedient (Genesis 3:6 & 17). Since then, mankind has regressed into more wickedness (Genesis 6:5). The Lord saw that mankind was terribly wicked, however, our excuse is that man has been deceived and seduced by the devil to do all kinds of evil. For thousands of years, this has been the case. Just before Jesus comes to rule and reign on the earth, the whole earth will be cleansed of all wicked people [we have already given appropriate scriptures] and also, the devil will be bound up and locked away for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:3). As we saw in the earlier scriptures, the earth will be shaken free of all wickedness which will be rooted out, and there will be only Christians left on earth. Our King Jesus will rule the earth from Jerusalem (Revelation 20:4). During that thousand years, even though there will be no devil to entice people to do evil, millions of people will become wicked. This time though, the people will not be able to offload blame by saying "The devil made me do it" because the devil will be locked away and will not be there to make anybody do anything. We know they will become wicked, because after the devil is released from his prison, the people who allow themselves to be deceived, are the ones who will gather together to wage war on Jerusalem and our King (Revelation 20:7 to 9). Imagine the foolishness of trying to war against Jesus! Remember, that in that 1,000 years, every person on the earth at that time will be the descendants of the Christians left on the earth after the wicked are removed at the end of this age, so they will have the utmost privilege of knowing only God's rule on earth, without any evil influences, yet they will still turn their hearts away from God, and they will have no excuse. The Lord has spoken truthfully when He said man's heart is always wicked (Genesis 6:5).

The rapture theory has its roots in the occult, even the word 'rapture' is an occultic term for levitation, the rapture is not scriptural, it is not reality, therefore, it is just heresy and false prophecy.

Amen and God bless you.

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