

Great Expectations  
Class 5  
Pre-Tribulation Rapture

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# What is the Rapture?

- "Christ's raising up of His true church and its members to a realm above the earth where the whole company will enjoy celestial bliss with its Lord." (*Webster's Third New International Dictionary Unabridged*)
- 1 Thessalonians 4:17 uses this phrase:  
\_ "Caught Up" \_

# Jewish Wedding Traditions and Rapture

- **CAUTION: Much is not known about traditions from Jesus' time.**
- **However, there are interesting parallels**

## **Jewish Wedding**

- Betrothal, establishment of marriage covenant, price paid for bride, guarantee given.

## **Christ and Church**

- Christ gave himself (Eph. 5:25)
- Guarantee: Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:14)

## **Jewish Wedding**

- Covenant relationship celebrated with wine from a cup

## **Christ and Church**

- Last Supper (Luke 22:20);
- Cup of covenant (Matt. 26:28, 1 Cor. 11:25);
- Cup of suffering (Luke 22:42)

## **Jewish Wedding**

- Bride declared to be consecrated or sanctified - set apart - exclusively for her bridegroom

## **Christ and Church**

- Church to be spotless (Eph. 5:27)

## **Jewish Wedding**

- Groom leaves bride to go to father's house to prepare room (approx. 12 months)

## **Christ and Church**

- Jesus goes to His Father to prepare a place (John 14:2-4)

## **Jewish Wedding**

- Groom comes  
(usually at night)

## **Christ and Church**

- Hour unknown for  
Jesus' coming  
(Matt. 24:44)



## **Jewish Wedding**

- Guests are with the groom, accompanied by a great shout

## **Christ and Church**

- Friend of Bridegroom, John the Baptist (John 3:29); Jesus coming with a shout (1 Thess. 4:16-17)

## **Jewish Wedding**

- Bride taken to new home

## **Christ and Church**

- Jesus takes church to be with Him  
(John 14:3)

## **Jewish Wedding**

- Bride and Groom have seven day honeymoon. (Hidden away)

## **Christ and Church**

- Relation to seven years (Daniel's last week) prior to second coming? Church hidden from world.

## **Jewish Wedding**

- Feast for guests starts (seven days)

## **Christ and Church**

- Parallel in Revelation between great wedding feast (final judgment) and prior judgments?

## **Jewish Wedding**

- Bride revealed, last feast.

## **Christ and Church**

- Marriage supper of the Lamb and His wife (Rev. 19:7-10)

# **What is the difference between pre-tribulation, mid-tribulation, and post-tribulation rapture?**

- Pre-tribulation, rapture before 7 year tribulation
- Mid-tribulation, rapture occurs during tribulation, often in the middle
- Post-tribulation, rapture after tribulation period.

# First Video Here

- **EndTimes 4 of 7**
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjx2qNYqcX4>

# Hopeful Thinking?

- **Isn't the rapture just hopeful thinking by some Christians to avoid the tribulation week mentioned in Daniel chapter 9 and other Bible passages?**
- **Tribulation does not equal persecution.**
- **2 Tim. 3:12**



# The Nature of the 70<sup>th</sup> Week

- Divine wrath (Rev. 6:16-17)
- Divine judgment (Rev. 14:7)
- Over entire earth (Rev. 3:10, Is. 34:2)

# Purpose of the 70<sup>th</sup> week-tribulation

- To try earth dwellers (Rev. 3:10)
- To turn Israel's heart to the Lord (Mal. 4:5-6, Dan. 9:24)

# Doctrine of Imminence

- The church is told to watch for the Lord not for signs that precede His coming (I Thess. 5:6, Titus 2:13, Rev. 3:3)
  - If the church were raptured during or after the tribulation, it would then have signs

# Nature of the Church

- Distinction between true church and professing church (Rev. 2:2)
- Body of Christ
  - Unified (1 Cor. 12)
  - No condemnation (Rom. 8:1, John 5:24)
  - All shall be changed together (1 Cor. 15:51)

# God's Nature

- To preserve His people from divine wrath
  - Noah and family (Gen. 6-9, 2 Pet. 2:4-5)
  - Lot and family (Gen. 19:22, 2 Pet. 2:6-9)

# God's Promises to the Church

- Not to wrath (1 Thess. 5:9)
- Keep from the hour of trial (Rev. 3:10)

# Removal of the Restrainer

- 2 Thess. 2:7-8
- Both governments and the Holy Spirit remain active during the tribulation, therefore it must be the church that is removed.

# Chronology of Revelation and Daniel 7

- Daniel 7:2-8 world kingdoms, 7:9-10 heavenly scene, 7:11-12 Antichrist speaking, dominion of beast, judgment
- Revelation 1-3 the church, 4-5 heavenly scene, 6-19, tribulation, 20 judgment



# Overview of Book of Revelation

1-3    4-5    6-----19    20

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Churches

Heavenly Scene

Tribulation

Judgment

# **What is the Assembly of God position on the Rapture?**

- “The Rapture of the Church.”
- <[http://www.ag.org/top/Beliefs/Position\\_Papers/pp\\_4182\\_rapture.cfm](http://www.ag.org/top/Beliefs/Position_Papers/pp_4182_rapture.cfm)>

# Is the Rapture Imminent (Coming Soon)?

- Recommended website: “The Technologies of Revelation ” by Britt Gillette.
- <http://www.raptureready.com/featured/gillette/bg34.html>

# Signs of the Times

- Israel is once again a nation, poised to fulfill the final seven years of God's divine plan (Daniel 9:24).
- Travel and knowledge have dramatically increased (Daniel 12:4).

# Signs of the Times

- Russia, Iran, and a unique coalition of anti-Israeli nations are gathering in concert (Ezekiel 38-39).
- The European Union, cultural and geographical heir to the ancient Roman
- Empire, has emerged on the world scene as a legitimate superpower (Daniel 9:26)

# Technologies Fulfilling Scripture

- The whole world sees the dead bodies of the two witnesses (Rev. 11:7-10)
- Now possible with television, high-bandwidth video feeds on cell phones, PDAs, and other handheld devices

# Technologies Fulfilling Scripture

- No One Can Buy or Sell (Rev. 13:16-17)
- sophisticated electronic banking encryption software and/or stringent personal identification verification technologies

# Technologies Fulfilling Scripture

- The Mark of the Beast (Rev. 13:16-17)
- distinguishing mark paired with a worldwide database



# Rapture Index!

- Strange, but true.
- <http://www.raptureready.com/rap2.html>

# Second Video Here

- Video from Signs of End of Time Conference:
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OquVP0maZI>