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:
 <u>"Caught Up"</u>_

Jewish Wedding Traditions and Rapture

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

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

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

- Covenant relationship Last Supper (Luke celebrated with wine from a cup
 - 22:20);
 - Cup of covenant (Matt. 26:28, 1 Cor. 11:25);
 - Cup of suffering (Luke 22:42)

- Bride declared to be consecrated or sanctified - set apart exclusively for her bridegroom
- Church to be spotless (Eph. 5:27)

- Groom leaves bride to Jesus goes to His go to father's house to prepare room (approx. place (John 14:2-4) 12 months)
 - Father to prepare a

Christ and Church

Groom comes
 (usually at night)

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

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

- Bride taken to new home
- Jesus takes church to be with Him (John 14:3)

- Bride and Groom
 have seven day
 honeymoon. (Hidden away)
- Relation to seven years (Daniel's last week) prior to second coming? Church hidden from world.

- Feast for guests starts (seven days)
- Parallel in Revelation
 between great
 wedding feast (final
 judgment) and prior
 judgments?

- Bride revealed, last feast.
- 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

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• <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjx2qNYqcX</u>

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 <u>persecution</u>.
- 2 Tim. 3:12

The Nature of the 70th Week

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

Purpose of the 70th 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)

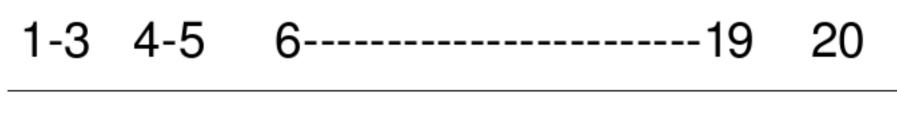
Removal of the Restrainer

- 2 Thess. 2:7-8
- Both governments and the Holy Sprit 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





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>

Is the Rapture Imminent (Coming Soon)?

- Recommended website: "The Technologies of Revelation" by Britt Gillette.
- http://www.raptureready.com/featured/gillette/b g34.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, highbandwidth 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 pared with a worldwide database

Rapture Index!

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

Second Video Here

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