

**Great Expectations
Class 5**

The Rapture

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What is the rapture?

Webster's Third New International Dictionary Unabridged: "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."

1 Thessalonians 4:17 uses this phrase: ___caught up_____

The relationship between the Jewish wedding tradition and rapture and coming events.

Recommended website for further study: <http://www.khouse.org/articles/2003/449/>

CAUTION. Many aspects of the wedding and marriage traditions from Jesus' time are only known through more modern traditions and later writings. There is a temptation to re-write traditions in Jesus' day in light of our understanding.

Also see the parable in Matthew 25:1-13

Jewish Wedding Traditions	Reference to Jesus and Church
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 celebrated with wine from a cup	Last Supper (Luke 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 go to father's house to prepare room (approx. 12 months)	Jesus goes to His Father to prepare a place (John 14:2-4)
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?

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

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.

Support for the Pre-Tribulation Rapture

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)

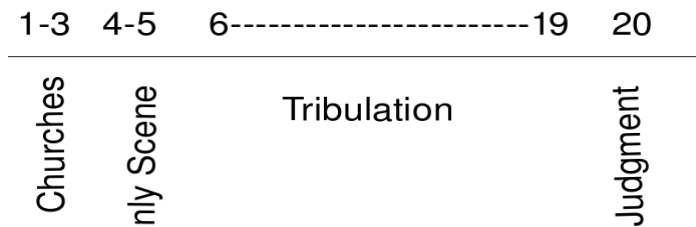
Removal of the Restrainer

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



What is the Assembly of God position on the rapture? Is this position supported by Scripture?

See "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/bg34.html>>

The rapture index. <http://www.raptureready.com/rap2.html>

Video from Signs of End of Time Conference:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OquVP0maZI>