

Major Event # 1 - The Rapture Of The Church

- Three Key Passages:
- John 14:1-3 (NKJV) “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

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- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-15 (NKJV) But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

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- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 (NKJV) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

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- 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (NKJV) Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Reasons To Believe In A Pre-Trib Rapture

1. Rapture presented as imminent – 2nd coming preceded by many signs
 - ◆ Matthew 24-25 have many signs
 - ◆ Revelation 4-18 has many signs
2. No rapture mentioned in any 2nd coming passages
 - ◆ Hard to believe that the rapture would be left out of Revelation 19
3. Promises to the church that we are not destined for wrath

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- 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 (NKJV) For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:9 (NKJV) For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- Revelation 3:10 (NKJV) Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

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4. It is hard to call the rapture a “blessed hope” if post-trib (Titus 2:11)
 - Titus 2:11-13 (NKJV) For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

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5. Necessity of interval between rapture and 2nd coming

- Judgment Seat Of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10)
- Presentation of the bride (Rev. 19)
- If rapture occurs at the end of the tribulation, then there will be no one left to populate the Millennial kingdom

6. The church presented to Christ before 2nd coming

- Revelation 19:7-8 (NKJV) Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

7. Many clear distinctions between the rapture and the 2nd coming

Reasons To Believe In A Pre-Trib Rapture

Rapture

- Living saints translated
- Believers removed
- Not a public demonstration
- Movement from earth to heaven
- Is a “mystery”
- Meets church in the air
- World is not judged
- Christ comes for His bride
- Brings message of comfort
- Related to God’s program for church
- Believers are judged
- “the Lord is at hand” (Phil 4:5)

2nd Coming

- No translation of saints
- Appearing of the Son
- Watched by the world
- Movement from heaven to earth
- Predicted in both testaments
- Meets saints on the earth
- World is judged
- Christ returns with His bride
- Brings message of judgment
- Related to God’s ... for Israel
- Gentiles & Israel are judged
- “the kingdom is at hand” (Matt 24:14)

Reasons To Believe In A Pre-Trib Rapture

8. Church is not seen anywhere on earth in Rev. 4-18
 - ◆ 24 elders in Rev. 4:1-5:14 most likely represents the church in heaven