

Eschatology 101: The Rapture vs. The Return

Eschatology 101: Bible Truths About the Rapture

1. **WHAT Is the Rapture? The Return of JESUS for BELIEVERS**
John 14:3 "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."
2. **WHO Is Taken at the Rapture?**
1 Cor 15:23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming. (cf. *1 Thes 4:13-17*)
3. **WHAT Happens When We Are Raptured?**
Resurrection & Transformation of Our Bodies: *Phil 3:20-21* For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself. (*1 Cor 15:51-52*; *1 John 3:1-3*)
The Judgment Seat of Christ: *2 Tim 4:1* I charge *you* therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:
4. **WHERE Are We Taken at the Rapture?**
John 14:3 "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."
1 Thes 4:17c And thus we shall always be with the Lord.
5. **WHEN Will the Rapture Happen?**
Rom 11:25b ...blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.
1 Thes 5:9-10 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.
2 Thes 2:3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,
6. **HOW Should the Truths of the Rapture Affect Us?**
Persistent Service: *1 Cor 15:58* Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.
Present Comfort: *1 Thes 4:18* Therefore comfort one another with these words.
Perfected Living: *1 Thes 5:23* Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (*Titus 2:11-14*)
Patient Waiting: *James 5:7* Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See *how* the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. ⁸ You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.
Purified Walk: *1 John 3:1-3* And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

	Rapture	Return
1. Believers	Comes His Saints	Comes His Saints
	<p><i>1 Cor 15:23</i> But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those <i>who are</i> Christ's at His coming.</p> <p><i>1 Thes 3:13</i> so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.</p>	
2. Location	Meets in the	Lands on the
	<p><i>1 Thes 4:17</i> Then we who are alive <i>and</i> remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.</p> <p><i>Zech 14:3-4</i> Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle. ⁴ And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two...</p>	
3. Purpose	To believers	To unbelievers
	<p><i>John 14:3</i> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself...</p> <p><i>Matt 25:31-46</i> When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy¹ angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides <i>his</i> sheep from the goats. ³³ And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. (<i>2 Thes 1:7-9</i>)</p>	
4. Kingdom	(no mention)	Year Reign
	<p>See <i>John 14:3</i> <i>Rev 20:1-8</i> ⁴...And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.</p>	
5. Bodies	Living & Dead	Bodily Change
	<p><i>1 Cor 15:52</i> 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.</p>	
6. Wrath	Happens Wrath	Happens Wrath
	<p><i>1 Thes 5:9</i> For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,</p> <p><i>Rev 6:17</i> For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?</p>	
7. Timing	(Any Time)	Tribulation Events
	<p><i>Titus 2:13</i> looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ (<i>1 John 2:28</i>)</p>	
8. Destination		
	<p>See <i>John 14:3</i> See <i>Rev 20:4</i></p>	
9. Removal	Of All	Of All
	<p><i>1 Thes 4:16-17</i> 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. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive <i>and</i> 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.</p> <p><i>2 Thes 1:7-9</i> and to <i>give</i> you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, ⁸ in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power. (<i>Rev 19:21</i>)</p>	