



"GET A GRIP ON YOUR FAITH"



DOCTRINE #12: THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

Are You Sure?

- What is the Rapture?

Rapture is a non-biblical word that describes a biblical event ... the catching away of believers to be with the Lord in the air.

- What is the difference between the Rapture and the Second Coming of Christ?

The Second Coming will actually occur in two phases—the Rapture and Revelation.

Statement of Faith #12



We believe the blessed hope of the church is Christ's return from heaven to catch up the Christians who have died, together with those who are alive, to be with Him forever.

Jesus Is Coming Again

- The Bible is jammed with talk about Christ's Second Coming.
 1. One-fifth of the Bible deals with prophecy.
 2. One-third of Bible prophecy deals with the Second Coming.
 3. Christ's Second Coming is referred to eight times more often than His First Coming and twice as often as the Atonement.
 4. One out of 30 verse deals with the return of Jesus.
 5. Christ's Second Coming is referred to 318 times in the 216 New Testament chapters.
 6. 1 and 2 Thessalonians are known as the "Epistles of Christ's Second Coming".

- Jesus made three promises before He died on Calvary for our sins.

1. I will build my church. (Matt. 16:18)
2. I will send the Spirit. (John 15:26)
3. I will come again. (John 14:2-3)

He fulfilled the first two and He will fulfill the third as well!

- What promise did the angel make in Acts 1:11?

Jesus will come again just like He left ... personally and visibly!

- The Apostles were emphatic in their teaching about the Second Coming.

Paul • "For the Lord Himself will come down..." (1 Thess. 4:16)

John • "When He appears..." (1 John 3:2)

Peter • "When the Chief shepherd appears..." (1 Peter 5:4)

James • "The Lord's coming is near." (James 5:8)

When Will Jesus Come?

What are the signs of the end times according to Matt. 24:3-7?

Wars, famine, and earthquakes.



Ready ... Set ... Rapture!

- Read 1 Thess. 4:13-18. What are the two phases of the Rapture listed in vs. 16-17?
 1. The dead in Christ shall rise first.
 2. Then the living Christians will rise to meet the Lord in the air.
- 1 Thess. 4:16 says the dead in Christ will rise first. Does this mean that believers remain in the grave until the Rapture? Note Phil 1:21, 23 and 2 Cor. 5:8.

No! When a believer dies, his soul enters the presence of the Lord.
- According to 1 Corinthians 15:51-53, what happens to our bodies at the Rapture?

They will be resurrected, changed into imperishable, immortal, perfected bodies.
- According to Titus 2:13, what is our "blessed hope"?

The Rapture of the saints.
- When will the Rapture take place?
 Pre-trib Mid-trib Post-trib Pan-trib

Reasons to believe in a pre-tribulation Rapture:

1. The apostles were looking for the Rapture, not the Great Tribulation.
(1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thess. 4:17; Titus 2:11-13; Phil.4:5)
2. Jesus told us to expect Him momentarily (imminently).
(Matt. 24:42,44,50; 25:13; Luke 12:40)
3. The time of His coming is unknown.
(Mark 13:32)
4. Many believers have already experienced great tribulation.

Summary

The Second Coming of Christ includes two parts; the **Rapture** and the **Revelation**.

- The Bible teaches that the **Rapture** is the "blessed hope" of the believer. The Rapture includes these three aspects:
 1. There will be a resurrection of those who sleep in Jesus.
(1 Thess. 4:14; cf. Rev. 20:5)
 2. The living saints will be "airlifted" and changed in a moment.
(1 Thess. 4:17; 1 Cor. 15:51-57; 1 John 3:1-3)
 3. There will be a meeting in the air with the Lord.
(1 Thess. 4:17)
- The **Revelation** (which is when Christ actually returns to earth for the second time) is that event when Christ will establish a 1,000-year reign on earth with His saints.

Are You Ready?

- **Be watchful!**
(Matt. 24:42; 25:13; 1 Thess. 5:6)
- **Be ready!**
(Matt. 24:44; Luke 12:35)
- **Be thoughtful!**
(1 Peter 1:13; 4:7)
- **Be faithful!**
(Matt. 25:21; Luke 12:42-43; Rev. 3:10-11)
- **Be patient!**
(Heb. 10:36-37; James 5:8)
- **Be holy!**
(1 John 3:3; 2 Peter 3:11-12)