

LEFT BEHIND!  THE RAPTURE

“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.” Rev 3:10

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We have all heard about the rapture of the Church, the tribulation period of seven years, and what will happen during those times that will get Christ to return to this earth for 1000 years. This is not intended to be a study in depth but simply to remind ourselves that “THE EVENT” could happen at anytime in our lives, the reason Jesus told us to always be ready.

The apostle Paul in 1 Thess 4:16-18 described it this way: “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.”

Now, if we think for just a moment, can we imagine the chaos that this event will cause? How many airplane pilots will be caught up with God while flying, how many car drivers on the highway will disappear instantly? Can we just imagine the impact of such an event? In 1 Cor 15:52 Paul adds that it will happen “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.”

Will we be the ones caught up with the Lord or are we going to be the ones “Left Behind”?

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**LEFT
BEHIND**  **WHEN WILL
IT HAPPEN?**

“Then two men will be in the field:
one will be taken and the other left.
Two women will be grinding at the mill:
one will be taken and the other left.
Watch therefore, for you do not know
what hour your Lord is coming.”

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Mat 24:40-42

Many make light of the event of all events, the rapture of the Church, either writing it off as a fable or coming up with new theories not found in the Word of God. No matter what mankind comes up with, God's plan for this earth will take place, and we should make sure we don't find ourselves "left behind".

In Mat. 24:36-38 Jesus said, "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."

Noah took 120 years to build the ark, in an environment that had never seen rain, and told people to get ready for a flood. They laughed at him and discounted him as having lost his mind. Yet, not even one person outside Noah's family heeded the call and all died as a result. Noah didn't know when it would happen, only that God had told him it would, and he simply followed God's plan and carried it out with the result he and he and his family only of all the earth survived.

Peter added that "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night." (2 Peter 3:10) Jesus also said in Luke 12:40, "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." Are we ready?

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LEFT
BEHIND



THE
TRIBULATION

“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.” Luke 21:25-26



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The seven years of tribulation following the Rapture of the Church, will be exceedingly fearful and cruel for the entire world, but even more atrocious it will be for those who knew the truth about Christ, yet chose to follow their flesh. Hypocrites will say, “Hey, didn’t I accept you as my Savior? And Jesus will respond, “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!” (Mat 7:23)

In other words, the period of tribulation will be a time like it never happened before on earth, as Satan will reign supreme for a period of 7 years, after which Christ returns on this earth with His elect, His true Church, His Bride. The tribulation will bring atrocious events where many will be put to death for making a confession of belief in Christ. While some will be saved through the tribulation, many would have been able to avoid such a time had they just heeded the teachings of Jesus, His Word, rather than living for themselves and the world.

That’s why Paul said in 1 Thess 5:9-10, “For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.”

Have we truly surrendered to Christ yet, are we committed and ready?

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LEFT BEHIND  THE PROMISE

Then the angel said to me, "Write this:
Blessed are those who are invited
to the wedding supper of the Lamb!"
And he added,
"These are the true words of God."

Rev 19:9



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"The Marriage Supper of the Lamb"! What a powerful and glorious representation of the event that follows the rapture. In other words, Christ's Church, His Body of true believers, will be treated like a bride at a wedding event. Those who have surrendered their lives to Christ become the center of attention for Christ in heaven, and accordingly we will be in His presence for eternity.

Before leaving this earth, Jesus left us with these words: "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."

Did we notice that Jesus didn't say that in His Father's house there are many rooms, but rather said, "many mansions"? Let's understand that mansions are a place of comfort, peace, righteousness and joy. Yes, His true disciples will be spared from the tribulation, as found in Rev 3:10: "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." Are we in?

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LEFT
BEHIND



WATCH
& PRAY

“But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly... Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Luke 21:34 & 36



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Are we part of the Body of Christ, surrendered and dedicated believers following Him? Then if we are, Jesus told us to watch and pray. Why? Because the world always bring temptations that can only be fought through the power of God in our lives.

How do we get this power? Simply, it requires a day to day commitment through prayer and the study of His Word, so we can put on the armor of God, as Paul taught us in Ephesians 6:10-18. Jesus also told us that He would come like a thief in the night, as found in Mat 24:42-44, “Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

In other words, superficial “veneer like” Christianity, whereby hypocrites claim to be believers yet their heart is with the world, sure won't be part of the rapture and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Let's examine ourselves and see if we are steadfast in seeking the Lord, in studying His Word, and living according to His will, so we are ready to meet the Lord at anytime.

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LEFT  **THE**

BEHIND **SOLUTION**

“Now after John was put in prison,
Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel
of the kingdom of God, and saying,
“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God
is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

Mark 1:14-15



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Jesus' short statement in Mark 1:15 saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel," is definitely short and to the point. While some may say it's been over 2,000 years that Jesus said this, let's "not forget this one thing that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." (2 Peter 3:8) In reality, we're a lot closer to the day of the Lord now than they were in Jesus' time.

That's why Peter also said, "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 1:13) The apostle Paul in his letter to Titus said "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." (Titus 2:11-13)

Salvation is not simply saying a little prayer and accepting Jesus as some say. Rather it involves repentance, the surrender of our lives, and to make a true strong commitment to follow Christ. Are we ready to meet the Lord at anytime?

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