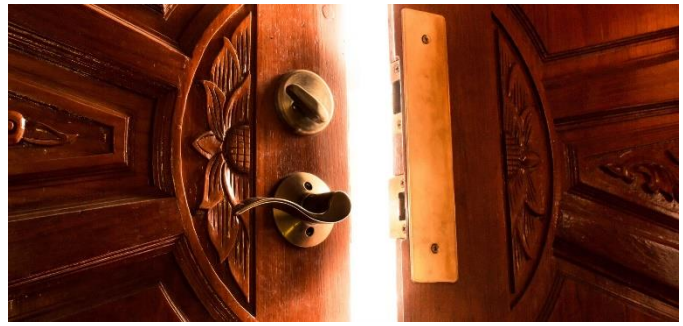


How The Story Ends

God's Happy Ending For Creation

Pastor Toby Locke • ABF Study • Spring 2021



So, What About the “Rapture”?

What IS the doctrine of “the Rapture”?

- It is the teaching that the “second coming” of Jesus will actually happen in two phases...
 - * Phase 1: Jesus will return to the _____ to gather the _____ to Himself.
 - * Phase 2: Jesus will return to the _____ to judge the _____ and establish God’s _____ on earth.

Why do I believe in this “two phase” 2nd Coming? BECAUSE...

- There are SEVERAL NT passages that describe the _____ of Jesus in ways that seem completely out of _____ with the description of his return in Revelation 19.
 - * Revelation 19:11-16
 - ⇒ Jesus’s purpose: to _____, _____ (vs. 11), and ultimately _____ the nations (vs. 15).
 - ⇒ Jesus’s attitude: to express the “fury of the _____ of God the Almighty” (vs. 15).
 - ⇒ This matches the descriptions of the return of Jesus found in Matthew 24:30-31, Mark 13:26-27 and Luke 21:27, which also matches the return of Messiah to earth to battle Israel’s enemies found in Zechariah 14.
 - * John 14:3
 - ⇒ Jesus’s purpose: to take His _____ to Himself, so that they will be _____ always.
 - ⇒ Jesus’s attitude: to express the tender _____ of a friend and Bridegroom.
 - ⇒ How does this fit with Revelation 19? Could it be describing a different aspect of Jesus’s second coming?

*** 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17**

- ⇒ Jesus's location: "in the _____," "in the _____" (vs. 17).
- ⇒ Jesus's focus: His disciples (the _____), not the nation of _____ as a whole.
- ⇒ Jesus's purpose: to be reunited with His _____, both those who have _____ before His coming and those who are still _____ at His coming (vs. 17).
- ⇒ The tone of this passage matches the tone of John 14:3 exactly, with more details added.

*** 1 Corinthians 15:51-55**

- ⇒ This description uses the same language as 1 Thessalonians 4, suggesting that Paul is describing the same event from a different angle.
- ⇒ His focus here is on the resurrection _____ of those who are "changed" at this coming of Jesus.
- ⇒ This is called a " _____ " - something that was previously unknown, but has now become known.

■ **Paul makes it clear that God does not intend for the church to experience His _____.**

*** 1 Thessalonians 5:1-10**

- ⇒ After describing the Rapture in 4:13-18, Paul turns to discussing the "day of the Lord", which seems to be a way to refer to the entire period of judgment during which God will finally judge fallen humanity for their rebellion.
- ⇒ The pronouns describing the day of the Lord are all "they" and "them" - no "we" and "us." This is presumably because the Church will not go through or experience this sudden "day of the Lord" (vs. 3-4).
- ⇒ Supporting the previous idea is this explicit statement: God has not destined us for _____ but for _____ (vs. 9).
- ⇒ Summary: The _____ will be _____ from "the day of the Lord."
- ⇒ Connecting this idea with the previous big idea above, it is the return of Jesus to the clouds to "catch up" the Church that will exempt her from the experience of the "day of the Lord" that will happen on earth during the Tribulation (or Daniel's 70th Week).

*** The _____ as described by John in Revelation 6:16-17 is the time when His _____ will be poured out on unbelieving mankind.**

* If the previous two statements are true (that the Church is exempted from God's wrath, and the Tribulation is God's wrath poured out on the earth) then it stands to reason that the _____ will be the _____ by which Jesus will "deliver us from the wrath to come." (1 Thessalonians 1:10)

WHEN will this "Rapture" happen?

- Sometime _____ the beginning of the Tribulation period, when God's wrath will be poured out on the world.
- It could happen _____!
- We need to be looking for and waiting for _____.
 - * 1 Thessalonians 1:10
 - * Titus 2:13
 - * Philippians 3:20-21
 - * 1 John 3:2-3
 - * Revelation 22:20 – "Surely I am coming SOON." AMEN. Come, Lord Jesus!