

The Rapture and Other Pauline Prophecies

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I. Introduction

- A. Our approach to scripture—2Tim 3:16-17; 2Pt 1:21; Matt 5:18
- B. The dispensational distinctions in scripture—2 Tim 2:15

<p>Israel and Gentiles on earth</p> <p>A. Israel > Gentiles</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spiritual Authority—Isa 2:1-3; Jer 3:17; Zech 8:13, 22, 23, 3; 14:1-21 (16-19); Mt 15:24-28 (Mk 7:24-30); Rev 21:24-26 2. Political Authority—Isa 24:23; (Isa 2:4); Isa 60:1-16 (3, 11, 12, 16); Joel 3:1; Amos 9:11, 12; Isa 14:1-3 <p>B. Prophetic Program is Earthly—Job 19:25-26; Jer 23:26 comp. 2-6; Mt 5:5; 6:10; Rev 21:10; Ps 25:13; 37:9, 11, 22; Gen 17:8; 2Sam 7:16 (also scriptures in IA)</p> <p>C. Gentiles (Job) and resurrection – Job 14:12-17 compare with Rev 20:11-15 – after the millennium</p> <p>D. Israel and resurrection – Rev 20:1-6 –before millennium but after the events of Revelation; compare Ex 19:5-6; 1 Pt 2:9-10</p>	<p>Body of Christ</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Jew = Gentile—Rom 10:12; 8:17; 11:32; Eph 2:16, 17; 3:5-9; Gal 3:28; 6:15 B. Body is future ruler of Angels in the heavens—1Co 6:3; 13:1; Ep 2:6, 22 (Lk 1:19); Ep 3:10; 1:22, 23; Php 3:20; Col 3:1-3; 1Th 4:16-17; 1Co 15:40 C. Was the rapture always ‘any moment’? That is, are there any events which MUST PRECEDE the rapture? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. None of Israel’s prophecies MUST precede though they may 2. There are no such prophecies in Paul’s earlier letters 3. There are, however, two such prophecies in Paul’s later letters
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II. Latter Times—1Tim 4:1-5—fulfilled in the Roman Catholic church c. 400 AD

- A. Latter Times—4:1
 1. ‘husterois kairois’ = subsequent times
 2. Has this not true since the fifth century?
- B. Apostasy—4:1
 1. Depart from
 2. ‘The faith’—2Tim 4:7-8; Ep 5:16
 - a. System of basic doctrine
 - b. Shield of ‘the faith’—Ep 6:16
 - c. Guard ‘the faith’—2Tim 4:7-8
 - i. The sacred deposit—2Tim 1:12-14
 - a. ‘that ... committed’ (KJV) = ‘my deposit’
 - b. 1Ti 6:20 ‘the deposit’ = ‘that ... trust’
 - ii. the mystery—1Ti 3:9 comp Ep 3:9; Gal 4:3, 9; Col 2;; Ep 4:3-6
 - iii. Some depart—1Ti 4:1; 5:8
 - iv. You ‘closely followed’ —1Ti 4:6
- C. Allegiance—4:1
 1. Deceiving spirits—comp 2Jn 7
 2. Doctrines of Demons—comp. 1Co 10:20-21; Ga 4:9; Col 2:14-
- D. Cauterized—4:2
 1. As to conscience
 2. In hypocrit lies—Ja 3:17
- E. Legalism—4:3
 1. Forbid marriage (for some at least)
 2. Forbid certain foods—Col 2:14-3:1

III. Last Days—2Tim 3:1-9—fulfilled TODAY in modern charismatic movement

- A. Last Days—3:1, implies the very end of the present dispensation
- B. Difficult Times—3:1 (spiritually) = hard, difficult, full of trouble, etc.
- C. Who is described?

1. Unbelievers always did these things—Ro 1:18-32
2. MUST be professing believers
 - a. Not Christendom for many there do not even profess
 - b. These may well be professing 'conservative' believers
3. Some sins must be openly proclaimed for they have always been true even of believers. For example, aren't we all self-centered?

D. Description

1. Self-centered (Greek word only here)—Charismatics and other evangelicals TODAY openly teach that, "You can't love others if you don't love yourself.
2. Fond of Money—Listen to the modern charismatics—Copeland, Hagin, Price
3. Boastful—Listen to the same clowns. Also, R. B. Thieme, and others.
4. Proud
5. Abusive or Slanderers—We've seen this ourselves. But, think of the following said by Paul Crouch on television on April 2, 1991!

...that old rotten Sanhedrin crowd, twice dead, plucked up by the roots ... they're damned and on their way to hell and I don't think there's any redemption for them ... the hypocrites, the heresy hunters that want to find a little mote of illegal doctrine in some Christian's eyes ... when they've got a whole forest in their own lives....

I say, "To hell with you! Get out of my life! Get out of the way! Quit blockin' God's bridges! I'm tired of this! ... This is in my spirit. Oh, hallelujah!" ...

...

There's a spiritual application here.... I want to say to all you scribes, pharisees, heresy-hunters, all of you that are going around pickin' little bits of doctrinal error out of everybody's eyes and dividin' the Body of Christ ... get out of God's way, stop blockin' God's bridges, or God's goin' shoot you if I don't ... let Him sort out all this doctrinal doodoo!

I don't care about your doctrines as long as you name the name of Jesus, as long as you believe He died dead [sic] and was buried but came out of the tomb on Sunday morning and ascended to the Father ... I don't care about anything else! Let's join hands ... to get this gospel in all the world....

The rest of this stuff is what Paul the Apostle calls dung—human excrement! It's not worth anything! Get rid of it ... and get on with winning the lost....

I refuse to argue any longer with any of you out there! Don't even call me if you want to argue doctrine, if you want to straighten somebody out ... criticize Ken Copeland ... or Dad Hagin. Get out of my life! I don't even want to talk to you ... I don't want to see your ugly face!

6. Disobedient to Parents. I've not seen this advocated but the culture encourages its practice and it is affecting everyone.
7. Ungrateful, etc.
 - a. See the book, *The Agony of Deceit*
 - b. Again, see the quote above.

IV. The Final Day of this dispensation—Rapture—1Th 4:13-18; 1Co 15:23-24, 51-52

A. Is not the Second Coming (to earth to reign)

1. It is (was) a secret—1Co 15:51 comp. Joel 3:16-17
2. It is in the air—1Th 4:17 comp. Rev 20:4 (on earth)
3. Certain Greek words used
 - a. arpazo—1Th 4:17=seized by force
 - b. paralambano—jn 14:3=receive alongside

B. Is the end of the age

1. Is in this dispensation—1Th 4:17 (use of 'we')
2. Our hope—Tit 2:13
 - a. Unique—Eph 4:4
 - b. Actually, it is the beginning of our hope
3. The hope is realized for the Body of Christ in Tit 2:13
4. Therefore, is the end of the Grace Dispensation

C. Is before the Tribulation

1. Occam's Razor (simplest explanation)—If we suppose not, we have nothing but confusion for:
 - a. Kingdom hope ≠ Our hope
 - b. There is one hope for the Body—Ep 4:4

- c. There would be two groups of believers with two hopes and two sets of responsibilities, etc.
- d. How would one recognize a true Jew in Israel's program?
- 2. Day and Night—1Th 5:4
 - a. We are of the light—1Th 5:4, 5, 8 and of the day—1Th 5:8
 - b. The day of the Lord (Joel 2:1,2)
 - c. Come as a thief in the night—1Th 5:2, 4; Joel 2:31
- 3. 2Th 2:7
 - a. It is not the Spirit for the Spirit is always on earth. How else may men be saved on the earth.
 - b. This is the Body of Christ
 - c. The Body is called a 'mature male' in Eph 4:13 so the use of 'he' is appropriate
- 4. The Battle of Rom 16:20
 - a. Rev 12:7-9 takes place in the heavens not the heavenlies
 - b. Our battle is in the heavenlies—Ep 6:12 (note also Ep 1:3, 20; 2:6; 3:10)
 - c. [The evil day—Ep 6:13]
 - d. The trump (1Co 15:52) is the trump of battle
 - e. At the end of the tribulation, the battle is not in the heavenlies
- 5. Israel's blindness
 - a. Blind until—Ro 11:25 (comp. Ep 4:13) [comp Ro 11:12]
 - b. In the tribulation, Israel has her national spiritual privileges again
- 6. 2Th 2:1-2 implies day of the Lord after our assembling. Compare Rev 6:7-11

V. Personal Release Before the Rapture—Phil 1:18b-26

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, 19 for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. 20 I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; 24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.