



THE RAPTURE & SECOND COMING

By Jeanne-Louise Viljoen



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1 INTRODUCTION

The Rapture is probably one of the most controversial topics in modern day Christianity. It is one of my beliefs that I felt I would like to lay out and explain here. It is up to the student or reader to make their own study and conclusion.

It would also be wise to keep in mind that there are 4 peoples God speaks of that will **be saved**:

- Old Testament Saints
- The Church (believers)
- The Tribulation Saints
- 144,000 Israelites and the 2 witnesses during the tribulation period.

Some scholars believe that the rapture and second coming will happen simultaneously, while others believe there are two different phases or parts to His second coming.

The first phase of His is referred to as “coming in the air”, which is also called the “rapture” or “snatching away”. Apparently, this snatching away would only be for Christians who are then caught up in the air together with the saints who were “asleep in Jesus”.

These Christians who are “asleep in Jesus” are not really dead. Their souls and spirits are absent from their bodies (which had died and remained behind on earth), and their souls and spirits are present with Christ in heaven. *2 Corinthians 5:8 (NLT)* “*Yes we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord.*” This “sleep in Christ” goes on until the “catching up in the air” happens. Those still alive will have their bodies transformed. Those who were “asleep in Jesus” will be reunited with their bodies and then be transformed into their glorified bodies. *1 Corinthians 15:51-53 (NLT)* “*But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.*”

Judgement of the believers – After the transformed bodies of the saints - *2 Corinthians 5:10 (NLT)* “*For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.*” It is thought by some scholars that once the believers have been gathered in the air, their judgement happens simultaneously in the air – where their rewards will also be given unto them. Once this judgement is completed the Lord continues His descent to the earth to complete His second coming. Thus, the two phases are seen as one coming of Jesus Christ.

The second phase of the Lord’s second coming would be the public appearance of Jesus Christ to the earth - *Matthew 25:31 (NLT)* “*But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne.*”. Here Jesus is accompanied with:

- Great power and glory;
- Angels of heaven.

Every eye will see Jesus coming. *Revelation 1:7 (NLT)* “*Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven. And everyone will see him – even those who pierced him. And all the nations of the world will mourn for him. Yes! Amen!*” Thus, in this second phase Jesus Christ has come for everyone, both believers and unbelievers.

Where does the word “Rapture” come from and what does it mean?

1. Rapture comes from the Greek word “*Harpazo*”, which means “*to snatch or catch away*”. Some people believe “*Harpazo*” can also be translated “*catch up*”. The word *Harpazo* also appears in the following scriptures:

- **Used by Philip** in *Acts 8:39-40 (NLT)* “*When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on*

his way rejoicing. Meanwhile, Philip found himself farther north at the town of Azotus.” Philip was translated from one place to another, and the word used here was “snatched away”.

- **Used by Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:2-4 (NLT)** “*I was caught up to the third heaven fourteen years ago. Whether I was in my body or out of my body, I don’t know – only God knows... But I do know that I was caught up to paradise and heard things so astounding that they cannot be expressed in words, things no human is allowed to tell.*” Here we hear how Paul went to heaven, and the word used here as “caught up”.
- **Used by the “man child” in Revelation 12:5 (NLT)** “*... And her child was snatched away from the dragon and was caught up to God and to his throne.*”

Thus, the more appropriate word to maybe refer to is “caught up” or “to snatch or catch away”.

The word “*Rapture*” appears in the Latin Bible in **1 Thessalonians 4** – The word is “*Rapiemur*”, which is the proper tense for “*rapio*”.

2 “RAPTURES” DEMONSTRATED IN SCRIPTURE

Enoch

Genesis 5:23-24 (NLT) “*Enoch lived 365 years, walked in close fellowship with God. Then one day he disappeared, because God took him.*”

Hebrews 11:5 (NLT) “*It was by faith that Enoch was taken up to heaven without dying – he disappeared, because God took him...*”

Elijah

2 Kings 2:1 (NLT) “*When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were traveling from Gilgal.*”

2 Kings 2:11 (NLT) “*As they were walking along and talking, suddenly a chariot of fire appeared, drawn by horses of fire. It drove between the two men, separating them, and Elijah was carried by a whirlwind into heaven.*”

Jesus Christ

Mark 16:19 (NLT) “*When the Lord Jesus had finished talking with them, he was taken up into heaven and sat down in the place of honour at God’s right hand.*”

Acts 1:2 (NLT) “*...until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit.*”

Acts 1:9 (NLT) “*After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him.*”

John 14:2-3 (NLT) “*There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.*”

John 14:2-3 (NKJV) “*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 will be also.*”

Revelation 12:5 (NLT) “*... And her child was snatched away from the dragon and was caught up to God and to his throne.*”

Philip

Acts 8:39-40 (NLT) “When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing. Meanwhile, Philip found himself farther north at the town of Azotus.”

Paul

2 Corinthians 12:2-4 (NLT) “I was caught up to the third heaven fourteen years ago. Whether I was in my body or out of my body, I don’t know – only God knows... But I do know that I was caught up to paradise and heard things so astounding that they cannot be expressed in words, things no human is allowed to tell.”

The Church / Body of Christ

1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 (NLT) “For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died. **We tell you this directly from the Lord:** We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be **caught up** in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.”

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 (NLT) “But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! **It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed.** For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.”

Matthew 24:37-42 (NLT) “People didn’t realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes. Two men will be working together in the field; one will be taken; the other left. Two women will be grinding flour at the mill; one will be taken; the other left...”

Luke 17:34-36 (NLT) “That night two people will be asleep in one bed; one will be taken, the other left. Two women will be grinding flour together at the mill; one will be taken; the other left.”

The two witnesses

Revelation 11:3-12 (NLT) “...But after three and a half days, God breathed life into them, and they stood up! Terror struck all who were staring at them. Then a loud voice from heaven called to the two prophets, “Come up here!” And they rose to heaven in a cloud as their enemies watched.”

John

Revelation 4:1 (NLT) “Then as I looked, I saw a door standing open in heaven, and the same voice I had heard before spoke to me like a trumpet blast. The voice said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this.””

3 WAS THE “RAPTURE” POSSIBLY PREDICTED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT?

The Old Testament scriptures below speak of a time when a child of God can or will be protected from God’s coming anger. These are open to interpretation though.

Isaiah 26:20-21 (NLT) “Go home, my people, and lock your doors! Hide yourselves for a little while until the Lord’s anger has passed.”

Psalm 27:5 (NLT) “For he will conceal me there when troubles come; he will hide me in his sanctuary. He will place me out of reach on a high rock.”

Zephaniah 2:3 (NLT) “... Perhaps even yet the Lord will protect you – protect you from his anger on the day of destruction.”

4 CONSTRAST BETWEEN THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH AND THE SECOND COMING

The Rapture of the Church	Jesus 2 nd Coming
Translation of believers (1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 & Luke 17:34-36)	No translation involved
Translated saints go to heaven (Revelation 11:3-12 & 2 Corinthians 12:2-4 & John 14:3)	Translated saints return to earth (Revelation 19:14 & 17:14 & 20:4)
Earth not judged (1 Corinthians 15:51-53)	Earth judged (Revelation 20:11-15)
Imminent, any moment (no period of time) (1 Corinthians 15:51-53 & Luke 17:34-36)	Follows defined predicted signs (after a period of time) (Matthew 24:29-31)
Not sure if it was not predicted in the old testament (Isaiah 26:19-21, Zephaniah 2:3, Psalm 27:5)	Predicted in the Old Testament (Zechariah 14:1-15)
Believers only (1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 & Luke 17:34-36)	Affects all mankind on the earth (Matthew 25:31-33)
No reference to Satan	Satan bound (Revelation 20:1-3)
He comes for the believers (1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 & Luke 17:34-36)	He comes with His angels and chosen and faithful ones (Revelation 19:14 & 17:14)
He comes in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:14-17)	He comes to the earth (Matthew 25:31-33)
Only His own see Him (1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 & Luke 17:34-36)	Every eye shall see Him (Mark 13:26 & Revelation 1:7)
Great Tribulation begins (Revelation 3:10)	Millennium begins (Revelation 20:4-6)
Christians taken to the Father's House (John 14:2-3)	Resurrected saints after the tribulation do not see the Father's house (Revelation 20:4-6)
The judgment seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10)	No time or place of judgement seat

5 THE POSSIBLE CHRONOLOGY OF THE RAPTURE

ORDER	SCRIPTURE	IDEA
1.	<p><i>John 14:1-3 "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am."</i></p> <p><i>1 Thessalonians 4:14,16 (NLT) "...we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves."</i></p>	<p>The Lord is preparing a place for us in His Father's house.</p> <p>Jesus will come down from heaven to fetch us. He will take us back with Him.</p>
2.	<i>1 Thessalonians 4:16 (NLT) "For the Lord</i>	The Lord Jesus will come down

	<p>himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves.“</p> <p>1 Corinthians 15:52 (NLT) “It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed.”</p>	<p>from heaven with a shout.</p> <p>These events will happen so quickly. No one will probably see it.</p>
3.	1 Thessalonians 4:16 (NLT) “For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel , and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves.“	The voice of the archangel will be heard.
4.	1 Thessalonians 4:16 (NLT) “For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God . First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves.“	We will hear the trumpet call of God. This is the last trumpet for the church. Don't confuse this trumpet with the 7th judgement trumpet, which is in Rev 11:15
5.	1 Thessalonians 4:16 (NLT) “For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. “	The dead in Christ will first be risen – here they will be reunited, spirit to their dead bodies, transformed to be taken back with Jesus.
6.	<p>1 Thessalonians 4:17 (NLT) “Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.“</p> <p>1 Corinthians 15:51-53 (NLT) “But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.”</p>	Then with them, those who are still alive on earth will be changed and taken up to meet the Lord in the air.
7.	1 Thessalonians 4:17 (NLT) “ Then, together with them , we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.“	We will all be caught up together.
8.	1 Thessalonians 4:17 (NLT) “Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air . Then we will be with the Lord forever.“	Everyone will meet in the air.

9.	<i>1 Thessalonians 4:17 (NLT) "Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever."</i>	We will also meet the Lord in the air.
10.	<i>John 14:1-3 "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am."</i>	From here the Lord will take us to the Father's house.
11.	<i>2 Corinthians 5:10 (NLT) "For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body."</i> <i>1 Corinthians 3:11-15 (type of judgement)</i>	After all the believers have been gathered, and their bodies transformed, they will come to stand before Christ's throne to be judged and to receive rewards.
12.	<i>Revelation 19:1-10 (NLT) "...Then I heard again what sounded like the shout of a vast crowd or roar of mighty ocean waves or the crash of loud thunder. "Praise the Lord!.... For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself. She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear. For the fine linen represents the good deeds of God's holy people. "</i> <i>And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb." And he added, "These are true words that come from God."</i>	Thereafter we will partake of the marriage supper of the Lamb

6 DIFFERENT RESURRECTIONS

- The order of the Resurrection** - *1 Corinthians 15:22-24 (NLT) "Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life. But there is an order to this resurrection; Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back."*
- Jesus Christ and the first fruits resurrection** - *Matthew 27:50-53 (NLT) "Then Jesus shouted out again, and released his spirit. At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart, and tombs opened. The bodies of many godly men and women who had died were raised from the dead. They left the cemetery after Jesus' resurrection, went into the holy city of Jerusalem, and appeared to many people."*
- Two Parts of the Second Coming**
 - The Church Rapture** – Translated Saints and Resurrection (Harvest) – *1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 (NLT) "For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died. We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are*

*still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be **caught up** in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.“*

AND

*1 Corinthians 15:51-53 53 (NLT) “But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! **It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed.** For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.”*

- **After the tribulation and before Christ's 1000 years reign**

*Revelation 20:1-5 (NLT) “Then I saw the angel coming down from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit and a heavy chain in his hand. He seized the dragon – that old serpent, who is the devil, Satan – and bound him in chains for a thousand years. The angel threw him into the bottomless pit, which he then shut and locked so Satan could not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were finished... Then I saw thrones, and the people sitting on them had been given the authority to judge. **And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony about Jesus and for proclaiming the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast...** They all came to life again, and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years.”*

- **Mid-tribulation saints (Revelation 7:9-17, 15:1-4)**

Revelation 7:9-17(NLT) “After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands...

*And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living beings. And they fell before the throne with their faces to the ground and worshiped God. **Then the one of the twenty-four elders asked me, “Who are these who are clothed in white? Where did they come from?” And I said to him, “Sir, you are the one who knows.”***

Then he said to me, “These are the ones who died in the great tribulation. They have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white...”

*Revelation 15:1-4 (NLT) “Then I saw in heaven another marvellous event of great significance... I saw before me what seemed to be a glass sea mixed with fire. **And on it stood all the people who had been victorious over the beast and his statue and the number representing his name. They were all holding harps that God had given them.** And they were singing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb:... ”*

- **The 144,000 Israelites (Revelation 7:1-8, 14:1-5)**

Revelation 7:1-8 (NLT) “...And I saw another angel coming up from the east, carrying the seal of the living God. And he shouted to those four angels, who had been given power to harm land and sea. Wait! Don't harm the land or the sea or the trees until we have placed the seal of God on the foreheads of his servants. And I heard how many were marked with the seal of God – 144,000 were sealed from all the tribes of Israel...”

Revelation 14:1-4 (NLT) “Then I saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him were 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of mighty ocean waves... It was like the sound of many harpists playing together. This great

choir sang a wonderful new song...No one could learn this song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth..."

4. **Final Resurrection** – (After the Millennium Reign is finished, and before the Great White Throne Judgement) **Revelation 20:11-13 (NLT)** “*And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. I saw the dead both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books.*”

7 JESUS FIRST AND SECOND COMING IN SCRIPTURE

Jesus First Coming Scriptures

PROPHECY	OLD TEST. SCRIPTURE	NEW TEST. FULLFILMENT SCRIPTURE
Messiah would be the seed of the woman.	<i>Genesis 3:15 (NLT)</i> “ <i>And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.</i> ”	<i>Galatians 4:4 (NLT)</i> “ <i>But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law.</i> ”
Messiah would be a descendent of Abraham.	<i>Genesis 12:2-3 (NLT)</i> “ <i>I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you</i> ”	<i>Matthew 1:1 (NLT)</i> “ <i>This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of David and of Abraham.</i> ”
Messiah would be a descendent of Isaac.	<i>Genesis 17:19 (NLT)</i> “ <i>But God replied, “No – Sarah, your wife, will give birth to a son for you. You will name him Isaac, and I will confirm my covenant with him and his descendants as an everlasting covenant.</i> ”	<i>Luke 3:34 (NLT)</i> “ <i>Judah was the son of Jacob. Jacob was the son of Isaac. Isaac was the son of Abraham. Abraham</i> ”
Messiah would be descendent of Jacob.	<i>Numbers 24:17 (NLT)</i> “ <i>I see him, but not here and now. I perceive him, but far in the distant future. A star will rise from Jacob; a sceptre will emerge from Israel. It will crush the forehead of Moab's people, cracking the skulls of the people of Sheth.</i> ”	<i>Matthew 1:2 (NLT)</i> “ <i>Abraham was the father of Isaac. Isaac was the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.</i> ” <i>Matthew 2:2 (NLT)</i> “ <i>Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.</i> ”
Messiah would be from the tribe of Judah.	<i>Genesis 49:10 (NLT)</i> “ <i>The sceptre will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from his descendants, until the coming of the one to whom it belongs.</i> ”	<i>Luke 3:33 (NLT)</i> “ <i>Nahshon was the son of Amminadab. Amminadab was the son of Arni. Arni was the son of Hezron. Hezron was the son of Perez. Perez was the son of Judah.</i> ”
Messiah would be an heir to the throne of	<i>Isaiah 9:7 (NLT)</i> “ <i>His government and its peace</i>	<i>Luke 1:32-33 (NLT)</i> “ <i>He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High.</i> ”

David.	<i>will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!"</i>	<i>The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"</i>
The Messiah would be anointed and eternal.	<p><i>Psalm 45:6-7 (NLT) "Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. You rule with a sceptre of justice. You love justice and hate evil. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you, pouring out the oil of joy on you more than on anyone else."</i></p> <p><i>Psalm 102:25-27 (NLT) "Long ago you laid the foundation of the earth and made the heavens with your hands. They will perish, but you remain forever; they will wear out like old clothing. You will change them like a garment and discard them. But you are always the same; you will live forever."</i></p>	<i>Hebrews 1:8-12 (NLT) "But to the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever, You rule with a sceptre of justice..."</i>
The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.	<i>Micah 5:2 (NLT) "But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel will come from you, one whose origins are from the distant past."</i>	<i>Luke 2:4-5 & 7 (NLT) "And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He travelled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was now obviously pregnant... She gave birth to her first child, a son..."</i>
The Messiah would be born from a virgin.	<i>Isaiah 7:14 (NLT) "All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us')"</i>	<p><i>Luke 1:26-27 (NLT) "In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David."</i></p> <p><i>Luke 1:30-31 (NLT) "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favour with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus."</i></p>
Messiah's birth will trigger a slaughter of children.	<i>Jeremiah 31:15 (NLT) "This is what the Lord says: 'A cry is heard in Ramah – deep anguish and bitter weeping. Rachel weeps for her children, refusing to be comforted – for her children are gone.' "</i>	<i>Matthew 2:16-18 (NLT) "Herod was furious when he realized that the wise men had outwitted him. He sent soldiers to kill the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years and under, ... "</i>
The Messiah would also come from Egypt	<i>Hosea 11:1 (NLT) "When Israel was a child, I loved</i>	<i>Matthew 2:14-15 (NLT) "That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his</i>

	<i>him, and I called my son out of Egypt."</i>	<i>mother..."</i>
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Two phases of Jesus Second Coming:

1. The Church Rapture phase has already been covered somewhat. However, here are some more scripture passages to follow-up. Note though that these scriptures can also point to the entire second coming as a whole, and not just the rapture phase.

SCRIPTURE
Romans 8:19 (NLT) "For all creation is waiting eagerly for the future day when God will reveal who his children really are."
1 Corinthians 1:7-8 (NLT) "Now you have every spiritual gift you need as you eagerly wait for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you strong to the end so that you will be free from all blame on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns."
Philippians 3:20-21 (NLT) "But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for Him to return as our Savior. He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like His own, using the same power with which He will bring everything under His control."
Philippians 4:5 (NLT) "Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon."
Colossians 3:4 (NLT) "And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory."
1 Thessalonians 1:10 (NLT) "And they speak of how you are looking forward to the coming of God's Son from heaven – Jesus, whom God raised from the dead. He is the one who has rescued us from the terrors of the coming judgement."
1 Thessalonians 2:19 (NLT) "After all, what gives us hope and joy, and what will be our proud reward and crown as we stand before our Lord Jesus when he returns? It is you!"
1 Thessalonians 5:9 (NLT) "For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us."
1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NLT) "Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again."
2 Thessalonians 2:1 (NLT) "Now, dear brothers and sisters, let us clarify some things about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered to meet him."
1 Timothy 6:14 (NLT) "... that you obey this command without wavering. Then no one can find fault with you from now until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again."
2 Timothy 4:1 & 8 (NLT) "I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he appears to set up his Kingdom... And now the prize awaits me – the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return."
James 5:7-9 (NLT) "Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's return. Consider the farmers... Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near. Don't grumble about each other, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. For look – the Judge is standing at the door!"
1 Peter 1:7 (NLT) "These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold – though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world."
1 Peter 1:13 (NLT) "So think clearly and exercise self-control. Look forward to the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world."
1 Peter 5:4 (NLT) "And when the Great Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of never-ending glory and honor."
1 John 2:28 (NLT) "And now, dear children, remain in fellowship with Christ so that when he returns, you will be full of courage and not shrink back from him in shame."

2. Jesus Second Coming Scriptures

SCRIPTURE
Daniel 2:44-45 (NLT) “During the reigns of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed or conquered. It will crush all these kingdoms into nothingness, and it will stand forever...”
Daniel 7:9-14 (NLT) “I watched as thrones were put in place and the Ancient One sat down to judge. His clothing was as white as snow, his hair like purest wool. He sat on a fiery throne with wheels of blazing fire, and a river of fire was pouring out, flowing from his presence. Millions of angels ministered to him; many millions stood to attend to him. Then the court began its session, and the books were opened...As my vision continued that night, I saw someone like a son of man coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient One and was led into his presence. He was given authority, honor, and sovereignty over all the nations of the world, so that people of every race and nation and language would obey him.”
Daniel 12:1-3 (NLT) “At that time Michael, the archangel who stands guard over your nation, will arise. Then there will be a time of anguish greater than any since nations first came into existence. But at that time every one of your people whose name is written in the book will be rescued. Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace. Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever.”
Zechariah 12:10 (NLT) “Then I will pour out my spirit of grace and prayer on the family of David and on the people of Jerusalem. They will look on me whom they have pierced and mourn for him as for an only son. They will grieve bitterly for him as for a firstborn son who has died.”
Zechariah 14:1-15 (NLT) “... Then the Lord my God will come, and all his holy ones with him...On that day life-giving water will flow out from Jerusalem, half toward the Dead Sea and half toward the Mediterranean, flowing continuously in both summer and winter. And the Lord will be king over all the earth...”
Matthew 13:41 (NLT) “The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will remove from the Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil.”
Matthew 26:64 (NLT) “Jesus replied, “You have said it. And in the future you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God’s right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven.”
Mark 13:14-27 (NLT) “The day is coming when you see the sacrilegious object that causes desecration standing where he should not be. Then those in Judea must flee to the hills. A person out on the deck of a roof must not go down into the house to pack. A person out in the field must not return even to get a coat. How terrible it will be for pregnant women and for nursing mothers in those days. And pray that your flight will not be in winter. For there will be greater anguish in those days than at any time since God created the world. And it will never be so great again. In fact, unless the Lord shortens that time of calamity, not a single person will survive. But for the sake of his chosen ones he has shortened those days. Then if anyone tells you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah,’... don’t believe it. For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God’s chosen ones.... At that time, after the anguish of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will give no light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds with great power and glory. And he will send out his angels to gather his chosen ones from all over the world – from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven. ”
Mark 14:62 (NLT) “Jesus said, “I AM. And you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God’s right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven.”
Luke 21:25-28 (NLT) “And there will be strange signs in the sun, moon, and stars. And here on earth the nations will be in turmoil, perplexed by the roaring seas and strange tides. People will be terrified at what they see coming upon the earth, for the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on a cloud with power and great glory. So when all these things begin to happen, stand and look up, for you salvation is near!”
Acts 1:9-11 (NLT) “After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”
Acts 3:20-21 (NLT) “Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and he will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah. For he must remain in heaven until the time for the

<i>final restoration of all things, as God promised long ago, through his holy prophets."</i>
1 Thessalonians 3:13 (NLT) "May he, as a result, make your hearts strong, blameless, and holy as you stand before God our Father when our Lord Jesus comes again with all his holy people. Amen"
2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 (NLT) "In his justice he will pay back those who persecute you. And God will provide rest for you who are being persecuted and also for us when the Lord Jesus appears from heaven. He will come with his mighty angels, in flaming fire, bringing judgement on those who don't know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with eternal destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power. When he comes on that day, he will receive glory from his holy people – praise from all who believe..."
2 Thessalonians 2:8 (NLT) "Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will kill him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendour of his coming."
Jude 14-15 (NLT) "Enoch, who lived in the seventh generation after Adam, prophesied about these people. He said, "Listen! The Lord is coming with countless thousands of his holy ones to execute judgment on the people of the world...."
Revelation 1:7 (NLT) "Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven. And everyone will see him – even those who pierced him. And all the nations of the world will mourn for him. Yes! Amen!"
Revelation 19:11-20:6 (NLT) "Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war...."
Revelation 22:7 & 12 & 20 (NLT) "Look, I am coming soon! Blessed are those who obey the words of prophecy written in this book.... Look, I am coming soon, bringing my reward with me to repay all people according to their deeds..."

8 DIFFERENCE BETWEEN “THE BEGINNING OF SORROWS” AND “THE GREAT TRIBULATION”

The beginning of Sorrows will be before the Great Tribulation.

Matthew 24:4-9 – The Beginning of Sorrows

Matthew 24:9-14 – Signs of the times

Matthew 24:15-28 – Start of the end – The Great Tribulation – Jesus addressing the Jews specifically

Matthew 24:29-31 – Second coming of Jesus – possible 2 phases described here:

Matthew 24:30a – Rapture

Matthew 24:30b – Public appearance of Jesus appearing

Matthew 24:4-9 – The Beginning of Sorrows

These are a group of signs. It is not the signs of the end, because the Lord Jesus says that it is not yet the end.

SIGNS	Book of Matthew	Book of Luke	Book of Revelation
False Messiah	Matt 24:4-5	Luke 21:8	Rev 6:1-2 (Lamb broke the first of 7 seals – White Horse)
Wars	Matt 24:6	Luke 21:9-10	Rev 6:3-4 (Lamb broke 2 nd seal – Red Horse)
Famine	Matt 24:7a	Luke 21:11	Rev 6:5-6 (Lamb broke 3d seal – Black Horse)
Pestilence	Matt 24:7b-8	Luke 21:12	Rev 6:7-8 (Lamb broke the 4 th seal – Pale Green Horse)
Earthquakes	Matt 24:9	Luke 21:24	Rev 6:12 (Lamb broke the 6 th seal – Earthquakes)

Matthew 24:9-14 – Signs of the times

These signs of the times will come after the beginning of sorrows.

SIGNS	Book of Matthew	Book of Luke	Book of Revelation
Believers be afflicted and killed. Will be hated all over the world.	Matt 24:9	Luke 21:12-15	Rev 6:9-11 (Lamb broke the 5th – Those who were martyred for the sake of Jesus)
Many will turn against each other, hate and betray one another.	Matt 24:10	Luke 21:16	
False Prophets will rise and deceive many.	Matt 24:11		
Sin everywhere and agape love will grow cold in many.	Matt 24:12		
Those enduring to the end will be saved. Good News will be preached throughout the world.	Matt 24:13-14		

Matthew 24:15-28 – Start of the end – The Great Tribulation– Jesus addressing the Jews specifically

The start of the end will come after the signs of the times.

SIGNS	Book of Matthew	Other Books
Abomination of desolation standing in the holy place	Matt 24:15 (NLT) “Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation, spoken by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place”	Daniel 8:13 (NLT) “Then I heard two holy ones talking to each other. One of them asked, “How long will the events of this vision last? How long will the rebellion that caused desecration stop the daily sacrifices? How long will the Temple and heaven’s army be trampled on?” Daniel 9:27 (NLT) “The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him.” Daniel 11:31 Daniel 12:11
Flee Judea, to the mountains. Bad time for pregnant women. Hope they don't flee in winter time.	Matt 24:16-20	
Great Tribulation / Jacob's Trouble	Matt 24:21-22	Zachariah 13:8-9 Daniel 12:1 Jeremiah 30:7

Luke 21:19-22: This scripture is not the same as Matthew 24:16-20. This Luke account describes a different desolation – it describes the Siege of Jerusalem. Vespasian commanded Nero to attack Jerusalem, and this is recorded in history by Josephus. Vespasian and his son, Titus, attacked cities

in Galilee. Titus was left to complete this siege on Jerusalem as documented in 'Wars VI, vi, 1" by Josephus. The Christians escaped to the mountains in Pella in Petra – Eusebius, Book iii, 5.1

Luke 21:23-24: Focuses on the period of desolation before all the signs of sorrows. It was the desolation of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

Luke 21:25-27: Luke looks ahead, after the Tribulation. In fact, he overlooked the Tribulation period totally. And when we recall, Luke wrote his Gospel with the Gentiles in mind, not the Jews. The tribulation period was meant for the Jews.

Thus, the Gospel of Matthew speaks of the Desolation of Jerusalem in the time of the Great Tribulation. (Abomination of desolation) Matthew wrote his gospel with the Jews in mind.

Matthew 24:29-31 – Second coming of Jesus – possible 2 phases

This section has already been covered in the introduction, which include the scripture below just as reference:

Matthew 24:30a(NKJV) – Rapture "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven,"
Matthew 24:30b(NKJV) – Public appearance of Jesus appearing "and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

9 OLD TESTAMENT TRIBULATION REFERENCES

SCRIPTURE TITLE	SCRIPTURE REF.	SCRIPTURE
The time of Jacob's Troubles	Jeremiah 30:7 (NLT)	<i>"In all history there has never been such a time of terror. It will be a time of trouble for my people Israel. Yet in the end they will be saved!"</i>
The Seventieth Week of Daniel	Daniel 9:27 (NLT)	<i>"The rulers will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifice and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him."</i>
Jehovah's Strange Work	Isaiah 28:21 (NLT)	<i>"The Lord will come as he did against the Philistines at Mount Perazim and against the Amorites at Gibeon. He will come to do a strange thing; he will come to do an unusual deed."</i>
The Day of Israel's Calamity	Deuteronomy 32:35 (NLT)	<i>"I will take revenge; I will pay them back. In due time their feet will slip. Their day of disaster will arrive, and their destiny will overtake them."</i>
The Tribulation	Deuteronomy 4:30 (NLT)	<i>"In the distant future, when you are suffering all these things, you will finally return to the Lord your God and listen to what he tells you."</i>
The Indignation	Isaiah 26:20 (NLT)	<i>"Go home, my people, and lock your doors! Hide yourselves for a little while until the Lord's anger has passed."</i>
	Daniel 11:36 (NLT)	<i>"The king will do as he pleases, exalting himself and claiming to be greater than every god, even blaspheming the God of god. He will succeed, but only until the time of wrath is completed. For what has been determined will surely take place."</i>
The Overflowing	Isaiah 28:15,18 (NLT)	<i>"You boast, "We have struck a bargain to cheat</i>

Scourge		<i>death and have made a deal to dodge the grave. The coming destruction can never touch us, for we have built a strong refuge made of lies and deception. I will cancel the bargain you made to cheat death, and I will overturn your deal to dodge the grave. When the terrible enemy sweeps through, you will be trampled into the ground.”</i>
The Day of Vengeance	Isaiah 34:8 (NLT)	<i>“For it is the day of the Lord’s revenge, the year when Edom will be paid back for all it did to Israel.”</i>
	Isaiah 35:4 (NLT)	<i>“Say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, and do not fear, for your God is coming to destroy your enemies. He is coming to save you.”</i>
	Isaiah 61:2 (NLT)	<i>“He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the Lord’s favour has come, and with it, the day of God’s anger against their enemies.”</i>
The Year of Recompense	Isaiah 34:8 (NLT)	<i>“For it is the day of the Lord’s revenge, the year when Edom will be paid back for all it did to Israel.”</i>
The Time of Trouble	Daniel 12:1 (NLT)	<i>“At that time Michael, the archangel who stands guard over your nation, will rise. Then there will be a time of anguish greater than any since nations first came into existence. But at that time every one of your people whose name is written in the book will be rescued.”</i>
The Day of Wrath / Distress / Desolation / Darkness	Zephaniah 1:15 (NLT)	<i>“It will a day when the Lord’s anger is poured out – a day of terrible distress and anguish, a day of ruin and desolation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness...”</i>
The Day of Darkness	Amos 5:18 (NLT)	<i>“What sorrow awaits you who say, “If only the day of the Lord were here? You have no idea what you are wishing for. That day will bring darkness, no light.”</i>
The Day of Gloominess / Clouds / Thick Darkness	Joel 2:2 (NLT)	<i>“It is a day of darkness and gloom, a day of thick clouds and deep blackness. Suddenly, like dawn spreading across the mountains, a great and mighty army appears. Nothing like it has been seen before or will ever be seen again.”</i>
The Day of the Trumpet / Alarm	Zephaniah 1:16 (NLT)	<i>“...a day of trumpet calls and battle cries. Down go the walls of the cities and the strongest battlements!”</i>

10 NEW TESTAMENT TRIBULATION REFERENCES

SCRIPTURE TITLE	SCRIPTURE REF.	SCRIPTURE
The Day of the Lord	1 Thessalonians 5:2 (NLT)	<i>“For you know quite well that the day of the Lord’s return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night.”</i>
The Wrath of God	Revelation 14:10 & 19 (NLT)	<i>“...must drink the wine of God’s anger. It has been poured full strength into God’s cup of wrath. And they will be tormented with fire and burning sulphur in the presence of the holy angels and the Lamb... So the angel swung his stick over the earth and loaded the grapes into the great winepress of God’s wrath.”</i>
	Revelation 15:1 & 7	<i>“Then I saw in heaven another marvellous event</i>

	(NLT)	<i>of great significance. Seven angels were holding the seven last plagues, which would bring God's wrath to completion... Then one of the four living beings handed each of the seven angels a gold bowl filled with the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever."</i>
	Revelation 16:1 (NLT)	<i>"Then I heard a mighty voice from the Temple say to the seven angels, "Go your ways and pour out on the earth the seven bowls containing God's wrath."</i>
The Hour of Trial	Revelation 3:10-11 (NLT)	<i>"Because you have obeyed my command to persevere, I will protect you from the great time of testing that will come upon the whole world to test those who belong to this world. I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown."</i>
The Great Day of the Wrath of the Lamb of God	Revelation 6:16-17 (NLT)	<i>"And they cried to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb. For the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to survive?"</i>
The Wrath to Come	1 Thessalonians 1:10 (NLT)	<i>"And they speak of how you are looking forward to the coming of God's Son from heaven – Jesus, whom God raised from the dead. He is the one who has rescued us from the terrors of the coming judgement."</i>
The Wrath	1 Thessalonians 5:9 (NLT)	<i>"For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us."</i>
	Revelation 11:18 (NLT)	<i>"The nations were filled with wrath, but now the time for your wrath has come. It is time to judge the dead and reward your servants the prophets, as well as your holy people, and all who fear your name, from the least to the greatest. It is time to destroy all who have caused destruction on the earth."</i>
The Great Tribulation	Matthew 24:21 (NLT)	<i>"For there will be greater anguish than at any time since the world began. And it will never be so great again."</i>
	Revelation 2:22 (NLT)	<i>"Therefore, I will throw her on a bed of suffering, and those who commit adultery with her will suffer greatly unless they repent and turn away from her evil deeds."</i>
	Revelation 7:14 (NLT)	<i>"And I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me, "These are the ones who died in the great tribulation. They have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white."</i>
The Tribulation	Matthew 24:29 (NLT)	<i>"Immediately after the anguish of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will give no light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the power in the heavens will be shaken."</i>
The Hour of Judgement	Revelation 14:7 (NLT)	<i>"Fear God", he shouted. "Give glory to him. For the time has come when he will sit as judge. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and all the springs of water."</i>

11 WHY SOME DON'T BELIEVE IN THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

There are some valid points to why some people do not believe in the Rapture, but just in the second coming. Here are some reasons:

- **What some believe can be related to the “Partial Preterist View”, which believes:**
 - Christians will not be taken away into heaven, but they will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air.
 - Christians will wait in the air only for as long as it takes for Jesus to purge the earth of evil – a process that may be instantaneous because His glorious appearing will transform everything.
 - And then they will continue with the Lord as He descends back to earth to rule and reign.
 - According to *Matthew 24:37-42 (NLT)* “*People didn't realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes. Two men will be working together in the field; one will be taken; the other left. Two women will be grinding flower at the mill; one will be taken; the other left...*”, the **Partial Preterist View** people believe that those who remain behind are the Christians, and those who are taken, are those who are not Believers. *Matthew 13:40-43* is used in this view to explain this reasoning. Jesus is speaking here: *Matthew 13:40-43 (NKJV)* “*Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His Kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father...*”
 - **However, Take Note:** *1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 (NLT)* “*.... We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.*”

The question arises, when does *Matthew 13:40-43* and *Matthew 24:37-42* and *1 Thessalonians 4:14-17* happen? We do know that the Believers will meet Jesus in the air, even those who had not died at that time will meet Him in the air (*1 Thessalonians 4:14-17*). If this is true, then *Matthew 13:40-43* cannot be references to indicate that those who are **unbelievers** will vanish and be removed. I would suggest that *Matthew 13:40-43* refers to when the believers are removed from the Earth before Christ comes to make war. Then, with the Believers, we come down with Christ to do battle and rule over the Earth.

- **Israel is not one chosen nation, but everyone who is saved. Why would God single out one specific people to be special, when we are all special in His sight? How does this statement address the following?**
 - In *Matthew 21:43*, Jesus speaks about the Parable about the landowner who had planted a vineyard. The landowner went away on a journey, leaving the vineyard servants in charge. Once the harvest came in, the landowner sent his servants to collect the produce. However, they were killed once they arrived at the vineyard. Even when the landowner sent his only son, this son was killed by the vineyard servants. Jesus was addressing the Jewish religious leaders. In this address, Jesus

confronted them by saying: *Matthew 21:43 (NKJV)* “Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruit of it.” Here it is clear to see Jesus ministry turned away from the Jews and moved focus to the Gentiles. It does not mention the Jews having lost their inheritance of the land. Let us look at the following scripture:

Romans 11:27-29 (NKJV) “For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins. Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.”

The scripture speaks clear that the Jews are enemies in that they rejected the gospel. BUT, “*for the sake of the fathers*”, refers to the promises God made to the patriarchs. God does not change His mind. He made promises to the patriarchs and He will fulfil them.

Romans 11:1-18 (NKJV) “And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them become a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.”

Here Paul is speaking about the Gentile Christians as the Wild Olive branch and the Jews, Israel, as the Olive branch. Israel are promised to inherit according to the Abrahamic covenant (Genesis 12:1-2; 17:7-8, and Hosea 14:6). The Gentiles have been supernaturally grafted onto the Olive Tree, which is the family of God. Thus, they too inherit God’s blessings. Paul warns here that the Gentiles should not boast or despise the Jews. We are reminded that the Jews were entrusted with the Law and the promises of God. God had selected them to establish the foundation of the Christian faith.

Once the partial blindness is lifted from the Jews, there will be a unity among the Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians. This is the New Man spoken of in the Book of Ephesians. **Ephesians 2:13-18 (NKJV)** “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ; For He Himself is our peace, who has **made both one**, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to **create in Himself one new man from two**, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.”

Lastly, there are two main scriptures which have been very insightful. It speaks of a time when all nations will inherit the promises of God when they have accepted the gospel, and these nations include Israel and Egypt. Thus, the promised land will be given to Jews and Gentiles, not just the Gentiles. The Church should be seen as consisting out of Christian Jews and Gentiles.

Isaiah 19:21-25 (NKJV) “Then the Lord will be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know the Lord in that day...In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria – a blessing in the midst of the land, whom the Lord of hosts shall bless... ‘**Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance.**’”

John 10:16 (NKJV) “And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice, and there will be **one flock and one shepherd.**”

Galatians 3:7-29 (NKJV) “...Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus...Therefore there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

Thus, to counter the statements of the “Replacement Theology” and the “Christian Zionism”, the “One Man” theology makes more sense according to the Bible. God still has a covenant with the Jews that assure them of a future awakening; however, the promises God made to Abraham, including the Promised Land, will be available to all God’s people who believe in Jesus Christ.

- **Most scripture is allegorical, thus Jesus already reigns on Earth. Let's look at the following:**
 - Currently Jesus is seated on the Heavenly throne, next to the Father.
 - Jesus is told that He will reign from the throne of David here on earth. That throne does not exist yet. Luke 1:32-33
- **Church will go through tribulation period. Let's look at the following:**
 - There are places in scripture where it seems the Lord would want to protect His people from the coming tribulation and coming destruction.
 - **Isaiah 26:20-21 (NLT)** “Go home, my people, and lock your doors! Hide yourselves for a little while until the Lord’s anger has passed.”
 - **Psalm 27:5 (NLT)** “For he will conceal me there when troubles come; he will hide me in his sanctuary. He will place me out of reach on a high rock.”
 - **Zephaniah 2:3 (NLT)** “... Perhaps even yet the Lord will protect you – protect you from his anger on the day of destruction.”
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:9 (NLT)** “For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us.”
 - **Revelation 3:10** “Because you have obeyed My command to preserve, I will protect you from the great time of testing that will come upon the whole world to test those who belong to this world.”
- **We are possibly already living in the tribulation period.**
- **If the Church is removed, through the Rapture, how will the rest of those left behind, get saved? There will be no preaching of the gospel, no believers to witness, and the Holy Spirit has departed from the earth? If all this is true, then conversion is impossible right? Let's look at the following:**
 - Before Jesus Christ was born, the Holy Spirit was able to come upon a person but was not able to indwell a person. Would the same be true after the Church has been raptured? The restrainer is seen as the Spirit of God in **2 Thessalonians 2:6-7 (NKJV)** “And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.”
 - The Holy Spirit will no longer function through believers, but will still be present on the earth, possible as in the days in the old testament. (**Judges 3:10 (NASB)** “The Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he judged Israel...”) The Holy Spirit will still be omnipresent and very busy saving people in the tribulation times.

- In Acts 1:11, the two angels told the disciples that in the same manner as Jesus was taken up into heaven, He will come a second time. In Daniel 12:2 we read that at the last day those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Here are some insights:
 - Daniel 12:2 may refer to the second coming where mid-tribulation and saints and the unbelievers are raptured. (Revelation 7:9-17, 15:1-4)
 - *1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 (NLT)* “.... **We tell you this directly from the Lord:** We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be **caught up** in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.”
Here only the believers are mentioned to meet the Lord in the sky.
 - *1 Corinthians 15:22-23* speaks of an order by which people will be raised from death to life. Refer to Section 5 – “Different Resurrections”.

12 WHY SOME DO BELIEVE IN THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

In this chapter, we will list the reasons why some believe there is a reason for the Rapture:

- **Church seen as the Bride.** *Ephesians 5:25 (NLT)* “For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church...”
- **As Jesus is Jewish, we need to look at what happens in a Jewish wedding:**
 - Bridegroom has to pay a price to purchase His bride – in this case Jesus Christ paid the price for the Church.
 - *1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NLT)* “Don’t you realise that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor Him with your body.”
 - *Galatians 3:14 (GW)* “Christ paid the price so that the blessing promised to Abraham would come to all the people of the world through Jesus Christ and we would receive the promised Spirit through faith.”
 - As a way of sealing this commitment, they would have wine.
 - *1 Corinthians 11:25 (NLT)* “In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant between God and his people – an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this to remember me as often as you drink it.””
 - The Bride is set apart (sanctification):
 - *Ephesians 5:25-27 (NLT)* “For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleaning of God’s word. He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.”
 - The Bridegroom departs to the Father’s house to prepare a place for the Bride.

- *John 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me, that you may also be where I am."*
- The Bride has no idea when the Bridegroom will return.
 - *Mark 13:32-33 (NLT) "However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows..."*
- When the Bridegroom does return, there is usually a surprise gathering, usually at midnight. (*Matthew 25:1-13*) This would be where the Bridegroom collects his Bride.
- Then there is the 7-day marriage supper:
 - *Matthew 26:29 (NLT) "Mark my words – I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new with you in my Father's Kingdom" – Here we can see the wedding banquet after Jesus collected His Bride. At the moment Jesus is seated on the right hand side of God, in Heaven, interceding for us.*
 - Songs of victory and the wedding feast in heaven - *Revelation 19:6-9 (NLT)* *"Then I heard again what sounded like the shout of a vast crowd or roar of mighty ocean waves or the crash of loud thunder. "Praise the Lord!.... For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself. She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear. For the fine linen represents the good deeds of God's holy people. "*
And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb." And he added, "These are true words that come from God."
- Then the Bride of Christ will return to earth with Him, to rule and reign there.
 - *(A thousand years) Revelation 20:4,6 (NLT) "Then I saw thrones, and the people sitting on them had been given the authority to judge...Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. For them the second death holds now power., but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him a thousand years."*
- **The Lord does not want His bride to go through the tribulation and destructive period.**
 - *Zephaniah 2:3 (NLT) "... Perhaps even yet the Lord will protect you – protect you from his anger on the day of destruction."*
 - *1 Thessalonians 5:9 (NLT) "For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us."*
 - *Revelation 3:10 "Because you have obeyed My command to preserve, I will protect you from the great time of testing that will come upon the whole world to test those who belong to this world."*
- **Some Reasons for why the Rapture will be before the Tribulation:**
 - Because of the promise mentioned in *Revelation 3:10 "Because you have obeyed My command to preserve, I will protect you from the great time of testing that will come upon the whole world to test those who belong to this world."*, where the believers are to be spared from the hour of trial.
 - The believers are not the object of God's wrath. *1 Thessalonians 5:9 (NLT) "For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us."*
 - Believers to escape the tribulation period, not endure it.

- It will happen in the twinkle of an eye - 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (NLT) “*But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown.*”
- Will meet the Lord in the air, and not on the earth. 1 Thessalonians 4:17 (NLT) “*Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.*”
- The woman in Revelation is not the Church, but Israel. Revelation 12:5 (NLT) “*... And her child was snatched away from the dragon and was caught up to God and to his throne.*”
- When Jesus gave his Olivet Discourse in Luke 21:36 (NLT) “*Keep alert at all times. And pray that you might be strong enough to escape these coming horrors and stand before the Son of Man.*”, He hinted to the possibility of Christians escaping the coming day of wrath.
- The Marriage supper is in heaven - Revelation 19:1-9 (NLT) “*Then I heard again what sounded like the shout of a vast crowd or roar of mighty ocean waves or the crash of loud thunder. Praise the Lord!.... For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself. She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear. For the fine linen represents the good deeds of God's holy people.*”

And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.” And he added, “These are true words that come from God.”

- **The Church is absent in Revelation 4 to 18.** The Church is mentioned about 17 times in the first 3 chapters of Revelation. Once John is taken up to heaven, he witnesses the tribulation period, however, not once mentions the Church. We only hear about the Church again in Revelation 19. Remember that the Church is made up of both “born-again” Jews and Gentiles who have a relationship with God.
- **Lastly –** There is a phase in Christ’s coming for His Church that will be unexpected and sudden. However, if the “rapture”, or “unexpected phase” happens after the tribulation, then the Lord’s coming will not be “unexpected” any longer, as we have all the signs of the tribulation times and Jesus’ visibly coming to earth as stated in the Bible.

13 IS THE CHURCH DISTINCT FROM ISRAEL?

Seems the Tribulation times may have been set aside mostly for Israel, and not the Church. When we look at how the Book of Revelation is segmented, this may be more noticeable:

Revelation 1-3 – Primarily deals with the Church on earth.

Revelation 4-5 – Mainly the church and Old Testament saints in heaven with God.

Revelation 6-19 – Deals largely with Israel under the oppression of the Gentiles – Tribulation and Great tribulation.

Revelation 20-22 – Refers to 3 classes of peoples – the Church, the Jews and the Gentiles (non-believers).

Israel and the Church have different origins, missions and destinies. In scripture, Israel is always referred to as a wife or widow, while the Church is always seen as a virgin Bride. In Revelation the woman who is pregnant is Israel, even though some may think she was the Church. However, the Church is always seen as the virgin Bride.

The Church:

- Israel was not **God's mysterious plan** revealed, the Church was – Ephesians 3:6 (NLT) “*And this is God's plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God's children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus.*”
- **The purpose** of the Church – Ephesians 3:10-11 (NLT) “*God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord.*”
- **God chose the Gentiles** as the Church. He also wanted to bless them as He would Israel. Romans 9:25-26 (NLT) “*Concerning the Gentiles, God says in the prophecy of Hosea, “Those who were not my people, I will now call my people. And I will love those whom I did not love before.” And, “Then, at the place where they were told, You are not my people, there they will be called ‘children of the living God.’”*

Romans 10:20 (NLT) “*And later Isaiah spoke boldly for God, saying, “I was found by people who were not looking for me. I showed myself to those who were not asking for me.”*

Romans 11:17b-20 (NLT) “*And you Gentiles, who were branches from a wild olive tree, have been grafted in. So now you also receive the blessings God has promised Abraham and his children, sharing in the rich nourishment from the root of God's special olive tree. But you must not brag about being grafted in to replace the branches that were broken off. You are just a branch, not the root.”*

Romans 11:30-32 (NLT) “*Once, you Gentiles were rebels against God, but when the people of Israel rebelled against him, God was merciful to you instead. Now, they are the rebels, and God's mercy has come to you so that they, too, will share in God's mercy. For God has imprisoned everyone in disobedience so he could have mercy on everyone.”*

Israel:

- God primarily worked through Israel in the Old Testament. God told most of the prophets, including Daniel, that **He would fulfil the many prophecies to Israel** that have not been fulfilled yet, cumulating in the second coming of the Messiah to set up his Kingdom.– Daniel 12:1-3 (NLT) “*At that time Michael, the archangel who stands guard over your nation, will arise. Then there will be a time of anguish greater than any since nations first came into existence. But at that time every one of your people whose name is written in the book will be rescued. Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace. Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever.”*
- Israel is described **as a woman in labour** – Isaiah 54:5-7 (NLT) “*For your Creator will be your husband; the Lord of Heaven's Armies is his name! He is your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, the God of all the earth. For the Lord has called you back from your grief – as though you were a young wife abandoned by her husband,” says your God. “For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with great compassion I will take you back”,*

Isaiah 66:7 (NLT) “*Before the birth pains even begin, Jerusalem gives birth to a son”,*

Jeremiah 3:6 (NLT) “*...the Lord said to me, “Have you seen what fickle Israel has done? Like a wife who commits adultery, Israel has worshiped other gods on every hill and under every green tree.”,*

And other scriptures - Micah 4:10 and 5:2-3

- **God is not yet finished with Israel** – as stated in Romans 9, Romans 10 and Romans 11. Romans 9:27 (NLT) “*And concerning Israel, Isaiah the prophet cried out, “Though the people of Israel are as numerous as the sand of the seashore, only a remnant will be saved.”*

Romans 10:17-19 (NLT) “So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ. But I ask, have the people of Israel actually heard the message? Yes, they have: The message has gone through the earth, and the words to all the world. But I ask, did the people of Israel really understand? Yes, they did, for even in the time of Moses, God said, “I will rouse your jealousy through people who are not even a nation. I will provoke your anger through the foolish Gentiles.”

Romans 10:21 (NLT) “But regarding Israel, God said, “All day long I opened my arms to them, but they were disobedient and rebellious.”

Romans 11:1-2a (NLT) “I ask, then, has God rejected his own people, the nation of Israel? Of course not! I myself am an Israelite, a descendent of Abraham and a member of the tribe of Benjamin. No, God has not rejected his own people, whom he chose from the very beginning. Do you realize what Scriptures say about this?”

Romans 11:5 (NLT) “It is the same today, for a few of the people of Israel have remained faithful because of God’s grace – his undeserved kindness in choosing them.”

Romans 11:7-8 (NLT) “So this is the situation: Most of the people of Israel have not found the favour of God they are looking for so earnestly. A few have – the ones God has chosen – but the hearts of the rest were hardened. As the Scriptures say, “God has put them into a deep sleep. To this day he has shut their eyes so they do not see, and closed their ears so they do not hear.”

Romans 11:11-18 (NLT) “Did God’s people stumble and fall beyond recovery? Of course not! They were disobedient, so God made salvation available to the Gentiles. But he wanted his own people to become jealous and claim it for themselves. Now if the Gentiles were enriched because of the people of Israel turned down God’s offer of salvation, think how much greater a blessing the world will share when they finally accept it.

I am saying all this especially for you Gentiles. God has appointed me as an apostle to the Gentiles. I stress this, for I want somehow to make the people of Israel jealous of what you Gentiles have, so I might save some of them. For since their rejection meant that God offered salvation to the rest of the world, their acceptance will be even more wonderful. It will be life for those who were dead.

And since Abraham and the other patriarchs were holy, their descendants will also be holy...

Romans 11:23 (NLT) “And if the people of Israel turn from their unbelief, they will be grafted in again, for God has the power to graft them back into the tree.”

Romans 11:25b-29 (NLT) “Some of the people of Israel have hardened hearts, but this will last only until the full number of Gentiles come to Christ. And so all Israel will be saved. As the Scriptures say, “The one who rescues will come from Jerusalem, and he will turn Israel away from ungodliness. And this is my covenant with them, that I will take away their sins.” Many of the people of Israel are now enemies of the Good News, and this benefits you Gentiles. Yet they are still the people he loves because he chose their ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For God’s gift and his call can never be withdrawn.”

- The **Covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob** – (look at reference in study bible)
Genesis 15:12-21 – God alone making the covenant between Abraham and Him – giving Abraham and his descendants the land.

Genesis 17:1-8 – God made another covenant with Abraham and all of his descendants. He would be the father of a multitude of nations. He changed Abram’s name to Abraham. This was an everlasting covenant, that God will always be their God forever.

- The **remnant of Israel** that would be saved, is mentioned countless times throughout the Word.
2 Kings 19:31 (NLT) “For a remnant of my people will spread out from Jerusalem, a group of survivors from Mount Zion. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies will make this happen!”

2 Chronicles 30:6 (NLT) *“At the king’s command, runners were sent throughout Israel and Judah. They carried letters that said: “O people of Israel, return to the Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, so that he will return to the few of us who have survived the conquest of the Assyrian kings.”*

Isaiah 1:9 (NLT) *“If the Lord of Heaven’s Armies had not spared a few of us, we would have been wiped out like Sodom, destroyed like Gomorrah.”*

Isaiah 10:21 (NLT) *“A remnant will return; yes, the remnant of Jacob will return to the Mighty God.”*

Ezekiel 6:8 (NLT) *“But I will let a few of my people escape destruction, and they will be scattered among the nations of the world.”*

Joel 2:32 (NLT) *“But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved, for some on Mount Zion in Jerusalem will escape, just as the Lord has said. There will be among the survivors whom the Lord has called.”*

Zechariah 8:11 (NLT) *“But now I will not treat the remnant of my people as I treated them before, says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.” (and the rest of the chapter)*

Romans 11:5 (NLT) *“It is the same today, for a few of the people of Israel have remained faithful because of God’s grace – his undeserved kindness in choosing them.”*

- **God will not forsake Israel**, as He created them from the beginning for His own purpose. Isaiah 41:8-9 (NLT) *“But, as for you, Israel my servant, ... For I have chosen you and will not throw you away.”*

Isaiah 43:21 (NLT) *“I have made Israel for Myself, and they will someday honour Me before the whole world.”*

14 SOURCES

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- Dr Chuck Missler from Koinonia House – Notes on the Rapture
- Understanding Bible Prophecy for Yourself – Tim Lahaye
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