
BIBLE TALK

This week the topic is: ***Eight problems with the dispensational rapture theory.***

"Rapture" – *"The transporting of a person from one place to another, especially to heaven"* (American Heritage Dictionary).

The word **"rapture"** is not found in most English translations, but it is found in the Latin Bible:

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

The word "rapture" means, "*snatched up, caught up,*" and that's certainly taught in this passage.

There are two views of the rapture—one is correct and the other is a dangerous false doctrine.

View #1: "Post-tribulation" rapture. This view says that God's people will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air after all the tribulations of earth are over. In other words, the rapture occurs at the end of world history. After this is the judgment day.

View #2: "Pre-tribulation" rapture. This view says God does not want His people to suffer, so He's going to rapture His people up and off the earth before they have to suffer thru great tribulation.

Dispensationalism

Dispensational premillennialism teaches the following:

- When Jesus to earth the first time He came, supposedly, to re-gather the Jews to Palestine and set up an earthly kingdom.
- Surprisingly, however, the Jews rejected their Savior. Supposedly God was caught off guard and did not foresee this happening. Therefore, the church was established on an interim basis until the Lord can come again and successfully set up His earthly kingdom on His second effort.
- Near the end of world history a 7-year-great-tribulation will begin.
- A supreme ruler will arise – the Antichrist—will begin ruling the world and terrorizing all Christians.
- But to protect Christians from this horrible tribulation, the Lord will come again secretly to rapture His saints off the earth before the terrorism begins—hence the name "pre-tribulation rapture." This is Christ's second coming.
- The dead saints of all the ages are also resurrected and snatched up during the rapture.
- After seven years of tribulation Christ comes again—for the third time—and begins His 1000 year reign.
- At the end of the 1000 years Satan is released for a short time and Jesus goes away. Satan rallies a large army of evil men to destroy the small flock of faithful Christians Jesus left behind.
- Finally, Jesus comes back for a fourth time, just before His faithful are destroyed, the Battle of Armageddon occurs, and Satan is defeated once and for all.

What's Wrong?

Now, what's wrong with this theory?

There are at least **8 things wrong** with this. I will go over these things briefly. If you would like our CD with the full study of this topic, you may request this at the end of this recording.

1) The rapture is not going to be secret.

Every single person will see the Lord when He returns the second time (Rev 1:7).

2) God was not "caught off guard."

God knew beforehand that the Jews would take His Son and crucify Him. Read Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53 where the Lord's death by crucifixion was prophesied 600 years before Christ was born.

Dispensationalism belittles the Lord's death—as if it were not planned to begin with.

3) The church is not God's "Plan B."

Dispensationalism teaches Jesus set the church up as "Plan B"—but it was really His intention to set up His kingdom. This simply is not true. The church was in the eternal plans of God (Eph 3:10-11). The church is not an alternate plan—it is, in fact, the Lord's kingdom (Mt 16:18-19). So the Lord was successful:

- He did set up His kingdom.
- It is a spiritual kingdom (Jn 18:36).
- It is the church (Col 1:13).

4) The Lord is only going to return a second time.

Dispensationalism has the Lord returning at least four times altogether more times! According to scripture, He comes only a second time (Heb 9:28).

5) There is only one resurrection.

Dispensationalism says there will be at least two resurrections: One for the saved and a separate one for the wicked a thousand years later. The scriptures say both saved and lost will be resurrected on the same day (Jn 5:28-29).

6) God did not promise a *PRE*-tribulation rapture.

Jesus never promised His disciples they would not have to suffer persecution or tribulation. As a matter of fact, Jesus forewarned them they would have tribulation and they must remain faithful (Rev 2:10).

The rapture taught in the Bible is after all the tribulations of earth are over—hence the name POST-tribulation rapture.

7) Christ will *END* his reign when He returns.

Dispensationalism says Jesus begins His reign when He returns the second time, but the Bible says He is reigning now and will end His reign when He returns (1 Cor 15:24-26).

8) Dispensationalism cannot answer the question: What if the Jews reject Jesus again?

Supposedly Jesus was going to set up His earthly kingdom when He came the first time, but the Jews surprisingly rejected Him. This rejection caused Him to delay setting up the kingdom and in the meantime He had to set up the church.

Q: How can we be so sure the Jews won't reject Him when He comes again the second time (or should I say the third time)?

After all, if they rejected Him once and prevented Him from setting up His kingdom the first time, they might do it again!

Summary

Well, those are eight problems with the pre-tribulation rapture theory. There are probably other problems, but this is enough for now and this is enough to reject the theory all together.

Announcements

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our website www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

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