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"Lets study and learn together about the living word of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ"



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This is Friday Morning Devotion



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The Rapture, the Second coming, the difference of what, why and when. Part 1 of 3

These two terms the Rapture and the Second coming have been misunderstood by many. Some have a mindset of being the same thing. I believe the reason they have been looked upon as the same event by many is because either can be preached by a one Bible verse sermon with excitement. There is nothing wrong with that if you like that kind of preaching but sometimes during the excitement some will lose the real meaning of either phrase and sometimes only hear "at His next coming or Jesus is coming soon to this earth and take us out of here!" Either one of these statements could be easily misunderstood. So let's take some study time and find out the difference in what they are why they happen and when.

So, the first question: Is the Rapture and the Second Coming the same thing? The answer in short is no, no and again no. Let's get an overall view of what each event is and the difference. Then we will spend some time on each one in detail.

First we will look at the Rapture. According to the Bible the Rapture is when Christ comes for those that belong to Him. *1 Thessalonians 4: 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

When speaking about the Rapture always keep the statement in mind **to meet the Lord in the air:** Not on earth but, meet Him in the air. Also the word Rapture is not found in the Bible. The English word "Rapture" is derived from the Latin verb "Rapere" meaning "to carry off," or "caught up." There are also different beliefs in when this event will happen. The most that is being taught and it is what I believe and I will explain why I believe is Pre-Tribulation Rapture. That means we will be taken out before the Tribulation and this has solid Biblical truth to stand on and that is always where you get the facts.

Next event we will look at in detail in the next few weeks is the Second Coming. What is the difference in the Rapture and the Second coming? There is no comparison in the two. The Bible says in *Revelation 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.* The Second coming will happen at the end of the Great Tribulation when our Lord will come to rule and rein upon this earth. Our Lord will literally set His foot down on this sinful world and mankind will look upon Him in horror because of their non-belief. *Zechariah 14:3 Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. 4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.*

So you see there is a great difference in the Rapture and the Second coming and in the next few weeks I will explain each one in detail. It is certainly exciting for those who belong to the Lord Jesus to hear that we could be caught up at any moment to meet Him in the air because the Rapture is the next thing to happen in Gods time line. The Bible also says we shall forever be with the Lord! That's right that could happen at any time even before we take the next breath. The Rapture also triggers the 7 year Tribulation period. So the Second coming will happen 7 years after the Rapture at the end of the Great Tribulation. God's wrath upon this earth is call the Tribulation and it will last 7 years! The first 3 ½ of the 7 years will not be as bad as the last 3 ½ because the Bible calls the last half "The Great Tribulation and that is when God pours out His tremendous wrath and plagues upon mankind because of his sin and non-belief.

To those who keep putting off accepting the Lord Jesus as your Saviour. Time is running out! You don't have to believe it but it is a fact of God's word that we are in the last days. God has been so gracious to mankind to give him warning after warning and still many will be cast into the Lake of fire to be separated from Him for eternity. Don't be one of them. Ask Christ into your life today to forgive you of your sins and come into your life and save you from the everlasting torment.

Love in Christ Jesus, Ronnie Miller www.themillersbiblestudy.com