

There is NO Santa Claus.

There is NO tooth fairy.

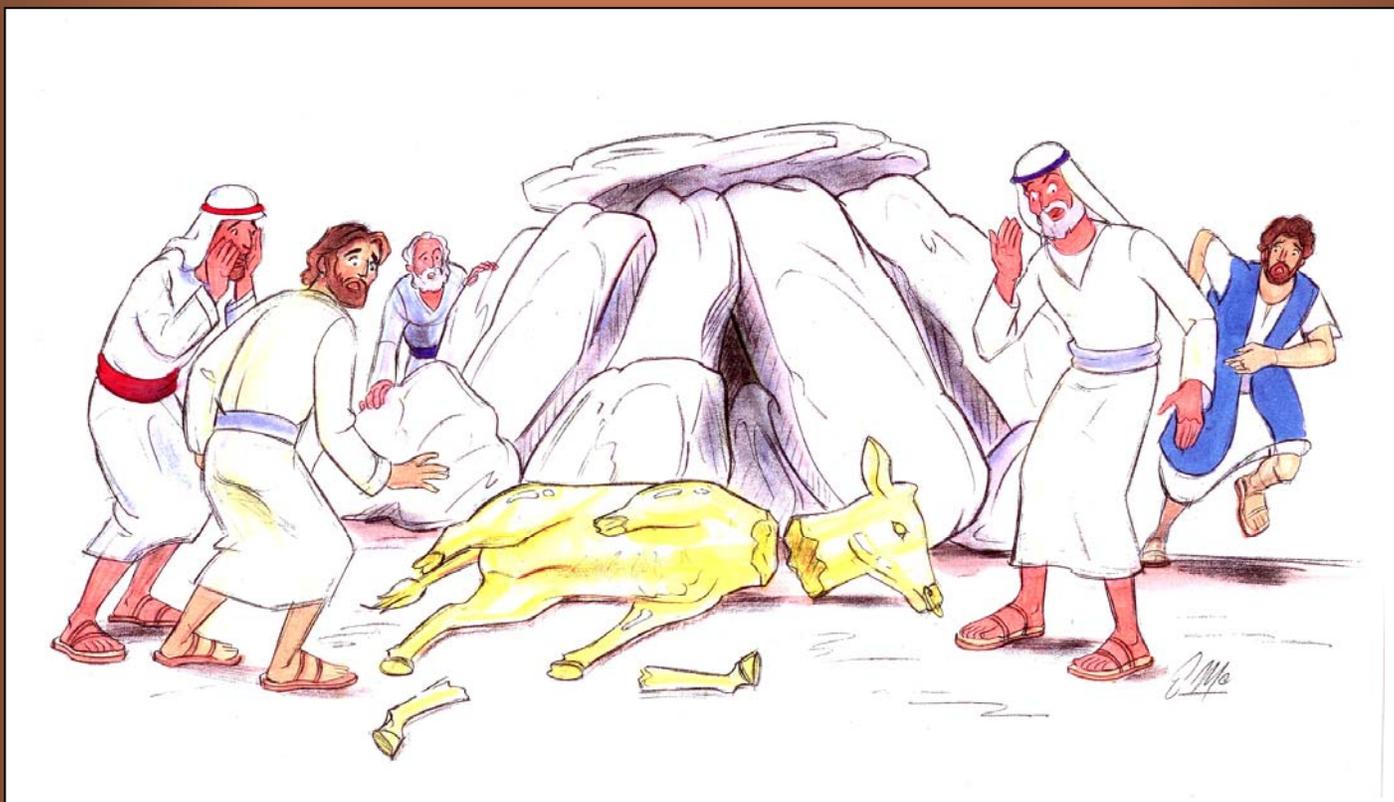
And, there is ...

NO RAPTURE!



By Jack Wasson

Forty million copies of the “Left Behind” series have been sold. The authors state freely their series is a “work of fiction.” Fiction is not a sin, nor even criminal. But, should fiction evolve into theology? The first rule of authorship: “Identify your audience.” This book is not for everyone. It is only for those who have ever wondered about the scriptural basis for the Rapture.



Jack Wasson has been a student of the Bible since he was a teenager. In 1972, he graduated from Southwestern Assemblies of God College, Waxahachie, Texas. In 1979, he graduated summa cum laude from the University of Texas, Arlington, with multiple bachelor's degrees that included modern European history, international political science, and psychology. He served in the Army as an officer in military intelligence. As an independent businessman, he has worked in real estate, oil development, construction and finance. He has been actively involved in evangelistic and mission's work since 1972. He travels frequently to the Middle East. This is his first book.

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PLEASE NOTE

This is a sample of the Book. For ease of distribution and printing, this sample has been done in standard 8½"x11" format. The actual book is a typical hardback of approximately 252 pages. The table of contents here included reflects the 8½"x11" format.

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CHAPTER ONE:

11 REASONS THE RAPTURE IS NOT THE SECOND COMING

A crime has been committed! In a perfect world, when a crime has been committed, the job of the police is to find the truth. This is also the case for the prosecutor who represents the people. During the investigation, law enforcement may “focus” on a suspect.

In the early stages, when it’s not quite clear what the suspect knows about the crime, they will “question” him as to what he knows about the events surrounding the crime. A guilty suspect is quite naturally evasive. He doesn’t want responsibility for the crime -- especially if he did it.



One of the most typical evasions a guilty suspect employs is to construct “a story”: an alternative set of events that place the suspect somewhere else at the time of the crime. During questioning, if the suspect begins to relate a story, the investigators are grateful for the “cooperation.” A skillful interrogator will encourage as much detail as possible. The more elaborate the story, the better.

Once the suspect has “locked in” to his elaborate story, the investigation can focus on deconstructing the alternative presented. As the alternative is systematically proven to be “implausible” or impossibly inconsistent with the facts, the false story is exposed.

During the investigation -- or sometimes even during the trial -- this is the preferred technique employed by prosecutors to discredit the accused and to expose his falsehood. The prosecutor might begin, “Assume for the moment the accused has told you the truth in his story and everything he has said is fact.” From this perspective, the prosecutor might begin to demonstrate to the jury that the *facts* of the suspect’s story and the evidence uncovered during the investigation *cannot both be true*.

Even for some who agreed with my premise in this book, the title of the book was not only disarming, but alarming. Why? It was alarming because the Rapture “story” has so completely wrapped itself in the Second Coming that, for multitudes of believers, it has become synonymous with the Second Coming. When I say “*there is no Rapture,*” a multitude hears me saying “*there is no Second Coming.*” For the record, *I believe in and look forward to, with all my heart, the Second Coming of Messiah. I’ll even go so far as to say, I believe this promised Coming could occur in my lifetime.*

In this book, I will attempt to establish with Scripture, the only standard I regard as irrefutable, that every single justification introduced for the existence of the event known as the Rapture is without support. Not only is it without support, it is *contradictory* to Scripture in practically every point.

In this chapter, I am going to take a completely different approach. *For this chapter only,* let us stipulate that everything you have always heard and “*know*” about the Rapture *is true.*

Stipulation, in this context, is the legal procedure of accepting items, events, or other “evidence” as a fact without further debate as to their validity or authenticity. It can be very effectively used by a prosecutor when a defendant has concocted an elaborate, implausible story that he has related to the investigating officers. The prosecutor might accept as “fact” all or a portion of the defendant’s story, and then compare it to other evidence verified to be true. The contradiction between the verified facts and the story reveals the lie.

In this chapter, I intend to demonstrate, using what you already “*know*” and have considered “fact,” *the Rapture is not the Second Coming* and, in fact, *it is a completely different event.*

Once we have proven through Scripture that the Rapture is *not* the Second Coming, we will then consider the important question; “*If the Rapture is not the Second Coming, what is it?*”

REASON 1- CLANDESTINE COMING VS. PUBLIC COMING

The Rapture: Everyone knows the Rapture is the secret coming; it is evident only to the participants, and invisible to all the rest. It is common knowledge that millions will simply “vanish” leaving behind piles of clothing and false teeth and, I assume pacemakers. The only explanation will be found in safe deposit boxes left behind with instructions to be opened when their owner suddenly disappears.

Second Coming: This is the first distinction between the Rapture and the Second Coming. The Second Coming is a worldwide “event.” *Everyone,* even Yeshua’s enemies, will see Him. *No one* will have *any* questions as to what is taking place:

Matt. 24:30 and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.

Luke 21:26 . . . men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Luke 21:27 “And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”

Rev. 1:7 Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. Even so. Amen.

Rev. 6:15 And the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains;

Rev. 6:16 and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.”

REASON 2- TIMING: THE SECOND COMING IS AFTER THE TRIBULATION

The Rapture: It is common knowledge that the Rapture occurs *before* the Tribulation.

Second Coming: The Second Coming, in contrast, occurs immediately *after* the Tribulation.

Matt. 24:29 “But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken,

Matt. 24:30 and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.

Mark 13:19 “For those days will be a time of tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created, until now, and never shall.

Mark 13:24 “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,

Mark 13:25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken.

Mark 13:26 “And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.”

REASON 3- WHO IS LEFT BEHIND?

The Rapture: It is common knowledge those left behind at the Rapture are the lost, the unsaved.

Second Coming: At His Second Coming at the end of the age, *all of the wicked*, including the beast and false prophet, are gathered up by angels for burning and it is *the righteous* that are *left behind* to shine.

Mal. 4:1 “For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze,” says the Lord of hosts, “so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.”

Mal. 4:2 “But for you who fear My name the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.”

Mal. 4:3 “And you will tread down the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day which I am preparing,” says the Lord of hosts.

Matt. 24:3 And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

Matt. 13:26 “But when the wheat sprang up and bore grain, then the tares became evident also.

Matt. 13:27 “And the slaves of the landowner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’

Matt. 13:28 “And he said to them, ‘An enemy has done this!’ And the slaves said to him, ‘Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?’

Matt. 13:29 “But he said, ‘No; lest while you are gathering up the tares, you may root up the wheat with them.

Matt. 13:30 “Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.””

Matt. 13:40 “Therefore just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age.

Matt. 13:41 “The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness,

Matt. 13:42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matt. 13:43 “Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

Matt. 13:47 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering fish of every kind;

Matt. 13:48 and when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach; and they sat down, and gathered the good fish into containers, but the bad they threw away.

Matt. 13:49 “So it will be at the end of the age; the angels shall come forth, and take out the wicked from among the righteous,

Matt. 13:50 and will cast them into the furnace of fire; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Rev. 19:19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies, assembled to make war against Him who sat upon the horse, and against His army.

Rev. 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

REASON 4-THE RAPTURE IS IMMINENT; THE SECOND COMING IS NOT!

The Rapture: It is common knowledge the *Rapture is imminent* and can occur *at any moment*, even before you finish reading this sentence. It is so stated from hundreds, if not thousands, of pulpits across America every Sunday, “The Rapture can happen at any moment.” Everybody knows that all prophecy has been fulfilled.

Second Coming: The Second Coming, however, cannot occur, according to Paul, until at least two conditions occur first.

2 Thess. 2:1 Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together to Him,

2 Thess. 2:2 that you may not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

2 Thess. 2:3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed,

2 Thess. 2:4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

2 Thess. 2:8 And then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming.

Paul clearly states the Second Coming must be preceded by two signs; two conditions that must come before Messiah’s Return. The first event is a great apostasy, or falling away of believers from the faith. The second condition precedent is the appearance of the anti-Christ. This leads us to the next reason the *Rapture is not the Second Coming* and should not be confused with it.

REASON 5- APPEARANCE VS. END OF ANTI-CHRIST

The Rapture: It is common knowledge the anti-Christ is not revealed, disclosed, unveiled, until *after* the Rapture, once the Church is evacuated from the late, great, planet earth. You could say, therefore, the Rapture signals the kickoff of the reign of the anti-Christ.

Second Coming: In contrast, however, the *end of the anti-Christ* (his destruction) occurs *at the Second Coming*.

2 Thess. 2:1 Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together to Him,

2 Thess. 2:3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless . . . the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

2 Thess. 2:4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

2 Thess. 2:8 And then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming.

Since the destruction of the anti-Christ is *at the Second Coming*, it becomes obvious as to why Paul includes the coming of the man of sin as one of the two conditions that must occur *before the Second Coming*.

Rev. 19:11 And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

Rev. 19:14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.

Rev. 19:15 And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.

Rev. 19:16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

Rev. 19:19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies, assembled to make war against Him who sat upon the horse, and against His army.

Rev. 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

The anti-Christ goes out to confront the Lord and the armies of heaven *at the Second Coming*, and is destroyed by Messiah *at His Coming*. Since the END of the anti-Christ is *at the Second Coming* of the Lord, virtually *ALL* that the AC does -- his entire "ministry" -- is accomplished *prior* to the Coming of the Lord. The Rapture, on the other hand, comes completely and entirely *BEFORE* the coming of the AC.

REASON 6- CELESTIAL SIGNS & PHYSICAL EVIDENCE AT SECOND COMING

The Rapture: Everyone knows the Rapture occurs like a burglary. Before the public is even aware, it is over. There is no *physical* evidence of this event; not a trace. The only proof is

the chaos caused by the sudden disappearance of key individuals such as bus drivers and pilots. Physically, it is like a *gentle breeze*. None of His enemies will even be aware He has Come and gone.

Second Coming: The Second Coming, however, is *earthshaking*. In contrast to a gentle breeze, this event is immediately preceded, and is accompanied by, cataclysmic terrestrial events. There will be signs in the heavens and worldwide physical chaos, including earthquakes. Mountains will melt and the sky is literally split apart.

Isa. 30:26 And the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be seven times brighter, like the light of seven days, on the day the Lord binds up the fracture of His people and heals the bruise He has inflicted.

Joel 2:30 “And I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, blood, fire, and columns of smoke.

Joel 2:31 “The sun will be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.

Zech. 14:3 Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle.

Zech. 14:4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south.

Zech. 14:5 Then the Lord, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him!

Zech. 14:6 And it will come about in that day that there will be no light; the luminaries will dwindle.

Zech. 14:7 For it will be a unique day which is known to the Lord, neither day nor night, but it will come about that at evening time there will be light.

Mic. 1:3 For behold, the Lord is coming forth from His place. He will come down and tread on the high places of the earth.

Mic. 1:4 The mountains will melt under Him, And the valleys will be split, Like wax before the fire, Like water poured down a steep place.

Matt. 24:29 But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken,

Matt. 24:30 and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.

Mark 13:24 But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,

Mark 13:25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken.

Mark 13:26 And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.

2 Pet. 3:3 Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts,

2 Pet. 3:4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."

2 Pet. 3:7 But the present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

2 Pet. 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

2 Pet. 3:12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

REASON 7- JUDGMENTS AND DEATH TO ALL THE ENEMIES OF MESSIAH

The Rapture: Everybody knows the purpose of the Rapture is to rescue the Church. After Christians are safely evacuated, the wrath can begin. No one has ever suggested, however, that any of the unrighteous keels over or dies as a result of the Rapture.

Second Coming: In contrast, at the Second Coming, *every last enemy* of Messiah is completely and utterly disposed of. This is a complete, worldwide, Passover.

Isa. 66:15 For behold, the Lord will come in fire And His chariots like the whirlwind, To render His anger with fury, And His rebuke with flames of fire.

Isa. 66:16 For the Lord will execute judgment by fire And by His sword on all flesh, And those slain by the Lord will be many.

Jer. 25:30 Therefore you shall prophesy against them all these words, and you shall say to them, 'The Lord will roar from on high, And utter His voice from His holy habitation; He will roar mightily against His fold. He will shout like those who tread the grapes, Against all the inhabitants of the earth.'

Jer. 25:31 'A clamor has come to the end of the earth, Because the Lord has a controversy with the nations. He is entering into judgment with all flesh; As for the wicked, He has given them to the sword,' declares the Lord."

Jer. 25:33 And those slain by the Lord on that day shall be from one end of the earth to the other. They shall not be lamented, gathered, or buried; they shall be like dung on the face of the ground.

Jer. 25:38 “He has left His hiding place like the lion; For their land has become a horror Because of the fierceness of the oppressing sword, And because of His fierce anger.”

In the above verses of Jeremiah, the wicked dead are stacked up at the Second Coming like cordwood from one end of the earth to the other. Here, the Lord roars from on high. He has left His hiding place and gone forth. Who will be unaware of this Coming? Compare this to the clandestine coming of the Rapture, a coming unnoticed by the wicked.

Zeph. 1:2 “I will completely remove all things From the face of the earth,” declares the Lord.

Zeph. 1:3 “I will remove man and beast; I will remove the birds of the sky And the fish of the sea, And the ruins along with the wicked; And I will cut off man from the face of the earth,” declares the Lord.

Zeph. 1:6 And those who have turned back from following the Lord, And those who have not sought the Lord or inquired of Him.

Zeph. 1:7 Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is near, For the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, He has consecrated His guests.

Zeph. 1:8 Then it will come about on the day of the Lord’s sacrifice, That I will punish the princes, the king’s sons, And all who clothe themselves with foreign garments.

Zeph. 1:14 Near is the great day of the Lord, Near and coming very quickly; Listen, the day of the Lord! In it the warrior cries out bitterly.

Zeph. 1:15 A day of wrath is that day, A day of trouble and distress, A day of destruction and desolation, A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness,

Zeph. 1:16 A day of trumpet and battle cry, Against the fortified cities And the high corner towers.

Zeph. 1:17 And I will bring distress on men, So that they will walk like the blind, Because they have sinned against the Lord; And their blood will be poured out like dust, And their flesh like dung.

Zeph. 1:18 Neither their silver nor their gold Will be able to deliver them On the day of the Lord’s wrath; And all the earth will be devoured In the fire of His jealousy, For He will make a complete end, Indeed a terrifying one, Of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Zech. 14:3 Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle.

Mal. 4:1 “For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze,” says the Lord of hosts, “so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.”

Mal. 4:2 “But for you who fear My name the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.

Mal. 4:3 “And you will tread down the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day which I am preparing,” says the Lord of hosts.”

Rev. 19:11 And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

Rev. 19:12 And His eyes are a flame of fire, and upon His head are many diadems; and He has a name written upon Him which no one knows except Himself.

Rev. 19:13 And He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood; and His name is called The Word of God.

Rev. 19:14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.

Rev. 19:15 And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.

Rev. 19:16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

Rev. 19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, “Come, assemble for the great supper of God;

Rev. 19:18 in order that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great.”

Rev. 19:19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies, assembled to make war against Him who sat upon the horse, and against His army.

Rev. 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

Rev. 19:21 And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat upon the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

REASON 8- ATTITUDE OF THE LOST

The Rapture: Everybody knows that at the Rapture, the left behind are apathetic and unconcerned, oblivious of what is about to take place.

Second Coming: At the Second Coming, however, all the enemies of the Messiah are very aware and are terrified.

Matt. 24:30 and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.

Luke 21:26 men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Luke 21:27 “And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Rev. 6:13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind.

Rev. 6:14 And the sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

Rev. 6:15 And the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains;

Rev. 6:16 and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.”

REASON 9- TOUCHDOWN

The Rapture: It is common knowledge that, at the Rapture, the Lord comes and gathers up the selected but He does not touch down on the planet Earth. Everybody knows it is more or less a “fly over.” There is no physical trace that He has come and gone.

Second Coming: In contrast, at the Second Coming, not only does He touch down, but at His presence, the mountains melt, and He splits the Mount of Olives. Earthquakes are also a result of the touchdown at the Second Coming.

Isa. 64:1 Oh, that Thou wouldst rend the heavens and come down, That the mountains might quake at Thy presence--

Isa. 64:2 As fire kindles the brushwood, as fire causes water to boil-- To make Thy name known to Thine adversaries, That the nations may tremble at Thy presence!

Isa. 64:3 When Thou didst awesome things which we did not expect, Thou didst come down, the mountains quaked at Thy presence.

Nah. 1:5 Mountains quake because of Him, And the hills dissolve; Indeed the earth is upheaved by His presence, The world and all the inhabitants in it.

Zech. 14:3 Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle.

Zech. 14:4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to

west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south.

Zech. 14:5 Then the Lord, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him!

Zech. 14:6 And it will come about in that day that there will be no light; the luminaries will dwindle.

Zech. 14:7 For it will be a unique day which is known to the Lord, neither day nor night, but it will come about that at evening time there will be light.

Mic. 1:3 For behold, the Lord is coming forth from His place. He will come down and tread on the high places of the earth.

Mic. 1:4 The mountains will melt under Him, And the valleys will be split, Like wax before the fire, Like water poured down a steep place.

REASON 10- TWO FORMS OF DELIVERANCE: CHURCH IS RESCUED VS. MULTITUDES OF TRIBULATION MARTYRS

The Rapture: In order to make this distinction between the Rapture and the Second Coming, we must contrast two groups of believers. The first group is the Church. There is one thing *everyone* knows. The Church is spared all suffering, taken to Heaven, evacuated at the Rapture. It is common knowledge that the anti-Christ will never lay a hand on the Church.

Second Coming: In contrast to the Church, there is a second group of believers. For convenience, we can designate them *the tribulation saints* in order to keep them separate from the previously evacuated Church. There are multitudes of these believers who *do* suffer at the hand of the wicked one. The beast makes war on these *tribulation saints* of God who are admonished by Messiah to suffer even unto death. *Their deliverance is only complete at the Second Coming, when Messiah destroys the beast and the false prophet.*

Dan. 7:13 I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him.

Dan. 7:14 And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations, and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.

Dan. 7:18 'But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.'

Dan. 7:21 I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them

Dan. 7:22 until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom.

Dan. 7:25 And he will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One . . .; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

Dan. 7:26 But the court will sit for judgment, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever.

Dan. 7:27 'Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.'

Dan. 8:10 And it grew up to the host of heaven and caused some of the host and some of the stars to fall to the earth, and it trampled them down.

Dan. 8:11 It even magnified itself to be equal with the Commander of the host; and it removed the regular sacrifice from Him, and the place of His sanctuary was thrown down.

Dan. 8:12 And on account of transgression the host will be given over to the horn along with the regular sacrifice; and it will fling truth to the ground and perform its will and prosper.

Dan. 8:13 Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to that particular one who was speaking, "How long will the vision about the regular sacrifice apply, while the transgression causes horror, so as to allow both the holy place and the host to be trampled?"

Dan. 8:24 And his power will be mighty, but not by his own power, And he will destroy to an extraordinary degree And prosper and perform his will; He will destroy mighty men and the holy people.

Dan. 11:32 the people who know their God will display strength and take action.

Dan. 11:33 And those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder, for many days.

Dan. 11:35 And some of those who have insight will fall, in order to refine, purge, and make them pure, until the end time; because it is still to come at the appointed time.

Dan. 11:44 he will go forth with great wrath to destroy and annihilate many.

Matt. 24:3 "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

Matt. 24:9 Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you,

Matt. 10:22 And you will be hated by all on account of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.

Matt. 10:23 But whenever they persecute you in this city, flee to the next; for truly I say to you, you shall not finish going through the cities of Israel, until the Son of Man comes.

Mark 13:19 For those days will be a time of tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created, until now, and never shall.

Mark 13:20 And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect whom He chose, He shortened the days.

Rev. 2:7 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.'

Rev. 2:10 Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation . . . Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Rev. 2:11 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.'

Rev. 2:25 Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come.

Rev. 2:26 And he who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations;

Rev. 6:9 And when He broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained;

Rev. 6:10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, wilt Thou refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

Rev. 6:11 And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, should be completed also.

Rev. 7:9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands;

Rev. 7:13 And one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and from where have they come?"

Rev. 7:14 And I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Rev. 12:10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night.

Rev. 12:11 "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death.

Rev. 12:12 "For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time."

Rev. 12:17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

Rev. 13:5 And there was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies; and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him.

Rev. 13:7 And it was given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them; and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.

Rev. 20:4 And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand

According to the most fundamental tenet of the Rapture, the Church is removed, evacuated from the earth, sparing it from any harm by the anti-Christ. There is likewise no question in Scripture that, during the tribulation, a multitude of saints of God suffer extreme persecution at the hands of anti-Christ. Unlike the evacuated Church, these tribulation saints are in a war with the anti-Christ. They are alerted in Scripture to overcome even if it means death. Their suffering is *allowed to continue, without intervention*, adding many more martyrs to their numbers. The Lord Himself proclaims to those previously martyred that *He cannot intervene until the full number of martyrs is complete*. The war on these tribulation saints, many of whom are beheaded, only ends at the Second Coming, when the lead perpetrators, the beast and the false prophet, are thrown alive into the lake of fire.

So, here we have it. The divine rescue mission of the Rapture evacuating the blessed Church from the grasp of the anti-Christ contrasted with a multitude that are commanded to be patient and suffer unto death at the hands of the bloodthirsty and raging anti-Christ. Clearly, the Rapture is not the Second Coming.

REASON 11- SECOND COMING: THE BEGINNING OF MESSIAH'S RULE

The Rapture: This reason is possibly the most compelling distinction of all. Everyone knows the rule and reign of anti-Christ begins sometime *after* the Rapture. The man of sin is the fulfillment of all of the worst of man's rebellion against God's authority. He is the last desperate effort of the dragon to subvert the incredible destiny God has planned for all of mankind. You could say, therefore, the Rapture heralds the rule of the anti-Christ.

Second Coming: The most significant fact of the Second Coming is that, in contrast to the Rapture, which heralds the introduction and reign of anti-Christ, the Second Coming marks *the end* of man's rebellion, the destruction of the anti-Christ and the false prophet and *the beginning* of the eternal, righteous reign of the Messiah. At the Second Coming, Messiah's kingdom *begins*; the kingdom that will *never* end.

Psa. 98:8 Let the rivers clap their hands; Let the mountains sing together for joy

Psa. 98:9 Before the Lord; for He is coming to judge the earth; He will judge the world with righteousness, And the peoples with equity.

Isa. 2:3 And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; That He may teach us concerning His ways, And that we may walk in His paths." For the law will go forth from Zion, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

Dan. 2:34 "You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay, and crushed them.

Dan. 2:35 "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Dan. 2:44 "And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.

Dan. 7:13 I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him.

Dan. 7:14 And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations, and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.

Dan. 7:25 And he will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

Dan. 7:26 But the court will sit for judgment, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever.

Dan. 7:27 Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.

Mic. 4:2 And many nations will come and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord And to the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways And that we may walk in His paths." For from Zion will go forth the law, Even the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

Mic. 4:7 . . . And the Lord will reign over them in Mount Zion From now on and forever.

Rev. 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there arose loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."

Rev. 11:17 saying, "We give Thee thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who art and who wast, because Thou hast taken Thy great power and hast begun to reign.

CHAPTER SUMMARY OR SO WHAT?

In this chapter I have contrasted the widely held, commonly believed, specifics of the Rapture with scriptural details of the Second Coming. We have absolutely proved the Rapture is not the Second Coming!

We have done this by taking everything you know and have been taught about the Rapture and comparing and contrasting it to the details of the Second Coming, as revealed throughout the Scripture. We have established eleven significant differences between the Rapture teachings and Scriptural details of the Second Coming:

Secret Coming vs. Public Coming: The Rapture is a secret to everyone except the participants, whereas the Second Coming is witnessed by the entire world --including Messiah's enemies.

Timing-Before and After the Tribulation: The Rapture occurs before the tribulation and the Second Coming is after.

The Left Behind: The Rapture teaching proclaims the righteous are taken away while the lost are left behind. The Scripture teaches that at the Second Coming angels are dispatched to remove all of the wicked for burning, including the beast and false prophet, leaving the righteous to tread upon their ashes and to shine in the Kingdom of Messiah.

Imminent or not: The most fundamental Rapture doctrine, repeated incessantly from the pulpit, is that it can occur at any moment and that all necessary prophecy has been fulfilled. Paul provides at least two markers that must precede the Second Coming; the great apostasy and the disclosure of the anti-Christ.

Appearance of the anti-Christ: Rapture teaching has the Church removed prior to the tribulation *and prior to the anti-Christ rule*. In contrast, the anti-Christ terror is *ended* at the Second Coming as the beast and false prophet are cast alive into the Lake of fire.

Without a Trace vs. Celestial Signs: Rapture teaching provides for no physical evidence of the event whereas the Second Coming is preceded and accompanied by incredible physical phenomena both in the heavens and on the earth.

Fate of Messiah's enemies: The mission of the Rapture is to rescue the Church. The lost are left alone to be subsequently dealt with by increasingly severe judgments. At the Second Coming, all of Messiah's enemies -- starting with the beast and false prophet -- are once and for all eliminated, from one end of the earth to the other.

Attitude of the Lost: Rapture doctrine teaches the lost are nonchalant, oblivious to what is taking place during the event. The Rapture occurs, the Church is gone and the left behind are initially disinterested and unmindful of their fate. At the Second Coming, however, terror is instantaneous and worldwide as Messiah's enemies seek to hide from His presence in rocks and caves.

Touchdown: It is widely taught and held that the Messiah does not touch down upon the earth at the Rapture. At the Second Coming, however, Messiah stands upon the Mount of Olives. His presence on the earth results in mountains melting and earthquakes, including the splitting of the Mount of Olives.

Rescued Church vs. Tribulation Martyrs: The rescue mission of the Rapture is to evacuate the Church *before* the great tribulation. In contrast, *during* the tribulation, a multitude of the saints engage in spiritual warfare with the beast and his armies. Many are beheaded for their faith. These saints are delivered *only* at the Second Coming that, they are told by Yeshua, cannot be hurried until the full number of martyrs is complete.

Anti-Christ's Kingdom vs. Messiah's Everlasting Kingdom: The Rapture signals the imminent appearance of the kingdom and rule of the beast, whereas the Second Coming institutes the eternal kingdom of Messiah.

These eleven points of “compare and contrast” crystallize the absolute difference between the teaching of the Rapture and the abundant Scriptural details of the Second Coming. Without question, the Rapture is *not* the Second Coming.

As true followers of Messiah, we must honestly ask ourselves; *if the Rapture is not the Second Coming, what is it? Could it be a Christian culture fairytale?*

2 Tim. 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires:

2 Tim. 4:4 and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths!!

THE RAPTURE AND THE SECOND COMING

The return of the Messiah to rule and to reign is a fundamental doctrine of Christianity. Prior to Yeshua's birth, Judaism was divided over the seemingly contradictory references in Scripture to the Messiah. The abundant references to the eternal reign of King Messiah were contrasted with references to the “suffering Servant.” The Rabbis concluded there had to be two Messiahs: one Messiah would do the suffering and even give his life for Israel; the other would assume the throne of David and rule as King over Israel for all eternity.

The disciples of Yeshua were looking for a King who would reign over Israel. Once they understood Yeshua was, in fact, the Messiah, He immediately began to teach his followers that His current mission was *not* to rule, but *to suffer and to die!* Following His crucifixion, his followers had a different explanation for the seemingly contradictory predictions concerning the Messiah. The early disciples began to teach TWO comings of Messiah. They began to anticipate the Second Coming, when Messiah Yeshua would rule over all the nations. For centuries, there was no variation to this Great Hope until the nineteenth century, when the doctrine of the Rapture made its first appearance.

The dilemma for the adherents has always been where to insert the event, the Rapture, in relation to the Second Coming?

The clear and unambiguous Scriptural references to the Second Coming state “*every eye shall see Him.*” The Scriptures proclaim a very public appearing that is beheld throughout the earth -- from East to West -- like lightning across the entire sky.

The story of the Rapture is of a Secret Coming that is only apparent to the general population because certain selected ones are missing. Since they disappear suddenly, planes

crash, buses go off the road and, as a consequence, accidents happen. So, this particular event is known to the “left behind” much as gravity is recognized by its effects on others.

Those who embrace the fairytale want to call it the Second Coming. However, since there are so many obvious differences to the Second Coming as recorded in the Scripture, there must be “allowances.” The adherents REALLY want this to be the Second Coming. And, if that is not possible, then they will settle for it being *associated* with the Second Coming.

In conclusion, I wish to apologize that I have not been able to give the Scriptural references for the Rapture portions of the previously mentioned 11 points. That is because everything known and taught about the Rapture is *folk wisdom, common knowledge, obvious to all*. I could not begin to give any scriptural support for any of the commonly held facts surrounding the Rapture because I do not believe it exists.

Throughout this book, I will be meticulous in my efforts not to “*pronounce*” facts without generous, clear, undeniable scriptural support. I have demonstrated in this chapter that, without question, the Rapture is *not* the Second Coming. In all my years of study of this subject, I have yet to see a complete and exhaustive, unabridged list of *all* of the Scripture verses that establish the *existence and parameters* of the Rapture. (*Where is the verse that tells us large numbers of people simultaneously mysteriously vanish, leaving clothing, hearing aids and false teeth behind?*) Virtually every verse cited in every sermon or teaching that purports to “prove” the Rapture borrows generously from verses that refer *undeniably* to the Second Coming. This is dishonest because, as we have seen, the *Second Coming is not the Rapture*. Does not the reader see the deceit in using verses that refer, in every case, to the Second Coming to support a teaching when, clearly, the event in question is *not the Second Coming*?

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