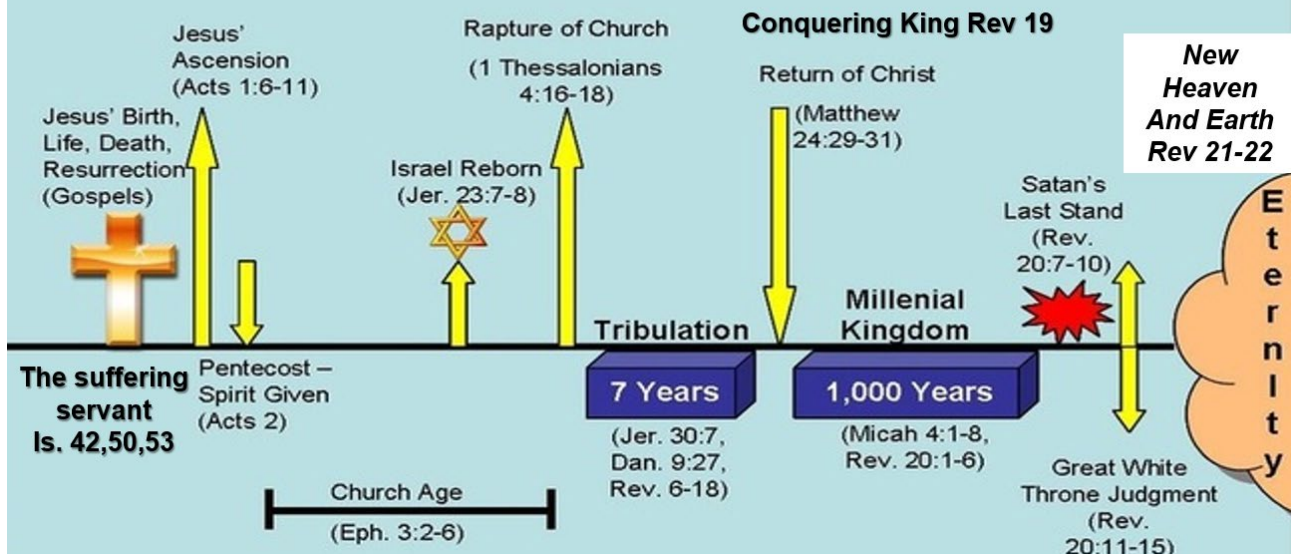


# The What and Why of the Rapture

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Oct 20

Biblical prophecy is like a complex puzzle portraying human history in Advance! God's Prophets were handed "pieces" of this puzzle. If we have the "big picture" it's easier to recognize and fit the individual pieces together. (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16,17) Most Jews missed Jesus' first coming because they were focused on the Hundreds of other Prophecies that described the "Messiah's" second coming in power! (See Mt. 5:39,40; Zech. 9:9)

## Bible Prophecy Big Picture



The next prophetic "piece of the puzzle" is the Return of Christ.

Scripture reveals that there will be two distinct "stages: to his Second Coming.

1st: He'll come "in the air" for His Church! (Acts 1:11; 1 Thes. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-58)

2nd Stage He'll come "in power" to reign on the earth. (Ps. 2; Zech.12; 2 Thes. 2; Rev. 19)

The "Age of Grace" will end with the "Rapture" of His Church.

*"I will come again and receive you unto myself. That where I am, there ye may be also" Jn 14:3*

### 1. The "What" Of The Rapture: Transportation

*(of the saints to Heaven.) (Jn 14:2; 1 Cor. 15:50-58; Rev 4; 1 Th. 4:13-18) Rev. 4:17*

*"we... shall be caught up together (harpadzo: to remove or take away) to meet the Lord in the air"*

"Rapture" comes from Latin raptus which literally means to seize or transport.

### 2. The "Why" of the Rapture.

**A. Transformation.** 1Co 15:51-54 *"I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, (Allasso: made different. ) in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality... then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory."*

## **B. Evaluation:** 2 Cor. 5:10 *"we must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ..."*

(see also 1 Cor. 3:10-15 and Jn. 5:22-27)

- 1) The Bema Seat. Rev 4:1-3 *"After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. and immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald."*
  - a) Stones based on the High Priest's breastplate. (Ex. 28:17-20)
    - Sardine (Blood Red) representing Reuben: "Behold a Son"
    - Jasper (White) representing Benjamin: "Son of my right hand" (POWER)
    - Emerald: (Green) representing Judah: "Praise"
- 2) The Elders Rev 4:4-5 *"round about the throne ... I saw 24 elders sitting"*
  - a) In 1 Chron. 24 the priesthood was divided into 24 "courses".
  - b) Since we're a "Royal Priesthood" (1 Pt 2:9) These represent the whole "church".
- 3) The Lamps of Fire (Rev. 4:5) represent the Holy Spirit evaluating our works. Is. 11:2 (1 Cor. 3:13,14) *"the fire shall try every man's work, of what sort (hopoi'os: quality) it is."*

## **C. Remuneration. (Rewards) Rev 4:4-5 "they had ... crowns of gold."**

- 1) Rewards: Crowns of Gold for faithful service! (Mt. 25:14-21; Rev. 1:5; 5:10; 2 Tim. 4:8) Rev 22:12 *"behold, I come quickly; (tachy: suddenly) and my reward (misthos: Pay for service!) is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."* (also Eph. 4:1)
- 2) Realization: Crowns returned in gratitude and worship. (Rev. 4:10,11; See Col. 1:12-18)

**Jesus' last parable illustrated this truth! Mt 25:14-21**

## **Conclusion: The Rapture will be enable our:**

- Transformation 1 Cor 15:51; 1 Th. 4:16,17; 1 Jn. 3:1-3
- Evaluation. (1 Cor. 3:10-18; 2 Cor 5:10)
- Remuneration. (Mt. 25:14-30; 2 Tim. 4:8; Rev. 21:12)

**Application:** Luke 19:11-13 Jesus *"spoke a parable, ... because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. .. A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come."* (to busy yourself with trade)

**What are you "occupied" with?  
(Mt 6:33; Ro. 12:1,2; Col. 1:12-18)**