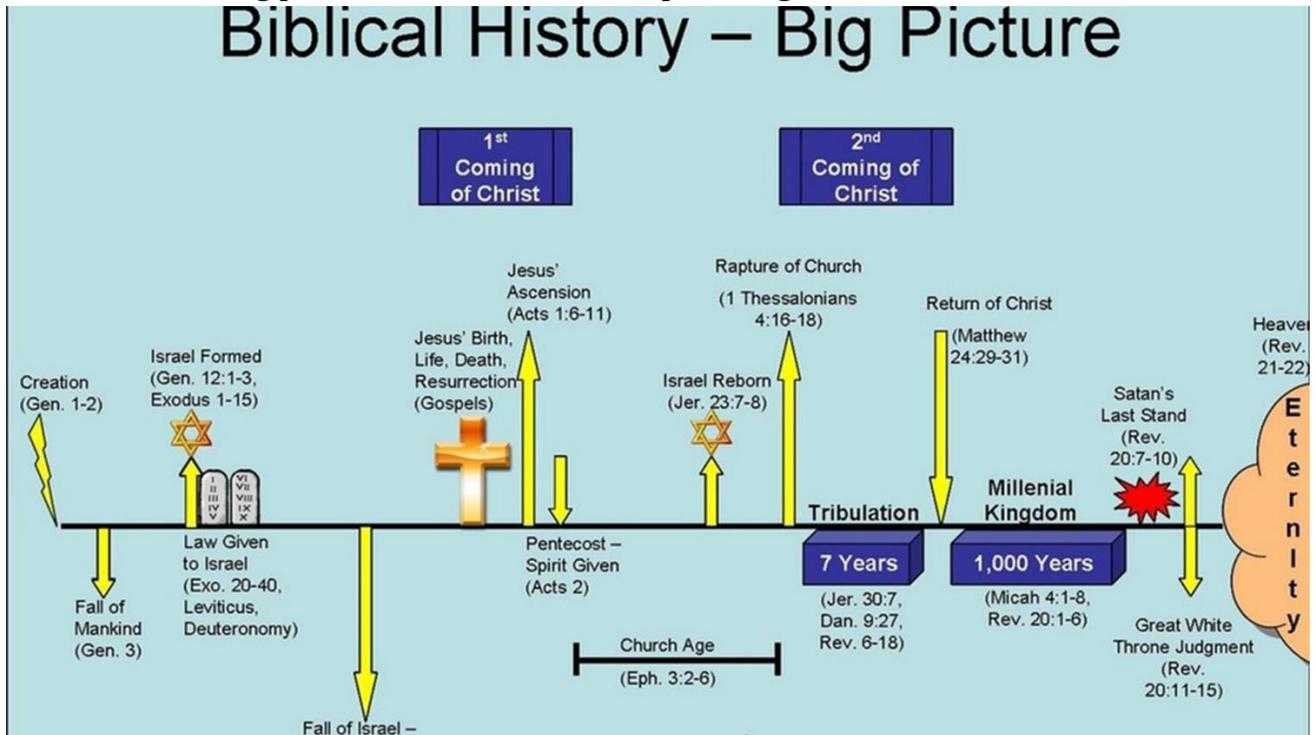


# The Rapture of the Church Pt. 1

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup>

Human History is like a complicated puzzle portraying the Story and Struggle of the ages.

If we have the “big picture” it’s easier to fit the pieces together.



The next prophetic “piece of the puzzle” is the Return of Christ. Rev. “Revelation” is divided into three distinct phases. Re 1:19 “Write the things which thou hast seen, (Ch. 1) and the things which are, (Church age: Ch. 2-3) and the things which shall be hereafter” (Ch. 4-22) The “Age of Grace” will end with the “Rapture” of His Church. *“I will come again and receive you unto myself.”* Jn 14:3

## 1. The “What” Of The Rapture

- α. The transporting of the saints to Heaven. (Jn 14:2; 1 Th. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:50-58; Rev 4))
- 1) “caught up together” (1 Thes. 4:17) is harpadzo meaning “to remove, or take away.”
  - 2) The English word Rapture comes from the Latin "raptus": to seize or transport.”

## 2. The “WHY” of the Rapture.

**A. Transformation.** 1Co 15:51,52 *“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, (undecaying)*

**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) The Holy Spirit evaluating our works. (1 Cor. 3:13,14)

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

- 1) 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) Crowns returned in gratitude and worship. (Rev. 4:10,11) (See Col. 1:12-18)

## Conclusion: The Rapture will be about 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 *"spake 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? (Ro. 12:1,2; Col. 1:12-18)**



Col 1:13-18 *"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins; and he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."*