

THE Rapture



Color Key



Red = verses of main study

Magenta = verses of secondary support

Purple = verses within support & additional

Navy = verses for quick reference

Cyan = words, meanings, & similar, etc.

Grey = background, less emphasis, etc.

Green = intro & transition between verses

Blue = comments



The Rapture Trap

The focus for this study will be in
Thessalonians – the main location where the
rapture theory **claims** biblical support.

A quick background of what the Rapture
theory is — and where it **actually** came from.

There are several variations on the theory,
but for these studies, we're going to **address**
the most commonly taught theory – which is
also the most dangerous one

And that's the pre-tribulation rapture.

And a simple definition of it is ...

The sudden removal of the church (AKA:
Christians) from the earth, in order **to avoid**
the tribulation of the Antichrist.

And the details of the theory claim ...

That at any moment, Jesus will come to fly the church away into the clouds to meet Him – and then off to heaven. Then, everyone who's left behind on earth, becomes subjected to the Antichrist and his reign of terror. And when that's over, Christ comes back to the earth with the church to take over.

So the first red flag of the theory is this ...

God's plan of salvation is NOT about saving our **flesh** – it's about saving our **souls**. And this pre-tribulation rapture is all about sparing a persons flesh from what people **think** is a reign of terror of the one called Antichrist.

And a second red flag ...

Is that God's servants (**Christians / the church**) **WILL absolutely be here** during the tribulation. That's written many times over.

Ok ... before we get going ...

A quick note on where this theory came from – because it actually has a traceable origin.

The Rapture theory was started in Scotland in the year **1830** by a woman named **Margaret MacDonald**. She claimed to have had an experience and vision from God, where this information of a secret rapture was given to her — and the alleged verse of main support comes from 1st Thessalonians 4:17.

Long story short ...

Some religious people got ahold of it – and it spread like wildfire ... For another 150 or so pages of further information on this, there's a book titled **The Incredible Cover-Up** by Dave MacPherson. It contains his in-depth research into the origins of rapture.

Ok ... on with it!

So why is this study titled the Rapture **Trap**?

Because not only is the Rapture
NOT part of God's Word,
NOT part of God's plan, and
NOT biblical ...

It's a set up — to trap Christians.

How is the rapture setting christians up ...?

Well ... If we're being taught that we're going to fly away into the arms of Jesus **BEFORE** the great tribulation of the Antichrist ... And if a Christian is unaware of the fact that God's Word states — that God Himself is sending Satan down to this earth **disguised** as Christ — coming to play the role of God — **PRIOR** to the actual return of Jesus ... What do you think the outcome will be?

Thats right ...

Every last Christian that has never been taught the true Word of God, is going to wind up bowing down and worshipping the Devil.

The rapture theory will literally lead millions of people straight into the arms of Satan.

And it gets worse ...

Because this same teaching and thinking also flies under the radar — without any mention of the word rapture ...

How so?

Anyone who has heard that Jesus is returning to this earth (**which almost every Christian is aware of**) ... and has never been taught that a **false** savior is coming **first** - is set up to fall right into the trap.

Then to make things even worse ...

Add in deceptive statements like ...

“... Just believe and you’re saved” ... or ...

“... Don’t worry about understanding the book of Revelation, because you’ll be gone”

... further compounds the problem.

These are teachings that sometimes **piggy back** on the rapture — or can be independent of it. So realize, there’s **way more** to this trap than the word rapture ...

Ok ... We’re going straight for the heart of this theory ...

Let’s begin!

I Thessalonians

4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, (I don't want you to be **uninformed**) concerning them which are **asleep**, (Regarding those which have **died**) that ye sorrow **not**,

Do **NOT** be sad and grieving about your friends & relatives that have died ...

even as **others** which have no hope.

Some of those **others** would be Non believers, Atheists ... even the **Sadducees**, which were actually one of the religious sects at the time of Paul. And they did not believe in life after death.

4:14 For **IF we believe** that Jesus died and rose again, (If we call ourselves Christians) even so **them** also which sleep in Jesus (**Those** that have died believing in Him) will God **bring** with Him.

What is He doing with all of those that have died as Christians?

He is **BRINGING** them **WITH Him**.

Here's an illustration of that in Revelation ...

Revelation 19

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war.

12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and He had a **name written**, that no man knew, but He Himself.

What could **that name** be?

13 And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and **His name is called**

The – Word – of – God.

14 And the **armies** which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

Ok ... Note the **armies** following Him.

Another illustration ...

Jude 1

14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with **ten thousands** of His **saints**,

And what are these **saints** that He's bringing with Him coming to do?

15 To **execute judgment upon all**, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

So now we learn more details about who it is that Jesus is bringing with Him ...

We know He's bringing **armies** – and we know they're **saints** – and we even know how many. And we also know what they're going to be doing ... they are going to be carrying out God's judgments.

Back to Thessalonians ...

4:15 For this **we** (Paul, Silas, & Timothy – from ch. 1:1) say unto you by **the word of the Lord**, (according to God's Word) that **we** (Christians) which are alive and remain unto **the coming of the Lord ...**

Note: **THE** (singular) **coming of the Lord.**

The rapture theory would require Jesus to return **TWO more times ... Once** to come and rapture people away into the clouds, then **comes back again** after the reign of the Antichrist.

So how many times is Jesus coming back?

Hebrews has the answer ...

Hebrews 9

27 And as it is appointed unto **men** once to die, but after this **the judgment**:

This simply means **human beings** die one time. Humans do not get reincarnated.

And **the judgment ... (2 Corinthians 5:10)**

For we must all appear before **the judgment seat** of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

And now for that answer ...

28 So Christ was **once** offered to bear the sins of many; (there's the first advent ...) and unto them that look for Him shall He appear **the second time** without sin unto salvation.

Jesus came **the first time** — born into the flesh and died, which did away with animal sacrifice and made repentance for sin possible.

And He's coming back **ONE more time** ...
And this time, He's here to stay.

Back to Thessalonians ...

4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord ... **shall not prevent** (precede or go before) **them which are asleep** (have died).

Christians which have died over the past 2000 years, meet God **first** – the moment they die, and whosoever is alive at Christ's return, will meet Him **then**.

4:16 For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout,

The **whole earth** will know who's coming and that He's in charge. **Nobody** will have to ask — “ **Who is this?** ”

with the voice of the **archangel**,

There's only one angel in our Bible that has his name tied to the title **archangel** (which means chief angel) ...

And that's Michael. (**Jude 1:9**) Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

The apocrypha mentions others, but I think we can at least **pencil** Michael in here.

and with **THE trump(et) of God:**

So which **is** ... **THE** trump (trumpet) of God?

We know from Revelation chapters 8 through 11 – that there are **7** of them ...

So it's one of those – but which one?

Fortunately for us, Paul himself clears this up and tells us **EXACTLY** which trumpet this is.

It's just not mentioned right here ...
He tells us in Corinthians.

And note the subject here is the same as what we've just been reading in his letter to the Thessalonians ...

1 Corinthians 15

51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, (we're not all going to die) but we shall all be changed,

52 In a **moment**,

This word **moment** here is translated from a Greek word that's used only once in the entire Bible ... and that word is "**atomos**" ... Do you see our word **atom** in there? And an atom is real close to one of the smallest things in existence ... so think about how small or how quick an "**atom**" of time is ...

That's how fast we're going to switch from flesh bodies to angelic bodies as Christ returns at the second advent.

in the twinkling of an eye, (before you could even blink) ... **at the LAST trump:**

THERE it is! ... The **LAST** trump ...

Ok ... so what did we learn here ...?

That the trump of God, the last trump, and the 7th trump are **all the same**.

So what does that mean?

And **why is it important?**

Because the events mentioned in all 3 of these spots have to align.

So now ... let's see what happens when the 7th trump sounds ...

Revelation 11

15 And **the seventh angel sounded**; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever.

That's it.

When the seventh trumpet blows - **time's up.**

This is the **last day** of flesh, and the first day of the 1000 years of teaching (**Revelation 20**)

All Flesh, whether good, bad, or ugly, is eliminated and has changed to an angelic body – In an “**atomos**” ...

Back to 1st Corinthians 15 ...

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: **for the trumpet shall sound, (that's the 7th one – the trump of God) and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.**

When a human dies and steps instantly into a spiritual **body**, it does not mean that their **soul** has been resurrected unto eternal life.

The spirit body is incorruptible, **to the point** that only God Himself can destroy it.

(Matthew 10:28) And fear not them which kill the **(flesh) body**, but are not able to kill the **soul**: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both **soul** and **(spirit) body** in hell.

Remember, Satan is in a spiritual body, and God placed a death sentence on him back in the world that was. **(Ezekiel 28)**

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

The flesh body will be changed to spirit.

And the spirit body & soul of those who Love God, will be rewarded with **immortality**.

Now back to 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:**

Don't get confused here and think that Paul is talking about dead Christians rising out of the ground. 2000 years of Christians are not unconscious in the ground waiting to rise from the dead at the 7th trump. There is no **“soul sleep.”**

That is **not** at all what Paul is saying here.

Number one ... When you die, your spirit instantly returns to God who gave it.
(Ecclesiastes 12:7)

And number two ... Paul has already told us two verses back, that God is bringing those Christians that have already died **with Him.**

So consider this ...

When Jesus returns, those that have died that did not partake of Satan, take part in the **First resurrection. (Revelation 20)**

And a closer examination of **John 6** (specifically verses **39, 40, 44, and 54**) tells us when immortality is rewarded, and what is required to take part in this resurrection at the last day ...

39 And this is the Father's will Which hath sent Me, that of all which He hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

40 And this is the will of Him that sent Me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise Him up at the last day.

41 The Jews then murmured at Him, because He said, I am the bread which came down from heaven. **42** And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that He saith, I came down from heaven? **43** Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves.

44 No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me. **46** Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father. **47** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. **48** I am that bread of life. **49** Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. **50** This is

the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. **52** The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? **53** Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

54 Whoso eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

There's one other resurrection to keep in mind too, which occurs immediately preceding the 7th trump. And that is the resurrection of the two witnesses ...

Revelation 11

11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

Ok ... back to Thessalonians to the verse at the heart of the rapture theory ...

4:17 **THEN** (**AFTER** the 7th trump has begun to sound) 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.

That's a really **big & important THEN!**

This gives us a time reference for this verse.

This **ENTIRE VERSE** occurs **AFTER** the seventh trump has begun to sound. Which means the tribulation of the Anti-Christ is over at this point!

So understand how important this information is. This simple fact alone, debunks the pre-tribulation rapture theory.

There is **ZERO** possibility that this verse, including being caught up in the clouds, and meeting the Lord in the air, has **anything** to do with Christians going anywhere **before** the reign of the Anti-Christ.

This verse is **NOT** referring to a pre-tribulation rapture in any way, shape, or form.

4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

All that Paul has been doing throughout these verses (**I Thess 4:13-18**), is describing where the dead are in order to relieve the grief we have when a loved one dies – **and** – that some will not have a chance to die, because they will be alive when the second coming of the Lord occurs. And in doing so, he provides us with some details surrounding that event.

That's it.

There is no secret rapture of some 2 billion people suddenly vanishing from the face of the earth **before** the 7th trumpet sounds.

It's both a lie, and a misunderstanding.

Let's keep going and look into Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians. We will see that Paul himself, in his very own words, clearly puts the rapture theory to rest ...

II Thessalonians

2:1 Now **we beseech** you, brethren,

We sincerely desire your attention – You could almost hear Paul begging the church to listen carefully to what is about to be said ...

by **the coming** of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by **our gathering** together unto Him,

Paul wants to urgently give the church information about the return of Jesus and how Christians will meet Him at His return.

Now **why would he do that** when he had already sent them a letter speaking about the same thing?

Well ... because his first letter to these guys had clearly caused a bunch of confusion!

As we see here next ...

2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor **by letter as from us**, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

Paul makes reference here to **his very own letter** that he had just written them — which is 1st Thessalonians.

And so now, Paul is going to clear up the confusion it caused with a very direct explanation of an extremely important event that will happen first — before the return of Christ.

And he says ...

2:3 Let no man **deceive** you by any means:

DO NOT let **anyone (including us)** throw you off and deceive you in any way, shape, or form ...

for **that DAY** shall **not come**, except there come a **falling away FIRST**,

Nobody is going anywhere — **UNTIL** this event occurs! Sinner, saint ... and nobody is flying away into the clouds to get out of this!

This **falling away** in the Greek, is the word

apostasia (ap-os-tas-ee'-ah)

It means: deflection from the truth or forsake

Ever hear of **The Great Apostasy**?

The meaning of **apostasia** carries over into our English word **apostasy** ...

Which means: A **TOTAL** desertion of or departure from one's religion, principles, party, cause, etc.

This deception is going to be so bad that roughly one third of the earth's population is going to be turned away from the truth of God's Word and forsake Jesus.

And guess what?

We're already neck deep in this ... How many people do you know that understand these truths we're discussing here?

Think about it ...

2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, **and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;**

Perdition is ...

apōleia (ap-o'-li-a) in the Greek

Means: destruction / to perish

There's only one of God's sons that could bear the name **son of perdition**. It's the son whose soul has been sentenced to perish from what he did in the world that was — it's none other than Satan himself. (**Ezekiel 28**)

And what's this son of **apōleia** going to do?

2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he **as God** sitteth in the temple **of God**, shewing himself that he **is God**.

This identifies who the Son of Perdition is.

And he's **definitely NOT** a human being.

He's a supernatural angel — coming to this earth to play the role of God.

2:5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

Paul is reminding the Thessalonians that when he was with them in person, he had already discussed all of this with them.

2:6 And (since we already discussed this) now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

Paul is saying **remember ?** ... I told you that the Son of Perdition is being restrained in heaven until it's time for him to be cast out. And Michael the archangel, is the one who's in charge of restraining him.

2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work:

And even though he hasn't been cast to this earth yet, lawlessness and deception are already well under way.

only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

The word letteth and withholdeth from verse 6 is the same Greek word ...

katechō (kat-ekh'-o)

Means: to firmly hold

So he who's firmly holding the Son of perdition is Michael. And Michael will also cast him to the earth ...

Revelation 12

7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

9 And the great **dragon** was cast out, that old **serpent**, called the **Devil**, and

Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Note the use of all these different names.

That's to let us know that this has been **ONE** character all along — playing different roles throughout time. And here's another name ...

2:8 And then shall **that Wicked (one)** be revealed,

This should either read “**that Wicked one**” or Bullinger has “**the Lawless one**” ...

Transgressor also works ... this same Greek word is used for the transgressors that Jesus was crucified with.

whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming:

When the true Lord returns, this false god that will no doubt promise rapture for those who follow him — will be fully exposed.

2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of **Satan** with all power and signs and lying wonders,

Paul is not speaking here of some new character controlled by Satan.

The Son of Perdition **is Satan ...**

and the Devil,
and the serpent,
and the dragon,
and the Antichrist,
and **the beast ...**

(Revelation 17:8) The **beast** that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into **perdition**: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

And what about that power and his ability to show signs and lying wonders?

Revelation 13

11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns **like a lamb**, and he spake as a dragon.

Satan is going to look and act like what most of the world would expect a savior to do. He will **appear** to be **the Lamb** that was slain.

12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

13 And he doeth **great wonders**, so that he maketh fire (**lightning**) come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those **miracles** which he had **power** to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

The world is not mentally prepared to resist a supernatural being that can bring lightning down from the sky.

2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

The truth is what we've read today. Some love the truth — some love the lie and comfort of rapture.

2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

Do you see the trap?

The son of perdition (AKA: Satan) is coming to this earth to play God (AKA: Jesus) ...

BEFORE the true Christ returns.

How many Christians are even remotely aware of this?

Almost all of Christianity is taught that the return of Christ could be at any day ... and we just clearly read that it will not occur until after Satan comes to this earth to play savior of the world.

That's a big problem.

Paul, the author of half the New Testament, is warning us that Jesus will not return any old day.

God has a plan.

And it will come to pass exactly as He's stated — because God keeps His Word.

Ok ... last verse ...

2:12 That they all might be damned who **believed not the truth**, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

It's amazing to see the truth contained in Thessalonians being ignored by so many churches today. Yet not at all surprising, because this is the condition God says the majority of churches would come to.

Paul's words couldn't be more clear.

What also couldn't be more clear, is that Christians are being **set-up**.

The rapture is a trap ...

And a false Christ is the bait.

