

The real truth about the secret rapture?

Subject: Manner of His coming
 Objective: To discredit the theory of the secret rapture and to give biblical proof that Jesus' coming will bring a complete end to sin.
 Main Text: Matthew 24:40-41

ATTENTION

There is a novel entitled "Left Behind", which has turned into a film with the same name. Both the book and the film have been making waves in conservative Christian circles in recent months. Here is a summary of the opening scene of this Christian Novel.

"An airline pilot relaxes in the cockpit as his Boeing 747 flies over the Atlantic toward London's Heathrow airport. But at the moment his mind isn't on flying. It's on his gorgeous senior flight attendant, for whom he feels a powerful physical attraction.

Suddenly he has to see her. Now! Leaving the first officer in charge of the plane, he exits the cockpit. But what he finds is the last thing he'd expected. She grabs him, claws at his arms, presses her face into his chest. She's weeping, terrified. "People are missing! Just gone!"

The pilot is incredulous, but a few moments of checking persuade him that it's true. People are screaming, leaping from their seats, trying to find their missing friends and loved ones. He knows what has happened: The rapture. And he has been left behind!

The pilot knows what has happened because his Christian wife has been telling him about the rapture, urging him to get right with God. Now he's terrified-especially when he goes home and finds his wife and son missing too!

The pilot calls his wife's church, only to find out that the Pastor and most of the members have also disappeared. However, a distraught church member who realizes he, too, has been left behind lends the pilot a video tape that the pastor recorded prior to his "departure."

The pilot plugs the tape into his VCR and watches as the pastor explains what has happened. Then the pastor says, "It doesn't make any difference, at this point, why you're still on earth. The point now is you have another chance. Don't miss it."

SATISFACTION AND NEED

- I. This story is based on the theory, that the Christian church will be raptured to heaven, 7 years prior to the second coming of Christ.
- II. Can this theory stand up to Biblical exegesis? NO!
- III. Jesus will return once for his Saints, not twice.
- IV. His coming will be visible and audible but the rapture theory is neither visible nor audible.
- V. You are aware of the rapture when it is over

Rapture and the Holy Scriptures

- I. This theory is validated with the use of one main passage of Scripture. (Matthew 24:40-41) Read and promise to explain later!

The coming of Jesus as recorded in the Bible

- I. There will be four classes of people alive when Jesus comes:
 - a. Righteous Dead
 - b. Righteous Living
 - c. Wicked Dead
 - d. Wicked Living
- II. The righteous dead will come up from their graves when Christ comes. (1 Thessalonians 4:16)
- III. There is nothing secret about the sound of trumpets and the opening of graves.
- IV. The righteous living will be changed and caught up together with the righteous dead, who are now alive. (1 Thessalonians 4:17)
- V. What happens before the saints go to glory? (1 Corinthians 15:51-53)

What kind of change will we experience?

“...all who are alive at the coming of the Lord Jesus shall undergo such a change as to fit them for their new abode in heaven; or such as shall make them like those who shall be raised from the dead.” Barnes

The man who died will get new:

1. Hands
2. Head
3. Face
4. Body
5. Feet
6. Brain
7. Heart
8. And the man who is alive will like the dead be changed.

Hallelujah we will be changed!

- VI. The wicked living are destroyed at the brightness and glory of His coming. (2 Thessalonians 2:8-10)
- VII. The Wicked dead will remain in their graves. (Revelation 20:5)

One Thousand years Vacation

1. If the wicked dead spends 1000 years in their graves and the wicked dead are killed when Christ comes, then the Righteous whom Christ take with Him to heaven will also spend 1000 years. (Revelation 20:4, 6)

VISUALIZATION

Talk About 1000 years!

1. No more death
2. No more terrorism
3. No more AIDS
4. No more old age
5. No more ethnic hatred
6. No more Satan
7. Peace in the valley (Use Holy Ghost imagination)

What happens after the 1000 years?

1. Satan is loosed and immediately goes to work. (Revelation 20:7, 8)
 2. The second resurrection takes place. (Revelation 20:5)
 3. The Saints comes to earth to inherit the earth. (Matthew 5:5) (Revelation 21:2)
 4. Satan, sinners and sin are destroyed. (Revelation 20:10-15)
 5. The fire that destroys also purifies. (Revelation 21:1, 5)
 - a. Sin is exterminated
 - b. Satan is eliminated
 - c. Death will be eradicated. (Romans 6:23)
- VIII. In light of this prophesy, what is the meaning of Matthew 24:40-41?
- a. Two people can hear the gospel, one rejects the other accepts.
 - b. Two people can be serving Jesus, one is right and the other person is wrong.
 - c. Two people can be sitting on the same bench in church, one is a saint the other is a hypocrite.

Secrets about the rapture theory:

1. The Bible never mentions secret rapture.
2. Any theory that gives a man a second chance of salvation after Jesus comes, is a theory from hell.
3. The idea of a secret rapture was not developed until the mid-1800's.

Reasons why it matters what you believe about the secret rapture

2. The Bible urges us to study prophesy, which climaxes in Jesus' coming. (Revelation 1:3)
3. Jesus never taught that anyone would have a second chance for salvation after His coming. (Matthew 25:10-13)
4. Jesus warns that there would be deception about the manner of His coming. (Matthew 24:23,24)

APPEAL

- I. The Bible consistently teaches that a person must decide for or against salvation before the second coming of Jesus. There will be no second chance when the door is shut.
- II. If you plan to decide you go to decide before it is too late. There is no room for preparation when the door is shut.

ILLUSTRATION

A LITTLE GIRL had been listening while her mother's friends were speaking about the imminent return of the Lord. After some time she was missed, so her mother went in search of her. She found her looking out a window at the top of the house. Asked what she was doing she said, "Oh, Mother, I heard you say Jesus might come today, and I wanted to be the first to see Him. See, I washed myself and put on a clean dress."

APPLICATION

It is time to wash your self. It is time to take off the old clothes of sin and put on the clean clothes of righteousness. In these closing days of this earth, we got to live as if Christ died yesterday, rose this morning and is coming tomorrow.

1. Is it your desire to be ready to meet Christ when He comes?
2. Are you willing to put your life and house in order and be ready to meet Him when He comes?
3. People are getting ready every day. Will you like to get on board and be ready tonight?