

# TO BE RAPTURED? WHEN?

## Scripture Passage

Revelation 4:1-3.

1 After this I looked and saw a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had previously heard speak to me like a trumpet was saying, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after these things."

2 At once I was in the Spirit, and I saw a throne standing in heaven, with someone seated on it.

3 The One seated there looked like Jasper and Carnelian, and a rainbow that gleamed like an emerald encircled the throne.

## Introduction:

### 1. Is the church to be raptured before the tribulation?

The evangelicals say, yes, and quote the following Scriptures:

Revelation 4:1-3.

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3 The One seated there looked like Jasper and Carnelian, and a rainbow that gleamed like an emerald encircled the throne.

In this passage, we see that just John was called up to see the spectacular scene of heaven, and God sitting on the throne! But why are the evangelicals so anxious to interpret this passage as the rapture of the whole church? Why? The book of Revelation is very quiet about any church rapture before or during the tribulation! According to this book, the surviving believers are taken up after the tribulation and the Armageddon battle! So, there are three kinds of beliefs:

Those who believe that they will be raptured before the tribulation (Pretribulation), those who believe that they will be raptured during the tribulation (mid-tribulation), and those who believe they will be raptured after the tribulation (post-tribulation).

The pre-tribulation people argue that the church is not mentioned in the book of Revelation after chapter 3 and, therefore, chapter 4:1 must be the church's rapture! This is a strange interpretation! Also, they insist that God will not let His people suffer through all those terrible plagues and tribulations that are mentioned in the book of Revelation. I also agree with that logic. But God could separate His people and protect them as He did with the Israelites, as Egyptians were tortured!

So, clinging to this passage of Revelation 4:1 to prove that the church will be raptured before the tribulation is not a good idea. If the church was not mentioned in Revelation chapters 4 to 19 does not mean that it disappeared. After Moses and Joshua, we do not hear much about the Sabbath until the Book of Kings. So, does it mean that they did not observe the Sabbath during that time?

Revelation 12:11

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives to the death.

John 15:20

"If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you;"

John 16:33

"In the world you shall have tribulation;"

Acts 14:22

"we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God."

2 Timothy 3:12

"all who will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

Revelation 2:10

"you shall have tribulation ten days: be faithful to death,"

## 2. Let us hear what Paul has to say about this rapture.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17.

15 By the word of the Lord, we declare to you that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who have fallen asleep.

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will be the first to rise.

17 After that, we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

1 Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to Him, we ask you, brothers,

2 not to be easily disconcerted or alarmed by any spirit or message or letter seeming to be from us, alleging that the Day of the Lord has already come.

3 Let no one deceive you in any way, for it will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness—the son of destruction—is revealed.

## 3. What did Jesus say about our rapture?

Mathew 24:29-31.

29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days:

‘The sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light.

the stars will fall from the sky,

and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

30 At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.

31 And He will send out His angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

Mathew 24:36-41

36 No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

37 As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be at the coming of the Son of Man.

38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark.

39 And they were oblivious until the flood came and swept them all away. So will it be at the coming of the Son of Man?

40 Two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left.

41 Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.

## Conclusion/Summary

1. Be ready always to meet the Lord! Either after your death or when He comes one last time!
2. He will come one last time, and not two more times as some of the evangelical groups say.
3. Do not hang onto one or two verses and build your theology. You must string many verses to strengthen your argument.
4. Even though no one knows when Jesus will come, all flesh will see Him when He comes. His appearance is not secretive but the timing of His coming!

Maranatha! Please come, Lord Jesus!

Daniel Israel

9.22.24