

THE SECRET RAPTURE



INTRODUCTION: "...shall not God **avenge** his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he **will** **avenge** them **speedily**. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"(Luke 18:7-8)

Let's begin our study by looking at the very

word,

Rapture.

The Greek word for the word "**rapture**" is **harpazo** (ἁρπάζω). It appears in the Bible in 1 Thessalonians 4:17, where it is usually translated as "**caught up**". It also means "**to snatch away**" or "**to seize**" as used in other parts of the Bible, like in Acts 8:39, 2 Corinthians 12:2-4, and Revelation 12:5.

The truth that the redeemed are going to be taken to heaven is, as we know, indisputable. When this event will take place, however, is where the problem is with **the secret rapture theory**. The Word is very clear,

“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: Then 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.”(1Thessalonians 4:16-17)



The redeemed, you see, are not to be raptured (“ caught up ”) to heaven **until the day of resurrection**, when “**the dead in Christ shall rise first.**” And as the dead are only going to “**rise again in the resurrection at the last day.** ” (John 11:24), then this **general**

resurrection, and therefore the “ rapture ” (“caught up”) of the redeemed, **is only going to take place at the very end of the age**, not in the days before the last day. Moreover, Christ here comes “**with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God**”, a thing that will only take place at the very end.(compare with 1 Cor 15:51-55, Acts 1:8-11, Hebrews 9:27, Rev 1:7)

A good number of Christians today believe that the Church is going to be “ raptured ” to heaven **before** the actual return of the Lord, and before the future and final “**tribulation**” of Matthew 24, which, in actuality, is simply the misinformation of

The 1260 days of Papal regime.

“ After this I saw in the night visions, and behold **a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible,**

and strong exceedingly ... and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns ... I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things ... I beheld **till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit ... the judgment was set, and the books were opened ... ”**
(Daniel 7:7-10)

What we have Here is a description regarding the rise of papal Rome **before “the judgment was set” in 1844.**

The Papacy, the little horn, **“made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of days came ... ”**(Daniel 7:21,22). Thus, though the papacy began to rule and persecute in AD538, his work of persecution

extends to the second coming of Christ. Then, and only then shall he be destroyed “with the brightness of his[Christ’s] coming.”(2 Thess 2:8)

“And he shall speak great words against the most High, and **shall wear out the saints of the most High**, and think to change times and laws: and **they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time..**”(Daniel 7:25)

Time(1 year), times (2 years) and the dividing of time(0.5 years) = 3.5 years or “**forty and two months**”(Rev 13:5,11:2) or “**a thousand two hundred and threescore days.**”(Rev 12:6) is the time in which the papacy was to “**wear out the saints of the most High**” from AD538 to AD1798. (Remember that 1 day equals 1 year in prophetic language - Ezekiel 4:6)

Protestantism and Reformation clearly

identified the Pope as the Antichrist throughout the dark ages.

Martin Luther, the Father of Reformation, wrote:

“This teaching [of the supremacy of the pope] **shows forcefully that the Pope is the very Antichrist**, who has exalted himself above, and opposed himself against Christ, because he will not permit Christians to be saved without his power, which, nevertheless, is nothing, and is neither ordained nor commanded by God. **This is, properly speaking, to exalt himself above all that is called God.** . . . The Pope, however, prohibits this faith, saying that to be saved a person must obey him” (Smalcald Articles, II, IV, 10-12).

Thomas Cranmer, the founder of the Anglican Church said...

“And as for the Pope, I refuse him, as Christ's enemy and Antichrist, with all his false doctrine.”(Strype, Memorials of Archbishop Cranmer 1854)

This Protestantism against the Roman Papacy became more and more strong and **destabilized the throne of the Pope**. Thus to take away this heat and to hide the Antichrist from the world, the papacy had to do something, by beginning to teach that this time period (1260 prophetic days) for the Antichrist **was in future, not at in the dark ages**.

“ Two Catholic Jesuit writers, Manuel Lacunza (1731–1801) and Francisco Ribera (1537 – 1591), proposed the futurist view.

Lacunza wrote under the pen name "Ben-Ezra", and **his work was banned by the Catholic Church**. Up until the 19th century, the

futurist view was generally shunned by non-Catholics, being seen as a self-defense of the papacy against the claims of the historicist reformers. ”

([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Futurism_\(Christianity\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Futurism_(Christianity))))

Francisco Ribera, a Jesuit priest, was the first Catholic to **teach that this time period of 3.5years(Dan 7:25) was in future.** Manuel Lacunza, who was also a Jesuit, later **took Ribera’s idea of “futurism” and expanded on it.** He wrote the Book “The coming of Messiah in Glory and Majesty” wherein he laid down his ideas. As he **pretended to be a converted Jew under the name “Rabbi Ben Ezra”**, His book was well received by Protestants **since it was put on the list of prohibited books in Rome.** His ideas were expanded upon by another guy named **Edward Irving** who, by getting other ideas about a 15 year old girl (Margret McDonald) who had

visions, eventually taught the secret rapture before the tribulation. He's also considered to be the father of Pentecostal and Charismatic churches.(see The Birth Of The Pretribulation Doctrine In the 1800s)

This view gave birth to

The Pre-Tribulation

The Pre-Tribulation rapture theory is the “rapture” of the Church, not at the visible coming of Christ as per 1 Thess 4:16,17, but just before the final tribulation and reign of the Antichrist. This idea of the tribulation(which will supposedly last for 7 years) is built by misinterpreting Daniel 9:24-27, specifically verse 27 which reads,

“ And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the

week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.” (Daniel 9:27)

This theory puts a rubber band on this Messianic prophecy and throws it in future, **when the prince(the Antichrist) will come and make a covenant with “many”(the Jews in Israel) for “one week”(7years), but after the first 3.5years(“in the midst of the week”) the Antichrist will break or end that covenant and severe persecution will arise.**

It teaches that **during the first half of those 7 years, God will raise up and give power to his two prophets, the “two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. ”** (Revelation 11:3), but after they have preached

and finished the gospel (Matt 24:14), they shall be killed and raised to heaven a short time afterwards (Rev 11:7-12). Then it is that the second half of the tribulation will begin **wherein the Antichrist will greatly persecute the people** (Dan 7:25, Rev 12:6) who will not be raptured at the beginning of the tribulation. That Jesus will **then come from heaven with his Church to reign on earth during the millennium**. Does the Bible really teach the millennial reign of peace on earth? Well, let's first treat the idea of,

One Shall be Taken, and the other left.

The Secret Rapture is based on this scripture:

“Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left . Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be

taken, and the other left. ” (Matthew 24:40-41)

This scripture is interpreted to mean that in the final hours of this earth's history, just before the Tribulation of Matt 24, **the Church(God's people) will be raptured from the earth. That is, they will be. " TAKEN "(to heaven) and others(not part of the Church) will be " LEFT" behind to go through the Final Tribulation.** The Secret Rapture is a doctrine which teaches that Christ will **secretly** come to take His Church to heaven before the 7 year-tribulation. Then the world will be under the power of the Anti Christ for 7yrs.

The problem is they don't interpret Matt 24:40,41 the way it should be interpreted. **You must remember, brother, sister, that no scripture can be rightly understood if it's disconnected from the whole chapter . So to correctly understand the meaning of " Taken "**

and " **Left** ", one has to read these verses contextually. The example which Christ gave was that of Noah. Said He,

“But as the days of Noe were , so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”(Matthew 24:37)

Thus before we read and understand verses 40 to 41, we need to **go back to Genesis and see what happened in the days of Noah.**

When the flood came upon the earth,

“.. all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man : all in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died . And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man , and cattle, and the

creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth : and Noah only remained alive , and they that were with him in the ark. ”(Genesis 7:21-23 KJV)

The NIV Bible says, **"Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark."**(Genesis 7:23)

Here you can clearly see that when the Flood came, it wiped out (took away) everything that was not inside the Ark and only those in the Ark were LEFT . **So the righteous, not the wicked , were left and sinners were taken away.** Interesting. Let's go back to Matthew 24 and read 37-39.

“But as the days of Noe were, so shall also

the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, **until** the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not **until the flood came,** **and took them all away;** **so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”**

Question: **Who was taken away and who was left when the flood came?**

You can see that **the flood came and took(the sinners) all away.** It was the sinners that were taken and the righteous left. Before we read these verses connectively, let's look at Luke 17, for we find the same story there...

“And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day

that Noe entered into the ark, **and the flood came, and destroyed them all..** ” (Luke 17:26-27)

So while in Matthew 24:39 it says "**until the flood came and took them all away** " here it says "**.. the flood came, and destroyed them all** "

Evidently, then, **to be taken away,** means **to be destroyed.** This same fact can be proved from the verses that follow...

“I tell you, **in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.** And they answered and said unto him, **Where, Lord?** And he said unto them, **Wheresoever the body is, thither will the**

eagles be gathered together . ” (Luke 17:34-37)

When the Saviour was explaining that one will be taken and the other left, the Disciples asked " Where, Lord? " In other words, "where is the one taken?"

Christ's answer was, “ ...**Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.** ” or as the NIV puts it “ **Where there is a dead body , there the vultures will gather.**”

There were dead bodies are, **Is that a good place? Is this heaven?** No. "Taken away" simply means " **destroyed** " and gathered where all dead bodies are.(Compare with Revelation 19:17,18 and Lamentations 2:5,6)

So we can now read Matthew 24:37-41 connectively...

“But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away ; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be . Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left . Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. ”
(Matthew 24:37-42)

One will be taken(destroyed at Christ's coming) and the other one left(remains, saved). I want to be left behind, do you?(see also Revelation 19:20)

The same truth can be seen in

The Purification of the Church...

Of those that shall “escape” the judgement in the house of God, those that shall be left, the scriptures say,

“And it shall come to pass, that **he that is left in Zion , and he that remaineth in Jerusalem , shall be called holy , even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem** : **When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem** from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning. ”(Isaiah 4:3-4)

Those who are left are called by these Scriptures " **holy** ". Indeed it's a wonderful thing to be left behind.

And while they remain in the Church, the scriptures say,

“..henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean..”(Isaiah 52:1)

“And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles. And they shall bring all your brethren for an offering unto the LORD out of all nations upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon swift beasts, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the LORD, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD.”(Isaiah 66:19,20)

Thus through His purified Church, the composed of **the righteous who are left**, shall the Lord

“..finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth..”(Romans 9:28)

The Secret Rapture theory isn't correct when it teaches that the Church will not go through

The tribulation,

For the Bible teaches the opposite, it says

“..we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God . ”(Acts 14:22),

Again “ **And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was**

since there was a nation even to that same time : and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. ”(Daniel 12:1)

It is only after God's people have gone through the time of trouble that they will finally be delivered, not before. Throughout history, God's people have been allowed to go through tribulation, why would they be raptured from the final trouble?

About the multitudes who shall be saved at the end of time, we read, **“These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb..”(Revelation 7:14)**

This teaching, therefore, destroys the Prophecies which are the very backbone of

God's word . It violates the central heart and core of Daniel and Revelation. Will there be a peaceful millennial reign of Christ on earth as the secret rapture theory teaches? Well let's consider

Six Major Events that will Usher in the Millennium.

1) The sifting or Purification of the Church(Isa 4:4,52:1,Zeph 3:8-13, Ps 1:5,1 Pet 4:17, Matt 13:24-30)

“Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn...”(Matt 13:30)

“...the ungodly shall not stand in the

judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.”(Psalm 1:5)

2) The Loud cry and the gathering of God’s people from Babylon(Isa 66:15-19,Rev 18:1-5)

“And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye

receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. “(Revelation 18:1-5)

3) The Close of Probation(Rev 11:15-19,15:5-8,19:6,22:11)

“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...And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.”(Revelation 11:15,19)

4) The 7 last plagues and the destruction of the wicked(Rev 16:1-21, 19:11-21, 2 Thess

1:7-9)

“And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, **seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God...**And **one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.**”(Revelation 15:1,7,8)

“And **the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air;** and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, **It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an**

earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.”(Revelation 16:17-21)

“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...And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And **I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.** And **the beast was taken,** and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. **These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.** And **the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh..**”(Revelation 19:11,17-21)

5) The resurrection of the righteous dead,

the living saints are “changed”(1 Thess 4:16,17, John 5:28,29,1 Corinthians 15:51-55)

“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: Then 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..”(1Thessalonians 4:16-17)

“ Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on

immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, **Death is swallowed up in victory..**”(1Corinthians 15:51-54)

6) The earth is made void and desolate(1 Cor 15:51-55, Jer 4:23-26)

“I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the LORD, and by his fierce anger. For thus hath the LORD said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end..”(Jeremiah 4:23-27)

“And I saw an angel come down from

heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season...But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished..”(Revelation 20:1-3,5)

None, therefore, need to remain in ignorance about **when** and **how** Christ will come, and the condition of the earth during the millennium. Let us follow the Lamb and Him crucified.

May the Lord help His people.