



The Secret of the Rapture

Many people believe that this world will continue on and on as the days unfold. Many claim there will not be a sudden end. This is not supported by the Bible. The Bible teaches there will be a day coming when it will be that last day on earth and each new day brings us closer to “that day.”

- I. Jesus Christ comments concerning the end of the world—
 - a. Disciples ask Christ for signs of the end. Matthew 24:3
 - b. Christ predicted certain definite signs—
 - i. False Christ. Matthew 24:4,5
 1. Christ pointed out that a false Christ would come dressed in deception. To discover a deception one needs a standard to examine it by. The standard of a true Christian is God’s truth. John 17:17
 2. One sure test of a true follower or teacher of God is the standard given in Isaiah 8:20. “To the Law and the Testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them”.
 - ii. Christ lists a number of signs before the end would finally come.
 1. Wars, famines, pestilences and earthquakes are among the signs. Matthew 24:6-12
 2. Christ emphasized a time of great persecution before He comes while the righteous and wicked are still on earth. Matthew 24:9-12
 3. The individual who endures persecution and hardship to the end will be saved. Matthew 24:13
 - c. Christ’s signs are being fulfilled. Why does he not yet come?

i. “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached into all the world, for a witness into all nations and then shall the end come”. Matthew 24:14

1. The world will not be all converted but rather they will hear the gospel and make an intelligent decision either for or against it.

ii. Christ is waiting until the gospel is proclaimed in the lives of men and by the Holy Spirit working through men. And when the gospel truth is carried to the entire world then the end will come.

II. Matthew 24:14 clearly points out that the end will come. There will be a last night on earth.

III. How will Christ return? Will it be a surprising secret rapture?

a. It will not be secret. Matthew 24:23-27

i. As lightning shineth. Matthew 24:23-27

b. With Power and great Glory. Matthew 24:30-31

i. Trumpets will sound. I Thessalonians 4:16-17

ii. Every mountain and island moved out of its place. Revelation 6:14-17

c. Every eye will see Him. Revelation 1:7

d. He comes as a thief, unexpected. I Thessalonians 5:2

e. What about Matthew 24:40, 41? “Some shall be taken and some left”, isn’t this a secret Rapture?

i. Note the context of this passage. Read Matthew 24:36-39, especially verse 39, “And know not until the flood came and took them all away”. The (took them) were the wicked who were destroyed, taken away, by the flood. Now read verse 40, “Then shall...the one be taken, and the other left”. The (taken) of this verse are the wicked being destroyed by the brightness of Christ’s coming just as the flood waters took away the wicked in Noah’s day. Also read: Matthew 13:30; Matthew 24:50, 51; II Thessalonians 2:8; Revelation 5:14-17; Luke 17:26-37. Remember to look at the context.

f. Christ will come in like manner as His disciple’s saw Him depart. Acts 1:9-11

IV. When will be the last night on earth? When will every eye see Him?

- i. Jesus will return when we think not. Matthew 24:36-42; I. Thessalonians 5:2
- ii. When men and women continue planning to plan as if life will go on and on. Luke 17:18-30
- iii. Watch that the second coming does not find you unprepared. Luke 21:34-36; Matthew 24:35

V. People who will be saved in the end will be keeping all of the Commandments of God. Revelation 14:12; 12:17

VI. The secret of the rapture is that it is not secret at all. The whole world will witness it.