

The Rapture According to Grace¹

1 *Unfortunately, many Christians today have a negative reaction when considering*
2 *"the rapture". Some have even gone to the extreme of trying to prove it will not*
3 *happen or that in a "spiritual" sense it already has. Yet, the rapture, far from being*
4 *something to fear or view as a threat, is our blessed hope. We look forward to His*
5 *return with joyful anticipation knowing that "our sins and lawless deeds" he will*
6 *remember no more, no, not ever. However, if someone lives in fear that perhaps they*
7 *will have "unconfessed sin" or perhaps not be diligent enough when He returns for us*
8 *and that this means they might not make it, we can see how a person could start to*
9 *view the rapture as something to fear instead of something to give us hope. -cdh*

10 The Rapture, Definition

11 Harpadzo (Greek) /rapturo (Latin)

12 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

13 *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel*
14 *and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive*
15 *and remain will be caught up (harpadzo/rapturo) together with them in the clouds to meet*
16 *the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.*

17 AMPLIFIED

18 *¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain [on the earth] will simultaneously be caught up*
19 *(raptured) together with them [the resurrected ones] in the clouds to meet the Lord in*
20 *the air, and so we will always be with the Lord!*

21 Historical Fact

22 Some have claimed that this event has already taken place, and thus, the idea of a
23 upcoming "rapture" is a myth, but there is no historical record of millions of Christians
24 disappearing from the earth simultaneously, nor of the graves of millions of believers
25 being emptied at one point in time. Thus, this event is yet to take place.

26 Scriptural Fact

27 Others have mused that the concept of a rapture event is an invention of the church.
28 Yet, there are Scriptural examples of men being taken from the earth without seeing
29 death.

30 Biblical Raptures

31 Enoch

32 Genesis 5:23-24

33 *So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. ²⁴ Enoch walked with God;*
34 *and he was not, for God took him.*

¹ The organization and expression of this outline follows this reference:
http://www.bibleone.net/print_tbs118.html

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35 **Hebrews 11:5 AMP**

36 *By faith [that pleased God] Enoch was caught up and taken to heaven so that he would not*
37 *have a glimpse of death; and he was not found because God had taken him; for even before*
38 *he was taken [to heaven], he received the testimony [still on record] that he had walked with*
39 *God and pleased Him.*

40 **Elijah**

41 **2 Kings 2:11**

42 *As they were going along and talking, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of*
43 *fire which separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven.*

44 **Jesus**

45 **Acts 1:9-10**

46 *And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud*
47 *received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was*
48 *going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. ¹¹ They also said, "Men of Galilee,*
49 *why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven,*
50 *will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."*

51 **The Church**

52 **1 Corinthians 15:51-52**

53 *Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep (die), but we will all be changed, ⁵² in a*
54 *moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the*
55 *dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.*

56 **There is absolutely no historical evidence**
57 **that this event has ever happened.**
58 **It is a FUTURE EVENT.**

59 **The Rapture in John 14:1-3**

60 **John 14:1-3**

61 *"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father's house*
62 *are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place*
63 *for you. ³ If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that*
64 *where I am, there you may be also.*

65 *Why have the majority of ancient and modern interpreters taken this text as a*
66 *future second coming passage? Because the plain meaning, taken in context, of*
67 *the language in this passage demands such an understanding.-Thomas Ice²*

68 *John 14:3, where Christ tells His disciples, "I will come again, and receive you*
69 *to Myself," is an expression that is never used of death in the whole Bible.*

² <https://www.raptureready.com/2010/08/09/the-rapture-and-john-14-by-thomas-ice/>

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70 *"The coming again is the counterpart of the going away; visibly Jesus ascends,*
71 *visibly he returns, Acts 1:9-11." But note also that the language speaks of Christ*
72 *coming "from heaven to the earth, He describes a coming for His saints to take*
73 *them to the Father's house." This is a description of the Rapture in contrast to*
74 *the Second Coming. "This passage, taken literally, indicates that the believer is*
75 *going to go to heaven at the time of Christ's coming for Him." This will not occur*
76 *at the Second Advent because that will be a time in which Christ comes with His*
77 *saints, who are already in heaven, not for His saints as John 14:1-3 requires³.*

78 *But here in John XIV the Lord gives a new and unique revelation; He speaks of*
79 *something which no prophet had promised, or even could promise. He speaks*
80 *then of a coming which is not for the deliverance of the Jewish remnant, not of*
81 *a coming to establish His kingdom over the earth, not a coming to judge the*
82 *nations, but coming which concerns only His own.⁴*
83

84 **Significant Parallels**

85 **A significant number of commentators note that our Lord's statements in John 14:1-**
86 **3 parallel another New Testament passage, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18⁵**

87 ***The Rapture DESCRIBED in John 14:1-3***

88 ***John 14:1-3***

89 *Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.² In My Father's house*
90 *are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*
91 *³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that*
92 *where I am, there you may be also.*

93 ***The Rapture Described in 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18***

94 ***1 Thessalonians 4:13-18***

95 *But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest*
96 *you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again,*
97 *even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word*
98 *of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means*
99 *precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout,*
100 *with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise*
101 *first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds*
102 *to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort*
103 *one another with these words.*

³ <https://www.raptureready.com/2010/08/09/the-rapture-and-john-14-by-thomas-ice/>

⁴ Arno Gaebelin, from the article <https://www.raptureready.com/2010/08/09/the-rapture-and-john-14-by-thomas-ice/>

⁵ These comparisons/pararells are delineated by Thomas Ice. <https://www.raptureready.com/2010/08/09/the-rapture-and-john-14-by-thomas-ice/> The chart that follows was authored by Thomas Ice in this article.

104 Observe the following comparison.⁶

JOHN 14:1-3 105
• trouble v. 1 106
• believe v. 1 107
• God, me v. 1 108
• told you v. 2 109
• come again v. 3 110
• receive you v. 3 111
• to myself v. 3 112
• be where I am v. 3 113
114

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18
• sorrow v. 13
• believe v. 14
• Jesus, God v. 14
• say to you v. 15
• coming of the Lord v. 15
• caught up v. 17
• to meet the Lord v. 17
• ever be with the Lord v. 17

115 The clearly stated purpose of both of these passages is TO COMFORT, NOT TO
116 THREATEN.

117 *Dr. Smith notes the following observations as a result of these comparisons:*

- 118 • *The words or phrases are almost an exact parallel.*
- 119 • *They follow one another in both passages in exactly the same order.*
- 120 • *Only the righteous are dealt with in each case.*
- 121 • *There is not a single irregularity in the progression of words from first*
122 *to last.*
- 123 • *Either column takes the believer from the troubles of earth to the glories*
124 *of heaven⁷.*

125 *"It is but consistent to interpret each passage as dealing with the same event—*
126 *the rapture of the church. How else does one explain the progression of eight*
127 *specific words/phrases in exactly the same order, in two different passages, by*
128 *two different spokesmen? It is clear that these passages refer to a single future*
129 *event—the Rapture of the church."⁸*

The Rapture in 2 Thessalonians 2:3

130 *The Apostasy (falling away)*

131 **2 Thessalonians 2:3 NASB**

132 *Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of*
133 *lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,*

134 **2 Thessalonians 2:3 NKJV**

135 *Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first,*
136 *and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,*

⁶ J. B. Smith as quoted in <https://www.raptureready.com/2010/08/09/the-rapture-and-john-14-by-thomas-ice/>

⁷ J. B. Smith as quoted in <https://www.raptureready.com/2010/08/09/the-rapture-and-john-14-by-thomas-ice/>

⁸ J. B. Smith as quoted in <https://www.raptureready.com/2010/08/09/the-rapture-and-john-14-by-thomas-ice/>

137 **THE MEANING OF APOSTASIA⁹**

138 *The Greek noun apostasia is only used twice in the New Testament. In addition*
139 *to 2 Thessalonians 2:3, it occurs in Acts 21:21 where, speaking of Paul, it is said,*
140 *"that you are teaching all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake*
141 *(apostasia) Moses." The word is a Greek compound of apo "from" and istemi*
142 *"stand." Thus, it has the core meaning of "away from" or "departure." The*
143 *Liddell and Scott Greek Lexicon defines apostasia first as "defection, revolt;"*
144 *then secondly as "departure, disappearance."-Thomas Ice*

145 ***The verb is used fifteen times in the New Testament. Of these fifteen, only three***
146 ***have anything to do with a departure from the faith (Luke 8:13; 1 Tim. 4:1; Heb***
147 ***3:12). The word is used for departing.¹⁰***

148 *I wonder if you have noticed the striking parallel between this verse and verses*
149 *7-8, a little further down. According to your suggestion verse 3 mentions the*
150 *departure of the church as coming first, and then tells of the revealing of the*
151 *man of sin. In verses 7 and 8 we find the identical sequence. Verse 7 tells of*
152 *the removal of the Church; verse 8 says: "And then shall that Wicked be*
153 *revealed." Thus, close examination of the passage shows an inner unity and*
154 *coherence, if we take the word "apostasia" in its general sense of "departure,"*
155 *while a superficial examination would easily lead to an erroneous interpretation*
156 *as "falling away" because of the proximity of the mention of the man of sin. -*
157 *Allen MacRae*

158 *"It is with full assurance of proper exegetical study and with complete*
159 *confidence in the original languages," concludes Daniel Davey, "that the word*
160 *meaning of apostasia is defined as departure."*

161 **Translation History**

162 *The first seven English translations of apostasia all rendered the noun as either*
163 *"departure" or "departing." They are as follows: Wycliffe Bible (1384); Tyndale*
164 *Bible (1526); Coverdale Bible (1535); Cranmer Bible (1539); Breeches Bible*
165 *(1576); Beza Bible (1583); Geneva Bible (1608).¹¹*

166 *This supports the notion that the word truly means "departure." In fact,*
167 *Jerome's Latin translation known as the Vulgate from around the time of a.d.*
168 *400 renders apostasia with the "word discessio, meaning 'departure.'"¹²*

⁹ From the article, The Rapture in 2 Thessalonians 2:3, by Dr. Thomas Ice, http://www.pre-trib.org/articles/view/rapture-in-2-thessalonians-23#_edn5#_edn5

¹⁰ Gordon R. Lewis, "Biblical Evidence for Pretribulationsim", *Bibliotheca Sacra* (vol. 125, no. 499, p. 218. (as quoted in the aforementioned note).

¹¹ H. Wayne House, "Apostasia in 2 Thessalonians 2:3: Apostasy or Rapture?" in Thomas Ice and Timothy Demy, eds., *When the Trumpet Sounds: Today's Foremost authorities Speak Out on End-Time Controversies* Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 1995), p. 270, as quoted in http://www.pre-trib.org/articles/view/rapture-in-2-thessalonians-23#_edn5

¹² House, "Apostasia", p. 270.

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169 *Why was the King James Version the first to depart from the established*
170 *translation of "departure"?*

171 **It is important to note that Paul uses a definite article with the noun apostasia.**

172 *Dr. Lewis provides a likely answer when he notes that the definite article serves*
173 *to make a word distinct and draw attention to it. In this instance he believes*
174 *that its purpose is "to denote a previous reference." "The departure Paul*
175 *previously referred to was 'our being gathered to him' (v. 1) and our being*
176 *'caught up' with the Lord and the raptured dead in the clouds (1 Thess. 4:17),"*¹³

177 *They could again be comforted because the departure he had discussed in his*
178 *first letter, and in his teaching while with them, was still the truth. The*
179 *departure of Christians to be with Christ, and the subsequent revelation of the*
180 *lawless one.*¹⁴

181 *Paul's argument, is proof that the Day of the Lord had not begun as they had*
182 *thought. This understanding of apostasia makes much more sense than the view*
183 *that they are to be comforted (v. 2) because a defection from the faith must*
184 *precede the Day of the Lord. The entire second chapter (as well as 1*
185 *Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11) serves to comfort (see vv. 2, 3,17), supplied by a*
186 *reassurance of Christ's coming as taught in his first letter.*¹⁵

187 **Kenneth Wuest, a Greek scholar from Moody Bible Institute added the following**
188 **contextual support to taking apostasia as a physical departure:**

189 *All of which means that I am driven to the inescapable conclusion that the hee*
190 *apostasia (vs. 3) refers to the Rapture of the Church which precedes the Day of*
191 *the Lord, and holds back the revelation of the Man of Sin who ushers in the*
192 *world-aspect of that period.*¹⁶

193 *"Paul teaches in 2 Thessalonians 2 that the rapture will occur first, before the*
194 *Day of the Lord commences. It is not until after the beginning of the Day of the*
195 *Lord that the Antichrist is released, resulting in the events described by him in*
196 *chapter 2 of 2 Thessalonians. This is the only interpretation that provides hope*
197 *for a discomforted people."*¹⁷

¹³ http://www.pre-trib.org/articles/view/rapture-in-2-thessalonians-23#_ednref3

¹⁴ http://www.pre-trib.org/articles/view/rapture-in-2-thessalonians-23#_ednref3

¹⁵ http://www.pre-trib.org/articles/view/rapture-in-2-thessalonians-23#_ednref3

¹⁶ Kenneth S. Wuest, Letter to E. Schuyler English, published in "Let the Prophets Speak", *Our Hope*, (vol. LVI, num. 12; June 1950), p. 725

¹⁷ Dr. Thomas Ice: http://www.pre-trib.org/articles/view/rapture-in-2-thessalonians-23#_ednref3

198 **Imminence¹⁸**

199 *The English word “imminent” (of Latin derivation) can be used in many ways, it is*
200 *used to note the New Testament teaching that Christ could return and rapture His*
201 *church at any moment, without prior signs or warning*

202 *Those verses stating that Christ could return at any moment, without warning and*
203 *those instructing believers to wait and look for the Lord’s coming teach the*
204 *doctrine of imminence.*

205 *1 Corinthians 1:7 -“awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,”*
206 *Titus 2:13 -“looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our*
207 *great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;”*

208 *It is significant that all of the above passages relate to the rapture and speak of*
209 *the Lord’s coming as something that could occur at any-moment, that it is*
210 *imminent. This is why believers are waiting for a person—Jesus Christ—not just an*
211 *event or series of events such as those related to the tribulation leading up to*
212 *Christ’s second advent in which He returns to the earth and remains for His*
213 *millennial reign.*

214 *The early church had a special greeting for one another, as recorded in*
215 *1Corinthians 16:22, which was “Maranatha!” Maranatha consists of three Aramaic*
216 *words: “Mar” (“Lord”), “ana” (“our”), and “tha” (“come”), meaning “our Lord,*
217 *come.” As with other New Testament passages, Maranatha only makes sense if an*
218 *any-moment or imminent coming is understood.*

219 *Revelation 22:17, 20-*
220 *“And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come.’”*
221 *“He who testifies to these things says, ‘Yes, I am coming quickly.’ Amen. Come,*
222 *Lord Jesus.”*

223 **Paul’s Approach to Teaching The End Times**

224 *Titus 2:13*

225 *Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and*
226 *Savior, Christ Jesus.*

¹⁸ http://www.pre-trib.org/articles/view/rapture-in-2-thessalonians-23#_edn10