

THE RAPTURE IN THE GOSPELS

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1. Biblical passages are not necessarily in chronological order. Several examples are:
 - a. Genesis 1, 2 - The creation story in chapter 1 is an overview; and chapter 2 gives some specific details.
 - b. Revelation 11:14-18 - The third woe is past, and the seventh angel sounded his trumpet and the Lord has begun to reign. However, in Revelation 12:1-17, the woman (Israel) bears a son (the Lord Jesus Christ).
 - c. Revelation 19:3-9 - The Lord reigns, and the marriage supper of the Lamb (the Lord Jesus Christ) takes place. However; in Revelation 19:11-21, the Armageddon campaign which was already mentioned in Revelation 16:1-21 is restated.

2. Biblical passages, not necessarily occurring in the same time period, are often found in the same context. Some examples are:
 - a. Isaiah 9:6a - The birth of Jesus is prophesied, the first advent; but in Isaiah 9:6b, 7, His future position and millennial reign are prophesied.
 - b. Ezekiel 28:1-10 – A human ruler, not named, is described in some detail; but in Ezekiel 28:11-19, a king (Satan, the anointed cherub of verse 16), is described in different details. Satan is also described in his *five "I wills"* in Isaiah 14:12-15.

3. **The Rapture in Matthew 24:36-44:**
 - a. The grammatical phrase *peri de* (περὶ δὲ - literal meaning: "*Now concerning---*") introduces a new subject; namely the **day** Noah entered the ark. (Matt. 24:36, 38)
 - b. "*Now concerning **that day and hour**, no one knows,*" (Matt. 24:36a), "*until the **day** that Noah entered the ark.*" (Matt. 24:38c, 42)
 - c. The "*days of Noah,*" (end of Matt. 24:37) and "*For as in **those days**,*" (Matt. 24:38a), do not include the **rapture**, but are part of the church age, possibly now!
 - d. The **day** that Noah entered the ark was **seven days** before the rain and flooding began. (Genesis 7:4-13) The rapture begins at least **seven years** prior to the end of the tribulation. (Matt. 24:38c)
 - e. All unbelievers were removed in the flood after Noah entered the ark with his wife and family. The duration of the flood was 150 days. (Gen 7:24) This is like the destruction of all the unbelievers on the earth after the rapture during the future tribulation. (Gen. 7:19-24; with Matt. 24:39)
 - (1) In Matthew 24:39, the verb is *airo* (αἴρω - literal meaning: to remove, to take away, to do away with; these are the unbelievers. The adjective *apas* (ἅπας - literal meaning: all or whole); the flood came and **took them all away**.
 - (2) However, in Matthew 24:40, 41, the verb is *paralambano* (παραλαμβάνω - literal meaning: to take along-side, to take for oneself, to accept, to receive, to receive with favor.

(3) Noah and his family were **lifted off the earth** in the ark, **safe from the wrath of God**; in the same way, the church will be **lifted off the earth** into the heavenly New Jerusalem, **safe from the wrath of God** on the earth.
(John 14:1-4; 1 Thess 4:13-18; Heb. 12:22-24)

4. The Rapture in Mark 13:32-37:

- a. "*But of that day and hour...*" (Mark 13:32)
- b. "*Take heed, be on the alert, for you do not know when the time is.*" (Mark 13:33)
- c. "*...the doorkeeper (the pastor/teacher) must stay on the alert.*" (Mark 13:34)
- d. "*Be on the alert...*" (Mark 13:35, 37)

5. The Rapture in Luke 21:34-36:

- a. "*But keep on the alert at all times...*" (Luke 21:36a)
- b. "*...that you-all be counted worthy to escape...*" (Luke 21:36b)
- c. "*...all these things that are about to take place...*" (Luke 21:36c)

6. The Rapture in John 14:1-6:

- a. Jesus is going to prepare a place for us like the ark of Noah. (John 14:3)
- b. The *heavenly Jerusalem* is the **ark of safety** that Jesus is preparing for believers in the church age. (Hebrews 11:10, 16; 12:22-24; Rev. 21:1, 2, 9-22:5)
- c. Jesus said, "*I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*" (John 14:3b)