

Twinkling of an Eye

“Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal shall put on immortality”. **1 Corinthians 15:51-53**

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then 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 shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words”. **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

If there is ever a controversial subject in the end times discussion, it would be about the rapture. Not necessarily whether the rapture will happen or not, but WHEN it will happen. What is the rapture? Simply put, it is a moment in which Jesus will descend from heaven and meet His church (people with whom He has a personal relationship with and has received salvation through His sacrifice on the cross) in the clouds to take us to heaven to be with Him. It sounds a bit sci-fi to consider, but it is truly the blessed hope that has been offered to all of us if we accept His gift of salvation. This message will speak to a pre-tribulation rapture position and there will be supporting scriptures to demonstrate why a pre-tribulation rapture has been prophesized.

“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be. Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women {will be} grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left. Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think {He will.}” **Mathew 24: 36-44**

Most of us have heard the story about Noah even if we have never stepped foot inside a church or attended a Sunday School class. God used this analogy to describe the end times events in a way that demonstrated that those who were faithful to Him, believed in Him, and listened to Him would escape His wrath in that day. God gave plenty of warnings about an impending flood that would ruin the earth, and people did not listen or pay attention, except Noah. People went about their business and continued to defy God and not heed His warnings. They laughed at Noah while He built a massive ark in the middle of dry land and no body of water anywhere near him. As people scoffed and laughed at Noah, he gathered up his family and animals and loaded onto the ark and God shut the door behind them. Then the rain poured down. People flocked to the ark in desperate attempts to get in, but it was too late. They had the same warnings that Noah did, but they chose to ignore them. They perished, Noah escaped. God was angry at the way people were in those days and He dealt with their refusal to accept Him by trying to reach out to them and guide them so they did not have to bear His wrath for their disobedience to Him. They chose not to listen, and therefore they endured His wrath. No one really knew when God would bring a great flood to the earth back then, not even Noah. He just prepared as God told him to and He did what he needed to do to escape the “tribulation” of his day. Is it a coincidence that God used this as an example for us living in the end times? No. Noah’s generation received all the signs to watch for and were told that God would unleash His wrath for the overwhelming disobedience and sin of the world at that time. The great flood was God’s wrath, but He also provided a “blessed hope” for anyone who would listen. Today, we have been provided with the signs that the end of the world as we know it is about up, and we have been provided with information related to God’s wrath for the overwhelming disobedience and sin in our world today (just as in Noah’s day). And just like in those times, God has provided a blessed hope for us to escape His wrath.

We have been given the signs to watch for, but we do not know the day and the hour at which He will come, so we must be ready at all times because of the imminence in which He described that the “Son of man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will”. He also said, “But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.” **Luke 21:36**

The bible speaks vividly and graphically to the horrors of the 7 year tribulation period, and it also speaks to this period of time as God's wrath for the overwhelming disobedience to Him and the world's rejection of Him. He describes the characteristics of people living in the end times and those characteristics are evident today by anyone's perspective, and they are not pleasing to God. **2 Timothy 3:1-9** But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power. This, unfortunately, describes many in our society today. It is the culture in which we live, and it is truly considered the “norm”. Anyone who demonstrates their faith or speaks out about their Christian beliefs either become shunned, laughed at, or sued because it has become “offensive” in today's society. Integrity in all its forms has become a rare commodity among people, and a person who acts with integrity is persecuted because it is almost not tolerated. God cannot allow this kind of erosion and disobedience to continue indefinitely. He desperately wants us all to repent and change our ways so that He can shower us with His grace and mercy and not subject us to His punishment and wrath for our refusal to accept Him. Unfortunately, that is where many are headed because they choose not to consider the truth of His word and will find every reason to resist making personal changes to align their lives with Him as their focus, and then blame Him in the process. We are about to embark upon the tribulation period, and as clearly stated in the bible, the tribulation will be the ultimate battle of good and evil, with God's punishment and wrath to be unleashed on all who denied Him as their creator. Perhaps that seems cruel and heartless, but He has also provided an overabundance of grace and mercy so that we can AVOID the unthinkable horrors that are soon to grip the planet with a momentum that will dramatically and rapidly increase. What is the answer to finding His mercy so that the tribulation will not be a part of your future? Salvation. Seek a personal relationship with God and instructions on how to do that are on the last page of this message. Once you have *sincerely* prayed that prayer, you are considered a part of God's church and you will experience His grace and mercy and avoid His wrath through the 7 year period of tribulation.. **1 Thessalonians 1:10** “And to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come”. **Revelation 3:10** “Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. **John 14 1-3** “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. ²“In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³“If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. **1 Thessalonians 5:9** “For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ”. **Matthew 24:36** “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone”. **Mark 13:33-37** “Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the {appointed} time will come. {It is} like a man away on a journey, {who} upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, {assigning} to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert. Therefore, be on the alert--for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning-- in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep. What I say to you I say to all, 'Be on the alert!' **1 Thessalonians 1:10** “and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, {that is} Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come”. **Revelation 22:7** And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book”. There are many passages in the bible that speak to the imminence of the rapture. It has also been said that the word “rapture” does not appear in the bible at all. That is true if you consider only that word. The word rapture originates from the Latin word “rapturo” which was a translation of the Greek verb “caught up”. As identified in scriptures shared in this message, the phrase “caught up” is mentioned in the bible, and it means “rapturo”, or “raptured” as we know it. In all honesty, the word “bible” is not found in the Holy Bible either. Does that mean that it does not exist? Clearly not. A few other things to consider when deciding when the rapture will happen. The bible says that Jesus will come for us in an hour that we do not know, which means that it could literally be any second prior to tribulation. If we were to endure tribulation, we would have a sense of when the rapture would take place because the tribulation is a 7 year period of time with the onset beginning immediately as the 7-year peace treaty or covenant is confirmed. That removes much of the imminent nature of Him descending down to meet us as we are caught up to be with Him. There are many more examples as to why the rapture will occur prior to the tribulation, but perhaps the greatest supporting evidence comes in **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then 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 shall always be with the Lord.. *Therefore comfort one another with these words*”. If God expected us to endure the tribulation, there would be NO comfort in those words because the terror in tribulation will be unspeakable. Please research these scriptures for your own truth to validate that they are within the context of end-times passages. Take no one's word for any of it as it is incumbent upon all of us to know the truth and pray for discernment...and hopefully be counted “worthy” of escaping all that will come to pass. Find out how to be counted “worthy” on the next page.

COUNTED WORTHY?

The most amazing thing about being “worthy” in God’s eyes, has NOTHING to do with philanthropic efforts, doing “good works”, providing unending service, although these activities are pleasing to God if done with a pure heart, however, they will not count you worthy of salvation. Conversely, your sins, no matter what they look like, are no worse than anyone else’s in His eyes...and we are ALL sinners no matter who you are. But God has provided us a way to be with Him forever, and it is only available through a simple prayer and an invitation for Him to come into your heart.

No failure is too great for Him not to accept you if you accept Him.

Please invite Him into your life by saying this prayer:

"Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be."

GOOD RESOURCES

Hear it from the experts who are urgently getting out these messages

<http://calvarycostamesa.org/maranathaprophecy/>

Watch the archived speakers:

- [Archived: Mark Hitchcock](#)
- [Archived: Thomas Ice](#)
- [Archived: David Hocking](#)
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