

# **FUNDAMENTAL FACTS FOR FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS**

## *Lesson Twelve* **FUTURE EVENTS**

In this chapter concerning future events, I would like to first deal with the controversial subject of the rapture.

As a class, read I Thessalonians 4:13-18.

One of the reasons the subject of the rapture is controversial is that the word **rapture**, like the word **TRINITY, CANNOT BE FOUND** in the Bible. But then, as we have pointed out before, the word **BIBLE CANNOT BE FOUND** in the Bible.

We actually get the word **rapture** from the Greek word **harpazo**, which means “to carry off, grasp hastily; snatch up; to seize and overpower.” From this we get our word **rapture**.

The rapture **DIFFERS** from the second coming of Christ in that at the second coming Christ **COMES ALL THE WAY BACK** to the earth to set up residence. At the rapture, He comes **PART OF THE** way back; and the raptured, or caught-up ones, meet him in the air.

*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.*

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**

There is much controversy on the timing of this rapture Paul talks about. The church world is **DIVIDED** on whether the rapture will occur **JUST BEFORE** the seven-year tribulation period, **AT THE END** of the seven-year tribulation, or **IN THE MIDDLE**.

I have always believed the scripture gives evidence the rapture will be at the **BEGINNING** of the tribulation, or **JUST BEFORE**.

For the past few years, however, I have been qualifying that teaching with the admonition that **IF THE CHURCH** would be called upon to go through the first three and a half years, **OR EVEN** through the entire seven years, the **SAME GRACE** that is keeping us now would be sufficient then.

*And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

**2 Corinthians 12:9**

Let us look at some of the scripture passages which at **THE VERY LEAST** suggest a rapture.

Have someone read, or as a class, read: John 14:1-3; I Corinthians 15:51-52; I Thessalonians 5:9, 23.

Now, let us look at some scriptures which **SUGGEST** that the rapture is to take Christians out of **THE WORLD BEFORE** the tribulation period.

*Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to **ESCAPE** all these things that shall come to pass, and to **STAND BEFORE** the Son of man.*

**Luke 21:36**

*After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which **MUST BE HEREAFTER**.*

**Revelation 4:1**

(For scriptures from Daniel and Revelation concerning the tribulation, consult pages 141-146 in textbook or ask class instructor.)

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THE DIVINE ORDER OF EVENTS SEEM TO BE:

- (1) **The rapture of the saints, getting them out of the world while God deals with the Jews.**

*Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted **WORTHY** to **ESCAPE** all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man. **Luke 21:36***

*Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like **MANNER** as ye have seen him go into heaven. **Acts 1:11***

*Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.*

*See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as **FOOLS**, but as **WISE**, **REDEEMING** the time, because the days are evil. **Ephesians 5:14-16***

- (2) **The seven year tribulation period, when God deals essentially with the Jews.**

*As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely with a **MIGHTY** hand, and with a **STRETCHED OUT** arm, and with **FURY POURED OUT**, will I rule over you:*

*And I will **BRING YOU OUT** from the people, and will **GATHER YOU OUT** of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out.*

*And I will **BRING YOU INTO** the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face.*

*Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD.*

*And I will cause you to **PASS UNDER THE** rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant:*

*And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the LORD. **Ezekiel 20:33-38***

*Seventy weeks are determined upon **THY PEOPLE** and upon **THY** holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. **Daniel 9:24***

(You may also want to consult Isaiah 16:1-5; Hosea 2:14-20; Revelation 12:6, 13-16; Matthew 24:4-21)

- (3) **During the seven year tribulation period, the antichrist will make himself known.**

*And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the **PRINCE THAT SHALL COME** shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.*

*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 9:26-27***

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*When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)*

**Matthew 24:15**

*Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a **FALLING AWAY** first, and that **MAN OF SIN** be revealed, the son of perdition;*

*Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that **HE AS GOD** sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*

*Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?*

*And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.*

*For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.*

*And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:*

*Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with **ALL POWER** and **SIGNS** and **LYING WONDERS**,*

*And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they **RECEIVED NOT** the **LOVE** of the **TRUTH**, that they might be saved.*

*And **FOR THIS CAUSE GOD** shall send them strong delusion, that they should **BELIEVE A** lie:*

*That they all might be damned who **BELIEVED NOT** the truth, but **HAD PLEASURE** in unrighteousness.*

**2 Thessalonians 2:3-12**

**(4) At the conclusion of the seven year tribulation, Christ will return all the way to the earth and defeat the antichrist and his armies.**

*Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.*

*For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.*

*Then shall the **LORD** go forth, and **FIGHT** against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.*

**Zechariah 14:1-3**

We continue this study in lesson thirteen.

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