



God's Revelation of the Future



Theological Perspective

- Distinction between Israel and the Church
- Pre-tribulation Rapture of the Church
- Pre-millennium Return of Christ
- Futurist View of Revelation 4-22



God's Revelation of the Future

Introduction

The Rapture of the Church



Basic Questions

- What is God's perspective on the future?



What is God's perspective?

Isaiah 46:8-11

⁸ Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, ⁹ remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, ¹⁰ declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, "My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose," ¹¹ calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.



What is God's perspective?

God knows the future because he planned the future and is carrying out his plan. Thereby, he is doing what he has purposed to do.



What is God's perspective?

Ephesians 1:11

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will.



Basic Questions

- What is God's perspective on the future?
- What can we know about the future?



What can we know?

We can know whatever God has chosen to tell us!

Deuteronomy 29:29 – The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.



What can we know?

We can know whatever God has chosen to tell us!

- God has revealed significant things to us about his plans.
- However ...
 - God has not revealed everything.
 - Everything God has revealed is not equally clear.



Basic Questions

- What is God's perspective on the future?
- What can we know about the future?
- Why should we study what is recorded about the future?



Why should we study?

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.



Why should we study?

- Such a study ...
 - Brings glory to God
 - Fulfills a basic human longing
 - Provides hope, peace, joy, and blessing
 - Helps us grow



Why should we study?

Acts 4:26-28

²⁶ The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed'-- ²⁷ for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.



Why should we study?

- Such a study ...
 - Brings glory to God
 - Fulfills a basic human longing
 - Provides hope, peace, joy, and blessing
 - Helps us grow



Why should we study?

1 John 3:2-3

² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.



Contents

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 - An Overview of Revelation
 - The Seal, Trumpet, and Bowl Judgments
 - The Insets of Revelation
 - The Second Coming of Christ
 - The Millennium
 - Events following the Millennium



The Rapture of the Church

- **Philippians 3:20**

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

- **1 Thessalonians 1:10**

¹⁰ [You Thessalonians turned to God to serve him] and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.



The Rapture of the Church

- **1 Corinthians 15:51-53**

⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² 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 shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.



The Rapture of the Church

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

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ...



The Rapture of the Church

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

¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.



The Rapture: A Definition

The Rapture of the Church refers to a future, pre-Tribulation event that will take place entirely and exclusively for the Church, the body of Christ, which includes the following: (1) the resurrection of Church saints, (2) the removal by Christ from the earth to heaven of these resurrected saints along with those saints already alive, and (3) the changing of all their bodies to be like that of the risen Lord Jesus Christ.



The Rapture of the Church

- Three questions ...
 - **Participants** – Who is included in this event?
 - **Timing** – When will this event take place?
 - **Nature** – What is this event going to involve?



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Lesson 1 continued ...