



THE PRE-WRATH RAPTURE

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THE RAPTURE EVENT

THE TRANSITIONAL VERSE OF THE OLIVET DISCOURSE

“Wherever the corpse is, there
the vultures will gather.”

—Matt 24:28

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven will be shaken.”

—Matt 24:29

“Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man arriving on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet blast, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

—Matt 24:30-31

Five Reasons Why This is the Rapture

“Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man arriving on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet blast, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

—Matt 24:30-31

GOD'S FIRST DIVINE PURPOSE AT THE ARRIVAL OF THE PAROUSIA

“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, so also we believe that God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep as Christians. For we tell you this by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming [*parousia*] of the Lord, will surely not go ahead of those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a shout of command, 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, who are left, will be suddenly caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord.” —I Thess 4:14-17

Joseph Plevnik sums it up well:

The sequence of these events is crucial. The first act at the Lord's coming from heaven is that the deceased faithful are brought back to life; then only, once they have been reunited with the living, is everyone taken up by the clouds to meet the Lord. These pointers ["first," "then," "together with"], clearly inserted by Paul himself, insist on this sequence of acts. The surviving faithful have no advantage over the deceased: the latter are brought to life, join the living, and are, together with the living, taken up by the clouds.

(Paul and the Parousia: An Exegetical and Theological Investigation, p. 82)

“But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming [*parousia*] those who belong to Christ.”

—1 Cor 15:23

“Listen, I will tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a moment, in the blinking of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”

—1 Cor 15:51-52

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—Matt 24:30-31

REASON # 1

- “Now regarding the arrival [*parousia*] of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being **gathered** [*episynagōgē*] to be with him, we ask you, brothers and sisters,” —2 Thess 2:1
- “And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet blast, and they will **gather** [*episynagō*] his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” —Matt 24:31

REASON #2

- “For we tell you this by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming [*parousia*] of the Lord, will surely not go ahead of those who have fallen asleep.” —1 Thess 4:15

▶ “Then the **sign** of the Son of Man **will** appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man arriving on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet blast, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

—Matt 24:30-31

<u>Matthew 24</u>	<u>Parallels</u>	<u>1 & 2 Thess</u>
3-4	Christ is the Source	1Th 4:15
4	Warning: Do Not Be Deceived	2Th 2:3
3, 27, 37, 39	Subject Matter: The Parousia	1Th 4:15
15	Antichrist's Temple Activity	2Th 2:4
21, 22	Opposition by Antichrist	2Th 2:3-4, 9
9-12	Apostasy of Many	2Th 2:3
22	Elect, Alive, and Survive	1Th 4:15, 17
27, 30	Initiation of the Parousia	1Th 4:15
22, 29-30	Persecution Cut Short	2Th 2:8
30	Jesus with Clouds	1Th 4:17
31	Angels	1Th 4:16
31	Trumpet Call	1Th 4:16
31	Gathering	1Th 4:15-17
37-41	Peace and Safety	1Th 5:3, 6-7
43	Thief in the Night	1Th 5:2, 4
37-41	Sudden Destruction	1Th 5:2-3
29-30; 37-39	Initiation of God's Wrath	1Th 5:1-3
32-33	Not in Darkness	1Th 5:4-5
36	Do Not Set Dates	1 Th 5:1
42-51	Be Watchful-Expectant	1 Th 5:6

*If It Looks Like A
Rapture, And It Quacks
Like A Rapture...It Most
Probably is A Rapture*

REASON #3

- “For then there will be great tribulation unlike anything that has happened from the beginning of the world until now, or ever will happen.” —Matt 24:21
- “At that time Michael, the great prince who watches over your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress unlike any other from the nation’s beginning up to that time. But at that time your own people, all those whose names are found written in the book, will escape. Many of those who sleep in the dusty ground will awake— some to everlasting life, and others to shame and everlasting abhorrence.” —Dan 12:1-2

REASON #4

“Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one left. There will be two women grinding grain with a mill; one will be taken and one left.”
—Matt 24:39-41

“Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken [*paralambanō*] and one left. There will be two women grinding grain with a mill; one will be taken [*paralambanō*] and one left.”

—Matt 24:39-41

“And if I go and make ready a place for you, I will come again and take to be with me, so that where I am you may be too.” —John 14:3

“And if I go and make ready a place for you, I will come again and take [*paralambanō*] to be with me, so that where I am you may be too.”

—John 14:3

REASON #5

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days [Great Tribulation], the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven will be shaken.” “Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man arriving on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet blast, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

—Matt 24:29–31

“After these things I looked, and here was an enormous crowd that no one could count, made up of persons from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb dressed in long white robes, and with palm branches in their hands. They were shouting out in a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God, to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!” And all the angels stood there in a circle around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they threw themselves down with their faces to the ground before the throne and worshiped God, saying, “Amen! Praise and glory, and wisdom and thanksgiving, and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!” Then one of the elders asked me, “These dressed in long white robes—who are they and where have they come from?” So I said to him, “My lord, you know the answer.” Then he said to me, “These are the ones who have come out of the **great tribulation**. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb!” Rev 7:9-14

Antichrist
Revealed
**Abomination
of Desolation**

Cosmic Sign
Joel 2:31
Matt 24:29
Sixth Seal

First 3 1/2 years

Great
Tribulation

The Day
of the Lord

Mt 24:36

Rapture
Same Day
Wrath Begins