

RAPTURE OF CHURCH

Request: Could you do a study on when the Rapture of the Church occurs in regards to the Second Coming of Christ? I have been told that many believe Christ will come at either the beginning or middle of the Tribulation.

There are three common views regarding the Church's role in the Tribulation and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

- **Pre-tribulation:** The Church is removed before the Tribulation.
- **Mid-tribulation:** The Church will be removed during the middle of it.
- **Post-tribulation:** The Church will go through the Tribulation and into the Millennium.

**I will try to help you understand the doctrine of the Rapture of the Church
by the following 15-point comparison between the Rapture and the Second Coming of Christ (S/C).**

1. **The Rapture is a private appearing to only Church Age (CA) believers**
(Acts 1:11)
 - while the S/C is a public appearing to both believers and unbelievers (Rev.1:7; Zech.12:10-11; Matt.24:27-30).

2. **In the Rapture, Christ returns in the sky**
(Acts 1:11; 1 Thess.4:17)
 - while in S/C, Christ returns to Mt. Olive (Zech.14:4).

3. **In the Rapture, Christ comes to receive all Church Age (CA) believers**
(1 Thess.4:17)
 - while in S/C Christ comes to fight for J/A believers (Zech.14:1-5; Rev.14:20; 19:11-18; Matt.24:27-28).

4. **At the Rapture, the living Church will go to heaven**
(John 14:1-3; 1 Thess.4:15-17)
 - while at the S/C the resurrected Church comes from heaven (1 Thess.3:13; Jude 14-15).

5. **The Rapture brings the judgment of Church Age (CA) believers**
(Rom.14:10; 2 Cor.5:10)
 - while the S/C brings judgment of unbelievers (Rev.20:10-15; Rom.2:16; John 5:24, 29).

6. **After the Rapture, Satan is still active on earth**
(Rev.6-19; 2 Thess.2:7-10)
 - while at the S/C Satan is removed from the earth during the Millennium ((Rev.20:1-3).

At the Rapture, All Church Age (CA) believers will received their resurrection bodies

- (1 Cor.15:51-53)
- while at the S/C all Jewish Age (JA) believers will receive their resurrection bodies (Dan.12:2,13; John 5:28-29; 11:24).

7. **At the Rapture, Church Age (CA) believers are removed from the earth**
(1 Thess.4:16-17)
 - while at the S/C unbelievers are removed from the earth (Matt.3:11-12; 24:40-51/ Baptism of Fire).

8. **The Rapture will not bring changes in the nature of the earth**
(1 Cor.15:51-52)
 - while the S/C will bring changes in it (Isa.65:25; 11:6-9; Rom.8:18-25; 2 Pet.3:10-13).

9. **The Rapture occurs before Daniel's 70th week**
(Dan.9:24-27)
 - while the S/C occurs after it (Matt.24:29-31; Rev.19:11-21).

10. **The Rapture is the return of the Savior for all Church Age (CA) believers at the end of the CA**
(1 Thess.4:13-18; Phil.3:20)
 - while the S/C is the return of the King to J/A believers at the end of the Jewish age (Zech.14:4-9; Matt.19:28; 25:31-32; Rev.19:11-16).

11. **The Rapture is a mystery doctrine of the New Covenant**
(John 14:1-3; 1 Cor.15:51)
 - while the S/C is a revealed doctrine of the Old Covenant (Zech.14:4; Rom.11:25-27; Isa.59:20-21).

13. **The doctrine of the Rapture is a source of comfort to believers**
(1 Thess.2:19; 4:13, 18)
 - while the doctrine of S/C is a source of terror to unbelievers (Joel 2:10-11; Rev.6:12-17).

14. **The Rapture of the Church is referred by the phrase, "Day of the Lord Jesus Christ,"**
(1 Cor.1:8; 5:5; Phil.1:6, 10; 2:16; 1 Thess.4:15)
 - while the S/C is referred by the phrase, "Day of the Lord (Mal.4:5; Joel 2:11, 31; Amos 5:18; Matt.24:29; 1 Thess.5:2-3; 2 Pet.3:10).

15. **There are no prophecies of Scriptures necessary to be fulfilled prior to the Rapture.**
(1 Cor.1:7; Col.3:4; 2 Thess.2:1-4; Titus 2:13-14; Jas.5:7-8)
 - while there are many to be fulfilled prior to the S/C (Matt.24:15-31; Rev.6-19).