

## The Rapture Of The Church

**What is the Rapture?** The Rapture is the event at the end of the age when the Lord Jesus Christ returns to collect His church. Believers are caught up into the clouds with the Lord and then taken into Heaven whilst the time known as the 'Great Tribulation' or the 'Wrath of God' is poured out on the earth

The word 'Rapture' comes from the Latin word '**Raptus**' which means 'To Seize' or 'To Transport'

The Greek word is '**Harpadzo**' which means 'To Remove' 'To Seize' 'To Take away'

According to W.W. Skeat's "Etymology of the English Language, 1879", the word "rapture" was coined by William Shakespeare. The English word "rapture" that he used means "to be transported by a lofty emotion or ecstasy". (**The word rapture is not mentioned in scripture**)

So the word 'Rapture' is an accurate translation of events that will happen.

### **Relevant Scriptures:**

*For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

**1Thess 4:16,17**

*Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup> And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*

**Matt 24:30-31**

## **Have there been previous raptures?**

**Enoch** - By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him” for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

**Hebrews 11:15**

**Elijah** - Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

**2 Kings 2:11**

**Jesus** - Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

**Acts 1:9**

**When will it happen? Jesus said** *“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only”*

**Matt 24:36**

**However Jesus did give us some clues as to things that would happen around the time of the rapture.**

### **The Parable of the Fig Tree**

*“Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>33</sup> So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near - at the doors! <sup>34</sup> Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. <sup>35</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away”.*

**Matt 24 32-35**

The nation of Israel is often depicted as The Fig Tree – Israel ceased to be a nation after the destruction and sacking of Jerusalem by Roman Emperor Titus in AD70. The second ‘Temple’ was destroyed then and Israel did

not become a Nation/State again till May 1948. So here Jesus is comparing Israel to a young tree just starting to grow. In Verse 34 he talks about a generation who will see these things. This is then repeated with a bit more information in Luke 21

***“And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled”***                      **Luke 21:24**

Fulfillment of this Prophecy happened in June 1967 when Israel took control of Jerusalem for the first time in 2000 years. Before that Jerusalem had been in Roman hands, then the Byzantines, the Muslims, the Crusaders, then again the Muslims, then the Ottomans, then the British. Israel became a State on May 15<sup>th</sup> 1948 with full Jewish control in June 1967. This Generation shall by no means pass away!    1948 – 1967?

**Note: Gentile is anyone who is not a Jew**

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, <sup>2</sup> not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. <sup>3</sup> Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the **falling away** comes first, and the **man of sin** is revealed, the son of perdition, <sup>4</sup> who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the **temple of God**, showing himself that he is God.    **2 Thess 2**

***“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place”***

**Matt 24:15**

## **Revealing the Man of Sin – The Anti Christ**

Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. <sup>19</sup> They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but *they went out*

that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

### **1 John 2:18-19**

Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son **1 John 2.22**

### **The Koran denies that Jesus is the Son of God!**

**Surah Al-Ikhlās**, the 112th chapter of the Holy Quran: All depend on Him. Allah begets not; Nor was He begotten. **Allah has no son nor father and Allah has no partners.**

So according to the Bible this is the spirit of **anti-christ!** So can we assume that the 'Antichrist' himself will come from Islam? What does the Bible say about the Anti-Christ?

**A basic outline for today – though we will do a full study – The man of sin will be a 'gentile muslim'**

**He will be from the Region of ancient Assyria (Jordan)**

**He will be King of Iraq (Babylon)**

**He will enter world scene as a man of peace**

**He will confirm a peace treaty with Israel (7yrs)**

**He will seek to bring all religions together.**

**He will lay claim to Jerusalem**

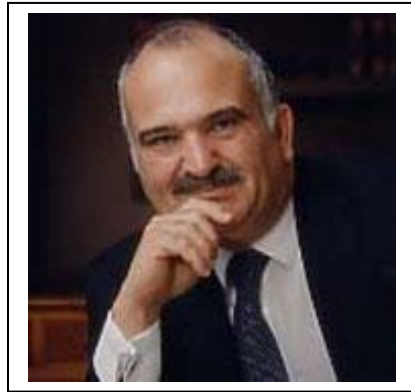
**He will allow Jordan to escape from his military might!**

**Be known as the Mahdi to the Muslim world.**

**He will sit in the temple and claim to be God.**

**He will be judged by God, with his nephew.**

**There is in world politics today a very unique man who can fulfill all the biblical criteria referring to the Anti Christ.**



### **Being Watchful, Prayerful and on our Guard!**

<sup>40</sup> Then two *men* will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left.

<sup>41</sup> Two *women will be* grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.  
**Matt 24:40**

**Read: The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins (Matt 25)**

### **Our Final Victory!!**

<sup>50</sup> Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. <sup>51</sup> Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed - <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. **For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.** <sup>53</sup> For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality; then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. <sup>2</sup> Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He

will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. <sup>4</sup> And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup> Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.”

<sup>6</sup> And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. <sup>7</sup> He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

## **Revelation 21**