

# The Rapture

By Charles Dailey

**The American Heritage Dictionary defines -**

**rap ture** *n.* **1.** The state of being transported by a lofty emotion; ecstasy. **2.** Often **raptures**. An expression of ecstatic feeling. **3.** The transporting of a person from one place to another, especially to heaven. **--rap ture** *tr.v.* **rap tured, rap tur ing, rap tures.** To enrapture.

The idea of the **rapture** is Biblical, but the word is not used in Scripture. Theories about end time issues can usually fit these categories: **Pre-millennial, post-millennial** and **amillennial**. The pre- group has three major sub-categories: **Pre-tribulation** rapture, **mid-tribulation** rapture and **post-tribulation** rapture.

The **millennium** refers to the 1,000 years of Revelation, chapter 20. So a pre-millennial believer is one expecting the return of Christ before a 1,000 year period, the post-millennial believer is one expecting the return of Christ following a 1,000 year period and the amillennial believer is one that does not expect a 1,000 year period at all. He does not understand the 1,000 years as a literal span of time.

The **tribulation** of the pre-, mid-, and post-tribulation groups is the tribulation of Matthew 24:21,29; Revelation 2:22 and 7:14. The tribulation is often defined as being seven years and so the second coming of Christ is to happen either before, during or after a seven year tribulation.

Instead of going into detail about each view, we have chosen to present our understanding of Matthew 24, the chapter often used to "prove" one or more of the above theories. We believe that a careful understanding of the chapter is a big step in sorting out the theories and coming to a conclusion about the end time issues.

In AD 70, General Titus brought his Roman armies to Jerusalem to subdue it for not paying its taxes to Rome. Jesus warns of what will happen prior to that destruction, during the destruction and following the destruction. All was to happen during their life-times. Following this he warns that no signs will accompany his return at the end of the ages.

(The boxes conform to the paragraphs of the New International Version. )

Matthew 24	Comments
<p>1 Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings.</p> <p>2 "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."</p>	<p><b>Before AD 70 -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- About 30 AD</li> <li>- This must have sounded impossible to the disciples.</li> </ul>
<p>3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Peter, Andrew, James and John. Mark 13:3</li> <li>- Question #1</li> <li>- Question #2</li> </ul>

Matthew 24	Comments
<p>4 Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you.  5 For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.  6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.  7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.  8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.</p>	<p><b>Expect false Christs</b>  - Acts 5:36; 8:9-10;  1 John 2:18; 4:3  <b>Expect War</b>  "end" of Jerusalem, not world.    Acts 11:28  Isaiah 66:7</p>
<p>9 "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.  10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,  11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.  12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,  13 but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.  14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.</p>	<p><b>Expect Persecution</b>  - Acts 12:2; 14:2  - "Nations" - Gentiles.  <b>Expect to be Hated</b>  - 1 John 2:11  Gal. 2:4; Acts 15:5; 2 Cor. 11:13  <b>Expect Loss of Interest</b>    <b>Expect to be Saved</b>    <b>Expect the Gospel to be Preached to the Empire</b>  - Rom. 1:8; Col. 1:6; 23.</p>

Matthew 24	Comments
<p>15 "So when you see standing in the holy place  'the abomination that causes desolation,'  spoken of through the prophet Daniel-- let the reader  understand--</p> <p>16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.</p> <p>17 Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything  out of the house.</p> <p>18 Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak.</p> <p>19 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and  nursing mothers!</p> <p>20 Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the  Sabbath.</p> <p>21 For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the  beginning of the world until now-- and never to be equaled again.</p> <p>22 If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive,  but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.</p> <p>23 At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!'  or, 'There he is!' do not believe it.</p> <p>24 For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform  great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect-- if that were  possible.</p> <p>25 See, I have told you ahead of time.</p>	<p><b>During AD 70 -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- quotes Daniel 9:27</li> <li>- Matthew wrote in AD 50.</li> <li>- Flee. The Christians moved to Pella.</li> <li>- Luke 21:20</li> <li>- Nehemiah 13:19</li> <li>- Jeremiah 17:21-22</li> <li><b>Expect Extreme Pressure</b></li> <li>- Hiroshima was a much smaller event.</li> <li>- The siege lasted 144 days.</li> </ul> <p>As in verse 11.</p> <p>Another evidence of who Jesus is.</p>
<p>26 "So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the desert,' do not  go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it.</p> <p>27 For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in  the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.</p> <p>28 Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.</p>	<p><b>Don't Expect Christ's Return</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christ's actual coming will be sudden and visible.</li> <li>- An allusion to Rome?</li> </ul>
<p>29 "Immediately after the distress of those days  "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its  light; the stars will fall from the sky,    and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'</p>	<p><b>After AD 70 -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quoted from Isaiah 13:10.</li> <li>- The political system will collapse.</li> <li>- The religious system will be weakened. Eph. 6:12</li> </ul>
<p>30 "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the  sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the  Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky,  with power and great glory.</p> <p>31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they  will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the  heavens to the other.</p>	<p><b>Jesus will Receive Authority</b></p> <p>Quoting Daniel 7:13</p> <p>An age of successful world-wide preaching. (Angels are messengers. Rev. 2:1)</p>

Matthew 24	Comments
<p>32 "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.</p> <p>33 Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door.</p> <p>34 I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.</p> <p>35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.</p>	<p><b><i>These Events are Near -</i></b></p> <p>James 5:9  <b><i>- In this Generation</i></b>  - The timing is <b>known</b>.  - Jesus has spoken!  - Mark and Luke stop with verse 36.</p>
<p>36 "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.</p> <p>37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.</p> <p>38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark;</p> <p>39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.</p> <p>40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left.</p> <p>41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.</p>	<p><b>The End of the Age</b></p> <p>Life will be normal.</p> <p>- There will not be warnings such as prior to Jerusalem's fall.</p>
<p>42 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.</p> <p>43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into.</p> <p>44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.</p>	<p>Be ready all of the time.</p>

Matthew 24	Comments
<p>45 "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time?</p> <p>46 It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.</p> <p>47 I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.</p> <p>48 But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,'</p> <p>49 and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards.</p> <p>50 The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of.</p> <p>51 He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.</p> <p>(NIV)</p>	

