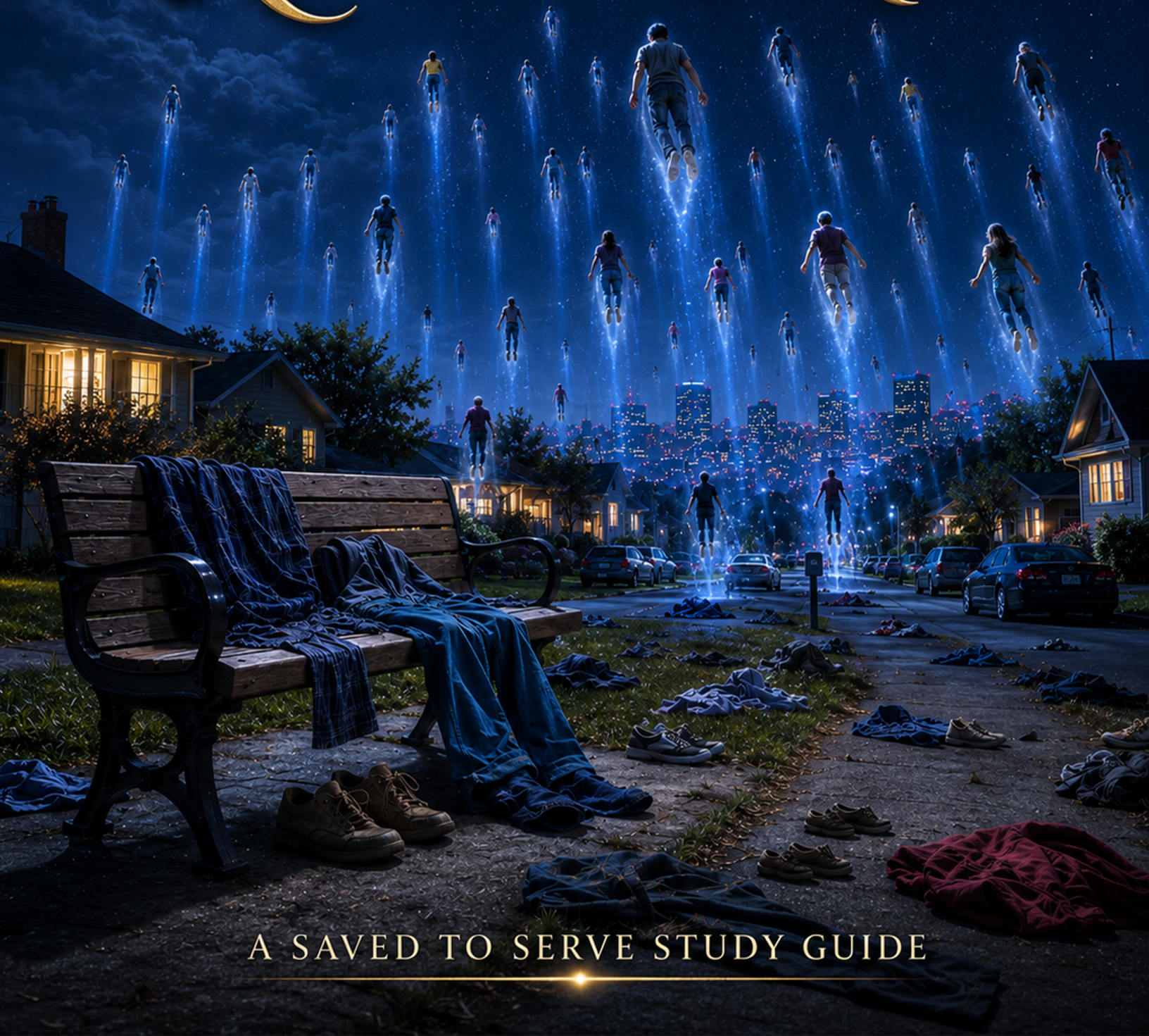




THE SECRET RAPTURE



A SAVED TO SERVE STUDY GUIDE

Why We Were Not Raptured

We let the Bible interpret itself, testing every claim by “the law and to the testimony” (Isaiah 8:20). This study runs in one continuous sequence — from Point 1 through Point 25. Read each reference in your Bible and write your answers on the lines provided.

- I. PURPOSE** In this series of doctrinal lessons we will study how Jesus will return to earth the second time, and disprove the idea of a secret rapture. This lesson answers the claims that the rapture was to occur September 23–24, 2025.

NOTE Many teach that Christ’s return comes in two phases — a secret “rapture” that removes believers, followed by seven years of tribulation, and then His visible return. In this study we let Scripture test that claim, proving the rapture is neither secret nor separate from the glorious, visible, audible Second Coming of Jesus.

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout... and the dead in Christ shall rise first.”
— 1 Thessalonians 4:16 (KJV)

In This Study

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|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | What the word “rapture” really means | 1 Thessalonians 4:17 |
| 2 | Christ returns a second time | John 14:1-3 |
| 3 | The manner of His coming | Acts 1:9-11 |
| 4 | Visible & audible to all the earth | Revelation 1:7 |
| 5 | The righteous caught up together | 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 |
| 6 | The wicked at His appearing | Revelation 6:15-17 |
| 7 | Texts falsely used for the rapture | Matthew 24:40-41 |
| 8 | Saved through the tribulation | Revelation 2:9-10 |

◆ BEFORE YOU BEGIN

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 TIMOTHY 2:15 (KJV)

As you study how Jesus returns — visibly, audibly, and in glory — keep your Bible open and let each text speak for itself. Answer honestly, compare Scripture with Scripture, and ask the Spirit to lead you into all truth — from Point 1 to Point 25.

2. **CURRENT EVENT** Videos circulating online claimed the rapture would take place on September 23–24, 2025. Review the current-event clips below, then weigh every claim against Scripture.

The Date for the END OF THE WORLD REVEALED ↗

The message I received personally from Jesus — Mr Joshua.

<https://youtu.be/bSfKjB9xkPM?si=147HgwoTvnO5Srem>

It's THE END TIME | Rapture, Judgement, the Anti-Christ ↗

7 Year Tribulation | My Heaven Visitation | Part 2.

<https://youtu.be/HgPwLADrios?si=O0ukJoedF5cerudT>

3. **CONSIDER** Notice how the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association answers the question, “What is the rapture?”

What is the rapture? — Billy Graham Evangelistic Association ↗

Many Christians believe the second coming of Jesus Christ will be in two phases. First, He will come for believers — living and dead — in the “rapture” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17), which will be secret, unknown to the world of unbelievers. Then, after seven years of tribulation on earth, Christ will return with His church, the raptured saints, and reign on the earth 1,000 years.

<https://billygraham.org/answers/what-is-the-rapture>

4. Let us now study to see if the aforementioned views are biblically accurate. What does the word “rapture” mean?— *Read: 1 Thessalonians 4:17*

ANSWER “Rapture” means to be carried away with power — caught away, caught up (1 Thessalonians 4:17). The Bible teaches there will be a rapture, but it will not be secret, and it will occur at the Second Coming of Jesus, not separately.

5. Will Jesus return to the earth a second time?— *Read: John 14:1-3; Hebrews 9:28*

6. Why will Jesus return to earth?

a) — *Read: Revelation 22:12*

b) — *Read: John 14:3*

7. In what manner will Jesus come back the second time?— *Read: Acts 1:9-11; Matthew 24:30*

8. Will Jesus' Second Coming be visible to everyone, or only to a select group of people?— *Read: Revelation 1:7; Matthew 24:27*

9. Will Jesus' Second Coming be audible?— *Read: Psalm 50:3*

a) What will be heard which signals the return of Jesus?— *Read: 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Matthew 24:31*

10. Who is Jesus bringing with Him to the earth?— *Read: Matthew 25:31; Matthew 24:30, 31; Luke 9:26*

11. Will Jesus touch the earth when He returns?— *Read: 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; Matthew 24:31; Psalm 50:4, 5*

12. What will happen to the righteous who are dead and the righteous who are living?— *Read: 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17*

13. What will happen to the wicked who are alive at the Second Coming?— *Read: Revelation 6:15-17; 2 Thessalonians 2:8; Isaiah 11:4*

SCRIPTURES FALSELY USED TO TEACH THE SECRET RAPTURE

14. **READ** 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 is a key text for those who teach the secret rapture. Tied to it is the belief that the faithful who have died are already in heaven. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:14, then weigh the passage below.

Unraveling the Rapture — Sam Storms ↗

Because we know Jesus died and rose again, we have assurance that when Christ returns He will bring “with him” our friends and family who have died. This phrase, “with him,” suggests that far from lying unconscious in the grave, Christians who have died are even now “with” Christ Jesus in heaven.

<https://www.samstorms.org/all-articles/post/unraveling-the-rapture-1-thessalonians-4:13-18-revelation-3:10>

15. The context of 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 shows the direction God brings those asleep in Jesus — He resurrects them and brings them with Him TO HEAVEN in the clouds. Write down scriptures which teach that the dead are unconscious at death and remain in the grave until the Second Coming.

16. The accounts in Matthew and Luke are the primary scriptures used to teach a secret rapture. What phrases give people the false idea that there will be a secret rapture?— *Read: Matthew 24:40-41; Luke 17:26-30, 34-36*
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17. To understand these scriptures we must read the previous verses for context. Read Matthew 24:37-41. According to the verses, which group of people will be “taken away” — the saved or the lost? — *Read: Matthew 24:37-41*
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- a. **NOTE** In Luke’s version, Jesus compares His coming both to the Flood and to the destruction of Sodom by fire in the days of Lot. In Luke 17:34, two are in one bed — one taken, one left. Two kinds sleep in death now: the dead in Christ (who rise at His coming) and the lost (who do not rise until the Second Resurrection, Revelation 20). Luke 17:36 shows two in the field — the field is the world (Matthew 13:38) — two kinds of laborers preaching two gospels, true and false; one saved, one lost (Matthew 7:22, 23).

18. Rapturists say there will be a secret rapture because Jesus comes “as a thief in the night” (2 Peter 3:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:2). Since there will be no secret rapture, what do these texts mean? Read Matthew 24:42-51.

ANSWER One application: no one knows the exact day or hour of His return. Second: the wicked will be found unprepared because they neglected to watch and pray. To the wicked, He comes as a thief (1 Thessalonians 5:2-5).

19. **KEY POINTS** Notice after which events the Second Coming of Jesus occurs.

- ◆ After the sealing of God’s people, who are spiritually preserved on earth during the tribulation. — *Revelation 7:1-3*
- ◆ After the Mark of the Beast crisis. — *Revelation 14:9-12, 14-16*
- ◆ After the 7 last plagues fall. Once six have fallen, Jesus declares He comes as a thief (Revelation 16:12, 15); none can enter the heavenly temple until they are complete. — *Revelation 15:8*

20. Based on the Bible, when will the separation between the righteous and the wicked occur?— *Read: Matthew 13:24, 25, 30, 39; Matthew 25:31, 32*
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21. Christians also use Revelation 3:10 to justify a pre-tribulation rapture. When Jesus says He will “keep thee from the hour of temptation,” does this mean God’s people will not go through the tribulation?— *Read: Matthew 6:13; Matthew 26:39, 45; Jude 1:24*
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22. **NOTE** The time of tribulation takes place before the rapture, for we are saved **THROUGH** it, not **FROM** it. Consider those who were saved through their trials, not spared them.
- ◆ Noah was saved through the Flood, not from it. — *Genesis 7*
 - ◆ Job was saved through the crisis, not from it. — *Job 42:10*
 - ◆ Joseph was saved through slavery, not from it. — *Genesis 45:7*
 - ◆ Daniel was saved through the lions' den, not from it. — *Daniel 6:22*
 - ◆ The three Hebrews were saved through the fiery furnace — Jesus went through it with them. — *Daniel 3:25*
 - ◆ Israel was saved after the plagues fell, not before; so the righteous will be preserved through the seven last plagues. — *Revelation 16*
23. Scripture foretells a time of tribulation — even the Time of Jacob's Trouble (Jeremiah 30:7). When church and state unite to enforce unbiblical Sunday worship and persecute God's commandment-keeping people, they must depend on Him for strength. All of this takes place prior to the Second Coming. What hope does Jesus leave with us for that time?— *Read: Revelation 2:9-10; Revelation 14:6-19*
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24. Although we must go through tribulation, what is the prayer of Christ on our behalf which should encourage us?— *Read: John 17:14-17*
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25. What will Jesus give to us so that we can endure and overcome the tribulation before us?— *Read: John 16:33*
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Notes



No Secret — Every Eye Shall See Him

The Bible does teach a rapture — the living righteous are caught up together with the resurrected dead to meet the Lord in the air. But it is neither secret nor separate. It happens at the one visible, audible, glorious Second Coming, when every eye shall see Him. The wicked are not left behind for a second chance — they are destroyed by the brightness of His coming. And God's people are not raptured out before the tribulation; they are carried through it, sealed and preserved, just as Noah, Daniel, and the three Hebrews were saved through their trials. This is why the church was not raptured on September 23–24, 2025 — that is simply not how Scripture describes His return.

REVELATION 1:7 (KJV)

“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.”

Will you be found watching and praying — ready to meet Him face to face, kept through the time of trouble rather than caught off guard?

REFERENCES

Sources & Notes

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.”

TITUS 2:13 (KJV)

- 1 Billy Graham Evangelistic Association — “What is the rapture?”
<https://billygraham.org/answers/what-is-the-rapture>
- 2 Sam Storms — “Unraveling the Rapture: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.”
<https://www.samstorms.org/all-articles/post/unraveling-the-rapture-1-thessalonians-4:13-18-revelation-3:10>
- 3 Current Event: The Date for the END OF THE WORLD REVEALED | The message I received personally from Jesus | Mr Joshua.
<https://youtu.be/bSfKjB9xkPM?si=147HgwoTvnO5Srem>
- 4 It's THE END TIME | Rapture, Judgement, the Anti-Christ | 7 Year Tribulation | My Heaven Visitation | Part 2.
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All Scripture is quoted from the King James Version (KJV). Outside articles are cited for study and comment; their views are examined, not endorsed.