

I Thess.4:13-18, Rev.4:1

The Rapture

- the doctrine of the rapture is said to have originated from John Nelson Darby in 1833

(This belief was adopted by D.L. Moody and C.I. Scofield)

* the word "rapture" does not appear in the Bible

(The reason for this is that the word is derived from the Latin word "raptus" and our Bibles were translated from Greek)- the word means to seize or snatch

- the phrase "caught up" in I Thess.4:17 means to seize, snatch away, or claim for oneself

* the belief of the rapture in the church is broad

(These beliefs include- no rapture, post-tribulation, mid-tribulation, and pre-tribulation)

1- no rapture- these people are typically known as Amillennialists

- they believe the 1,000 years is symbolic of eternity

- some even believe that the tribulation has already started

* but I Thess.4:17 tells us that the church will be called out so we know it will happen

2- post-trib- believe the church is going through the tribulation

*many who hold this belief are Calvinists and believe the "elect" include the tribulation saints

- however, the church is not mentioned during the tribulation period - only once after ch.3

- the only other time the word "church" is used in Revelation is 22:16

(And that was a closing address to the churches in which the letter was sent)

- they use Matt.5:45 and Matt.24:29-31 as their proof

- they believe the church is not exempt from God's wrath

3- mid-trib- believe the church will see the first half of the tribulation but will be called away

before the antichrist crawfishes his treaty with the people

(They interpret Dan.7:25 that they, the church, will only be under antichrist's control for 3.5 yrs but the text actually is talking about the second half of the tribulation)

4- pre-trib- Rev.4:1- "come up hither" - used also in Rev.11:12 and Prov.25:7

- we believe this as ch.2 and 3 speak to 7 churches and then the 1st verse of the next chapter, God is calling someone to Him

Truth- if it doctrinally correct, you will find it foreshadowed in the Old Testament

1- Enoch- (Gen.5:22-24) God "took" the only one that "walked with Him"

*right after he's taken, God floods the earth

2- Lot- (Gen.18:23-25) Lot was brought out before God's wrath

- II Pet.2:6-9- the unjust punishment is reserved

3- The Hebrews crossing the sea- Ex.15:12-18

(God's judgment didn't come until His people were out of the way)

- the tribulation is God's judgment upon the world

- in Rev. 6, the tribulation begins with the opening of the 7 seals

*In 6:17, we see the word "wrath"- (orge) anger or vengeance that results in punishment

*in I Thess. 5:9, we find the same word as Paul writes a church

*the Galilean wedding stands as a reminder of the rapture as well

- the groom comes to the edge of town as the groomsman blows the horn to summon the bride

(The groomsmen then take the bride and carry her to the father's house - flying of the bride)

Truth- a good husband would not let his bride suffer his wrath

*also looking in chronological order, the "catching up" is in I Thess.4- in ch.5, Paul talks more about the fact that they are saved and shouldn't worry about that day

(The end of chapter 5 tells the bride how to keep pure and unspotted)

- in II Thess.2:3-8, Paul goes on to talk about the aftermath of the calling away

* the order of events, falling away (apostasy), rapture, then the appearing of the man of sin