

The Rapture and The Second Coming Compared

Event	Rapture - verse	Event	Second Coming -verse
Believers meet Lord in air	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Believers return with Lord to earth	Revelation 19:11-16
	1 Corinthians 15:50-54		Zech 14:4
Comes alone?		Coming from Edom & Bozrah	Isa 63:1-6
		Coming to Armageddon	Rev 16:16, 17:14, 19:11-19
		Accompanied by saints	Zech 14:4 -5
Before wrath	1 Thessalonians 5:9	After wrath (if at all chronological)	Jude 14-15
	Revelation 3:10		Revelation 6-19
	Luke 21:36	Jesus returns full of wrath	Rev 19:11
	Rom 5:9		
Act of deliverance	1 Thess 1:10	Act of Judgment	
	1 Thessalonians 4:13-17, 5:9		Matthew 24:40-41
			Jude 14-15
			Joel 3:12-16
	blah		Amos 5:18
			Mal 4:5
Christians taken/door shut	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Unbelievers taken	Zeph 1:14-18
	Mat 25:1-13		Mat 13:28-30
"secret" and instant		Visible to all, all people will mourn	Mat 24:37-39
	1 Corinthians 15:50-54		Matthew 24:27,30
			Revelation 1:7
Imminent		All people will mourn	Zech 12:10
	1 Corinthians 15:50-54	Events must take place	2 Thessalonians 2:3-8
	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18		Matthew 24:4-30
Day & hour unknown			Revelation 6-19
	Mat 24:43-44	At the end of tribulation, after final 42 months	Rev 12:6,14, 13:5
	1 Thess 5:4-6	1260 after abomination of desolation	Dan 9:24-27, 12:11-12
With a shout or trumpet	Rev 3:3		
	1 Thess 4:16	No shout or trumpet mentioned	Argument from silence
Like the days of Noah and Lot	2 Peter 2:7-9	Like plagues on Egypt	Rev 6-19
	Mat 24:37-44		

Christians are changed - immortal

Mat 22:30
 1 Cor 15:51-54
 1 John 3:2

Christians are the same in the Millenium - mortal

Isa 65:20

Glimpses of the rapture

Acts 7:55-56
 Rev. 4:2
 Revelation 11:3 & 7-12

Purpose

Present the Bride of Christ
 2 Cor 11:2
 Rev 19:6-9

Purpose

Judgment of wicked
 Zech 14:3-4
 Jud 1:14-15
 Rev 19:11-21

Like the coming of the bridegroom before the 7 day feast
 Mat 25:1-10

Like the wedding feast at end of 7 day celebration
 Rev 19:7-9

Questions:

If the Rapture and the Second Coming are the same event, believers will have to go through the Tribulation

If the Rapture and the Second Coming are the same event, the return of Christ is not imminent
 ...there are many things which must occur before He can return

In describing the Tribulation period, Revelation chapters 6-19 nowhere mentions the church.

During the Tribulation, God will again turn His primary attention on Israel
 Romans 11:17-27

For further study:

The rapture is discussed primarily in 1 Thess 4-5, and 1 Cor 15.

The Day of the Lord is mentioned often throughout the Old Testament but Zech 14 and Rev 19 give the best description of the Second Coming of Christ.

Note the similarities and differences in the four chapters.

See what 1 Thess 4-5 and 1 Cor 15 have in common. (Rapture, change to immortality, resurrection, trumpet blown, descent of Christ for his saints.)

See what Zech 14 and Rev 19 have in common. (Return with saints, coming to make war on unbelievers)

See what Zech 14 and Rev 19 do not mention (no trumpet, no resurrection, no rapture) with regard to what is mentioned in 1 Thess 4-5 and 1 Cor 15.

See what 1 Thess 4 and 1 Cor 15 do not mention (no war) with regard to details in common that are described in Zech 14 and Rev 19.