

## DISPENSATIONALISM (44)

**Doctrinal Theme #7** - A new future hope.

Prior to this Upper Room Discourse, the thought of the disciples concerned the fact that Jesus was King of Israel and had told them that the program with Israel had been temporarily shut down due to their rejection of Jesus as her God/Savior/Messiah and King.

In the Olivet Discourse, Jesus told them that there would be a series of signs that would occur in a Great Tribulation that would lead up to Him coming back to be King of Israel. Those signs were not positive (Matt. 24:5-29).

But as He sat with them in the Upper Room, He said something to them that they had not heard before. In John 14:1-3, Jesus introduced a new theme to these disciples and the theme was “I will come again and receive you to Myself.” Now the implication is He would actually take these disciples from the earth to heaven to a place where He was and a place that He had designed for them.

The Apostle Paul differentiated between two different eschatological moments and movements:

**Movement #1** - Jesus would move people from earth to heaven at the Rapture.

John 14:1-3; I Thess. 4:16-17

**Movement #2** - Jesus would move people from heaven to earth at the Second Coming.

Matt. 24:30; II Thess. 1:7-10; Rev. 19:11-16

Now Jesus will come again two times. There will be two dispensational events:

- 1) He will come again in the sky and Rapture His people thus ending the Church Age.
- 2) He will come again and put His feet on the ground at His Second Coming thus beginning a new national program for Israel.

This passage in John 14 introduced this important eschatological fact for the first time to these disciples. It presented to them the hope that they would not have to go through the Tribulation, but that He, Himself, would come back in the sky to get them and take them to be with Him. This was brand new data.

Dispensational distinctions clearly come into play in the matter of the Rapture-versus-the Second Coming of Christ:

**Distinction #1** - At the Rapture, Christ comes in the air and Christians meet Him.

His feet do not touch the earth. I Thess. 4:16.

At the Second Coming, Christ returns to the Mt. of Olives and His feet are standing on the earth. Zech. 14:2-4

## DISPENSATIONALISM (45)

**Distinction #2** - At the Rapture, Christ Himself takes believers out of the world.

I Thess. 4:16-17

At Second Coming, angels take unbelievers out of the world. Matt. 13:41, 49

**Distinction #3** - At the Rapture, believers are taken from the earth and unbelievers are left on the earth. I Thess. 4:17

At the Second Coming, believers are left on the earth and unbelievers are taken from the earth. Matt. 13:41-42, 49-50

**Distinction #4** - At the Rapture, Christ comes to rescue His Church before Tribulation.

Rev. 3:10; I Thess. 1:10; 5:9

At Second Coming, Christ comes to judge all after the Tribulation.

Matt. 24:29-30

**Distinction #5** - Before the Rapture, there are no specific signs. Rev. 3:11; 22:20; Phil. 3:20

Before the Second Coming, there are very specific signs. Matt. 24:3-29;

Rev. 6-19

**Distinction #6** - At the Rapture, there is a resurrection of the “in Christ” dead before the Tribulation. I Thess. 4:16-18

At the Second Coming, there is a resurrection of Israel’s righteous dead after the Tribulation. Dan. 12:1-2

Dr. Thomas Ice wrote an article called *Differences Between the Rapture and the Second Coming*. He said this was a key reason why he concluded that the Rapture was very distinct from the Second Coming. He listed 13 contrasts:

- 1) **Rapture** features translation of all believers; **Second Coming** features no translation at all.
- 2) **Raptured** Saints go to heaven; **Second Coming** raptured Saints come back to earth.
- 3) **Rapture** earth is not judged so righteousness reigns; **Second Coming** earth judged Righteousness reigns.
- 4) **Rapture** is imminent, signless, at any moment; **Second Coming** follows definite predicted signs.
- 5) **Rapture** not in the Old Testament; **Second Coming** predicted all throughout Old Testament.
- 6) **Rapture** is for believers only; **Second Coming** will affect all people - believer, unbeliever.
- 7) **Rapture** is before the Day of Wrath; **Second Coming** concludes the Day of Wrath.
- 8) **Rapture** has no reference to binding Satan; **Second Coming** Satan is bound.
- 9) **Rapture** Christ comes for His own; **Second Coming** Christ comes with His own.
- 10) **Rapture** Christ comes in the air; **Second Coming** He comes to the earth.
- 11) **Rapture** Christ comes to claim His bride; **Second Coming** He comes with His bride.
- 12) **Rapture** only His own see Him; **Second Coming** every eye shall see Him.
- 13) **Rapture** begins the Tribulation; **Second Coming** begins the Millennium.

**Rapture Passages:** John 14:1-3; Rom. 8:19; I Cor. 1:7-8; 15:51-53; 16:22; Phil. 3:20-21; 4:5; Col. 3:4; I Thess. 1:10; 2:19; 4:13-18; 5:9; 5:23; II Thess. 2:1, 3; I Tim. 6:14; II Tim. 4:1,8; Titus 2:13; Heb. 9:28; James 5:7-9; I Pet. 1:7, 13; 5:4; I John 2:28-3:2; Rev. 2:25; 3:10; 22:7, 12, 20

**Second Coming Passages:** Dan. 2:44-45; 7:9-14; 12:1-3; Zech. 12:10; 14:1-15; Matt. 13:41; 24:15-31; 26:64; Mark 13:14-27; 14:62; Luke 21:25-28; Acts 1:9-11; 3:19-21; I Thess. 3:13; II Thess. 1:6-10; 2:8; I Pet. 4:12-13; II Pet. 3:1-14; Jude 14-15; Rev. 1:7; 19:11-20:6