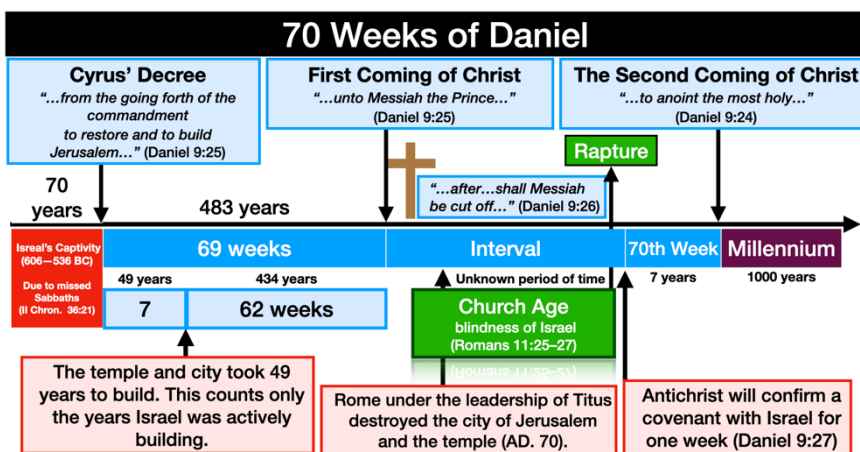


# The Rapture of the Church

## (I Thessalonians 4:13–18)

Although The word rapture is not found in the Scripture, it is commonly used in reference to the phrase in I Thessalonians 4:17, “caught up.” This phrase is translated from the Greek word *harpázō*, which means, “To seize upon, spoil, snatch away.” When we refer to the rapture of the church, we are referring to a time when Jesus Christ comes back to “snatch up” those in Christ, marking the end of the church age. The Old Testament saints will be resurrected at the end of the Great Tribulation (Dan. 12:1–3).

- I. The church age is a period of \_\_\_\_\_ duration that occurs before the Tribulation week or also known as the Seventieth Week of Daniel’s prophecy (Dan. 9:24–27).



- A. A week is a period divided into \_\_\_\_\_, whether that be seven days or seven years. 70 weeks equals 490 years (70 X 7).
- B. This 70-week period was a time where \_\_\_\_\_ would be under gentile dominion known as the “times of the gentiles.” (Luke 21:24).

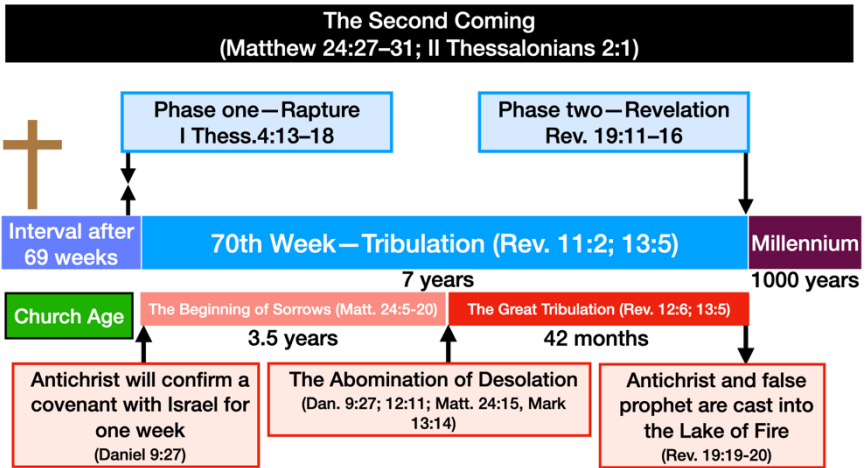
1. The first period of 49 years (7 weeks) is from Cyrus' decree for Israel to return to Israel from Babylon to when Nehemiah completed the wall around Jerusalem (Isa. 44:28-45:4; Dan. 9:25).
2. The second period of 434 years (62 weeks) was from the completion of the walls of Jerusalem to the birth of Jesus Christ the Messiah (Daniel 9:25).
3. The Lord placed an interval before the 70<sup>th</sup> week, where Messiah the prince would be cut off (Isa. 53:8; I Jo. 2:2). God chose the church to carry on the plan of reaching the world with the Gospel until the fulness of the Gentiles is come in (Rom. 11:12–26).
4. The 70<sup>th</sup> week will begin with the antichrist signing a covenant with Israel for 7 years (Dan. 9:27).

C. The times of the gentiles would be ruled by \_\_\_\_\_ world empires.

Kingdoms	The Great Image (Dan. 2:1–45)	The Great Beasts (Dan.7:1–28)	Ram and Rough goat (Dan. 8:1–28)
Babylonian	Head of fine gold (Dan. 2:32a; 37–38)	Like a lion with eagle's wings (Dan. 7:4)	
Medo-Persian	Chest and arms of silver (Daniel 2:32b; 39a; 5:28, 31)	Like a bear (Daniel 7:5)	Ram with two horns (Daniel 8:3–4, 20)
Greece	Belly and thighs of bronze (Daniel 2:32c; 39b)	Like a leopard with four wings and four heads (Daniel 7:6)	Male goat with one great horn, four horns and little horn (Daniel 8:5, 21–26)

Fourth Kingdom	Legs of iron, feet of iron and clay (Daniel 2:33; 40-43)	Incomparable beast with ten horns and little horn (Daniel 7:7, 19-21-26)	
Kingdom of Heaven	Stone that becomes a great mountain (Daniel 2:34-36; 44-45)	Messiah and saints receive the kingdom (Daniel 7:9-14, 18)	

II. The rapture is the \_\_\_\_\_ phase of Christ’s Second coming.



A. The church will be ‘caught up’ \_\_\_\_\_ the 70<sup>TH</sup> week or is to be fulfilled.

B. The church will be \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ when He returns at His revelation (Rev. 19:11-16).

### III. Passages and their teaching about the rapture.

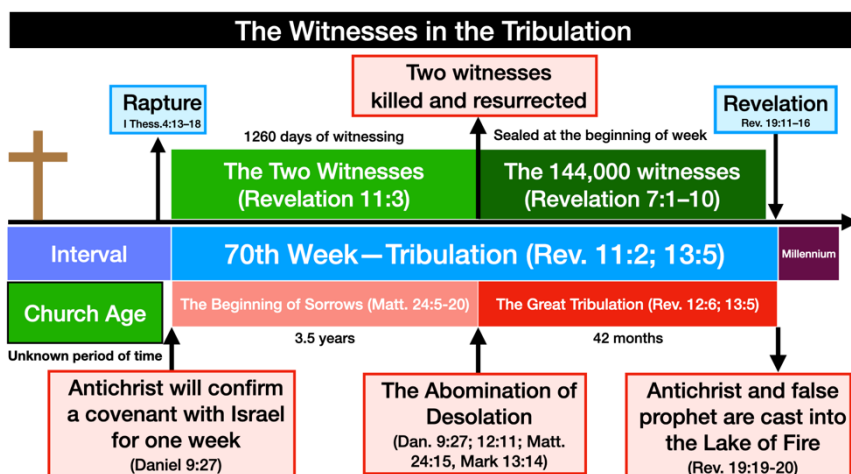
Passage	Theme	Description
John 14:1–6	The _____ of the rapture	Jesus comes back for His bride.
Phil. 3:20–21	The _____ of the rapture	We will receive a glorious body.
I Cor. 15:49–56	The _____ of the rapture	We will put on immortality.
I John 3:1–2	The _____ of the Rapture	We will be like Christ.
I Thess. 4:13–18	The _____ in the rapture	We will be comforted.
Eph. 1:12–14	The _____ of the rapture	The redemptive process will be completed in its final stage.
Rom. 8:15, 23; Gal. 4:5	The _____ In the rapture	The adoption process will be completed.

### IV. Biblical evidence for the pretribulation rapture

- Some want you to believe that the rapture will occur either in the middle of the tribulation or even at the end of the tribulation. We believe it is before the tribulation for the following reasons.
  - A. The Tribulation is a time of God's \_\_\_\_\_. Church age believers are promised salvation from wrath (I Thess. 1:9–10; 5:1–10; Rom 5:9; Rev 3:10).
    1. The whole \_\_\_\_\_ will experience wrath during the tribulation (Psa. 110:5; Isa. 13:6–13; Rev. 6:16–17).

2. The persecution of the church age is when the ungodly are used by the devil to hurt the children of God; the day of wrath is a time where God himself pours His wrath upon mankind (Rev. 6:16–17; Rev 14:10).
  3. \_\_\_\_\_ on the earth will be overcome by God's wrath (Rev. 13:7; Luke 21:25).
  4. Church age believers \_\_\_\_\_ be removed from the earth to escape the day of wrath (Rev. 3:10).
- B. The \_\_\_\_\_ will be removed before the tribulation can occur (II Thess. 2:1–8).
1. The Holy Spirit is the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin (Gen. 6:3; Isa. 59:19).
  2. The Holy Spirit came into the world in His present dispensation at \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2).
  3. The Holy Spirit will \_\_\_\_\_ His restraining influence when He removes the church at the end of the church age (Rom 8:26; I Tim 2:1–2).
- C. The rapture is \_\_\_\_\_—meaning it could happen at any moment (Luke 21:21–24; Mark 13:33; Phil. 4:5; Titus 2:12–14; James 5:8; I Peter 4:7; I Thess.1:9–10).
1. If the church will be in the tribulation, there is no imminent return of Christ. We will know that He will return seven years after the antichrist covenants with Israel (Dan. 9:25).

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ church lived in expectation of Christ's return.
- D. The church is a \_\_\_\_\_, unknown to the Old Testament saints (Eph. 3:1–11). The church has no place in the events foretold by the prophets.
- E. The church would have no \_\_\_\_\_ in the tribulation.



1. God uses the \_\_\_\_\_ witnesses during the first half of the tribulation (Rev. 11:3).
  2. God uses the 144,000 \_\_\_\_\_ witnesses to reach out with the Gospel during the last half of the tribulation (Rev. 7:1–10).
- F. The 70 weeks of Daniel's prophecy, especially the 70<sup>th</sup> are specific towards \_\_\_\_\_.

1. The angel told Daniel that “seventy weeks are determined upon thy \_\_\_\_\_ and upon thy \_\_\_\_\_...” (Dan. 9:24).
  2. The tribulation is referred to as \_\_\_\_\_ trouble (Jer. 30:7).
- G. The Book of \_\_\_\_\_ shows that the church is not on earth during the tribulation. It is not mentioned or inferred to at all after Revelation chapter 5.