

The Truth about the Secret Rapture

Adapted from Material by Jac Colon & Personal Study

I. The Secret Rapture Theory

- A. Christ's Return is Separated into Two Events
 - 1. Rapture of the Church
 - 2. Glorious Coming to Destroy Antichrist
 - 3. Tribulation for Israel Between the Two
- B. The Rapture of the Church
 - 1. Church is Caught up to heaven
 - 2. Wicked remain on earth for 2nd chance
- C. The Tribulation
 - 1. 3 ½ or 7 years duration
 - 2. Temple is Rebuilt (sacrifices)
 - 3. Jews Evangelize the world
 - 4. The Antichrist Appears
 - 5. Persecution of the believers
- D. The Revelation
 - 1. Glorious 2nd coming of Christ
 - 2. Follows the Tribulation
 - 3. Destruction of the Antichrist
 - 4. God's Kingdom Established

II. Rapture: A Word Study

- A. The word Rapture is not found in the Bible
- B. The Greek Word that Applies to the Rapture is Παρουσια (Parousia) which means Coming
- C. Words that Apply to the Revelation
 - 1. Αποκαλιπσις (Apokalypsis) means Revelation
 - 2. Επιφηνια (Epiphinai) means Appearing

III. Parousia- Παρουσια Means Coming

- A. Jesus said, "A Visible Event"
"For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming (Parousia) of the Son of Man." Matthew 24:27
- B. Destruction of the Wicked
"The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night... While people are saying, 'Peace and safety,' destruction will come on them suddenly. 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3
- C. Destruction of the Antichrist
"And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming (Parousia)." Thessalonians 2:8
- D. Is a Visible Glorious Event, not Secret!
- E. Results in Destruction of the Wicked

- F. Results in Destruction of the Antichrist.
- G. Must be at the end of the world, not 7 years before.

IV. Apokalypsis-Αποκαλιπσις Means Revelation

- A. Commonly taught to occur at the end of the Tribulation when the church is gone.
- B. If so, this would mean Apokalypsis is not the blessed hope for the church.
 - 1. This Creates a Problem...
"Therefore you (the church)... eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. (Apokalypsis)." 1 Corinthians 1:7
 - 2. The Church Relieved at the Apokalypsis
"God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you (the church) who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed (Apokalypsis) from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels." 2 Thess. 1:6-7
- C. Is the Blessed Hope of the Church!
- D. Applies to Jesus coming for His Church.
- E. Does not apply to Jesus coming for the Jews, seven years after he comes for the church

V. Epiphania- Επιφηνια Means Appearing

- A. Taught to occur after the Tribulation...
- B. The church would not be present...
- C. If so, this would mean Epiphania does not apply to the church.
- D. This Creates a Problem...
The Church Awaits the Epiphania
"To keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing (Epiphania) of our Lord Jesus Christ," 1 Timothy 6:14
- E. Epiphania- Blessed Hope of the Church
"While we wait for the blessed hope -- the glorious appearing (Epiphania) of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good." Titus 2:13-14

VI. Conclusion: The New Testament makes no distinction between:

- A. Parousia
- B. Apokalypsis
- C. Epiphania

VII. How did the Secret Rapture Theory Originate?

"Then the lawless one will be revealed (Epiphania), whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming (Parousia)." 2 Thess 2:8

VIII. Counter Reformation

- A. Ribera (1585)
 - 1. Spanish Jesuit developed Futurism
 - 2. All Revelation applies to End Time, not History
- B. LaCunza (1801)
 - 1. Jesuit Priest
 - 2. Pen Name: Rabi Ben Ezra
 - 3. Futurist Elements: Antichrist

IX. Transition to Protestantism

- A. Edward Irving (1826)
 - 1. Translated Lacunza's Works
 - 2. Thought he was Jewish, not Catholic
- B. R. Maitland (1826)
 - 1. First Protestant to adopt Futurist approach
 - 2. Personal Antichrist
 - 3. 1/2 years of Tribulation

X. The Pre-tribulation Rapture

- A. Originated from a message given in tongues by Margaret McDonald.
- B. First Taught by John Darby (1827) Plymouth Brethren of England
- C. Put the Rapture, before the Tribulation
- D. Was made possible by the distinction of Israel and the church.

XI. Futurism in America

- A. John Darby (1859)
- B. The Schofield Reference Bible (1917)
- C. John Wolvord- Dean of Dallas Baptist Theological Seminary
- D. Hal Lindsey-Popularized futurist approach
- E. Dakes and Ryrie Reference Bible
- F. Left Behind Books and Film by Tim LaHay.

XII. Dispensationalism Essential to Futurism

- A. If the church is raptured before the tribulation, and God deals with Israel during the tribulation, then God treats Israel and the Church differently.

- B. Results in the separation of Israel from the church.
- C. That would mean two different covenants. One for Israel and one for the church

XIII. Root Problem with the Rapture

- A. Rejecting the Sabbath leads to faulty understanding of Israel
- B. The Distinction between Israel and the Church leads to the belief that the Church will be taken from the earth before the beginning of the tribulation (which in one major sense concerns Israel." C. C. Ryrie, *Dispensationalism Today*, p159

XIV. The Seventy Weeks

- A. Seventy Weeks of Probation for Israel (Daniel 9)
- B. The Seventieth Week points to Christ beginning his ministry and his crucifixion.
- C. The Gap Theory
 - 1. Antichrist Replaces Christ in the Prophecy
 - 2. 70 weeks + 2000 yrs + 1 week = 70 wks?
 - 3. Separates the Church from Israel

XV. The Church and Tribulation

- A. Revelation Reveals that not only Jews but also those from Every Nation go through the Tribulation.
- B. Before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language... "Who are they, and where did they come from?" These are they who have come out of the great tribulation. Revelation 7:9-14

XVI. Jesus Warned the Church about the Tribulation

- A. *They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God...*
- B. *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble (tribulation KJV). But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:2, 33*
- C. God Does Not Have to Take us out of the World to Protect Us
You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. Psalm 91:5-8
- D. God is Able to Protect Us
"He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. Psalm 91:2-4