

# “The Rapture”

October 12, 2011

1 Thess. 4:16-18 (NIV)

The word **rapture** comes from the Latin translation of the Greek word “harpazo.” Latin translation “raptus.”

## Four Views of the Rapture

1. **Amillennialists** believe that God's promises regarding the end times are figurative and will not be literally fulfilled, particularly the 1000 year reign of Jesus Christ on the earth.

**Pre-millennialists believe that Jesus Christ  
will return to the earth prior to His literal reign  
on the earth for 1000 years.**

**Three groups of pre-millennialists include the following:**

2. **Post-tribulationists** believe that the rapture will not occur until the end of the seven year tribulation, just prior to the beginning of the millennial kingdom.

3. **Mid-tribulationists** believe that the rapture will occur three and one half years into the tribulation, at beginning of the three and one half year great tribulation.

4. **Pre-tribulationists** believe that the rapture will occur prior to the seven year tribulation, but not necessarily immediately before the tribulation.

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Why I believe in a Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church.

1. The Rapture of the Church and the Second Return of Christ to the earth are two separate events, though often confused as one simultaneous event.
  - a. The Rapture of the Church  
(1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, 1 Corinthians 15:51-53)
  - b. The Second Return of Christ  
(Matt. 25:31-34, Jude 1:14)
2. When Christ Returns to the Earth He Will Return From a Wedding.  
(Luke 12:36, Rev. 19:7-14)
3. Who are the people of the Millenium?
4. Israel is the focus of the last seven years, not the church.  
(Dan. 9:24, Jeremiah 30:7-11, Rev. 4:1, Rev. 7:3-8, Rev. 11:7&8, Rev. 12:6)
5. The Holy Spirit is taken out of the world 3 ½ years into the Tribulation.  
(2 Thessalonians 2:7)
6. God refers to Noah and Lot as examples of the rapture.  
(Luke 17:26-36)
7. Luke 21:34-36

