



The Rapture

The Five Major Positions

Hermeneutics

Definition: The art or science of the interpretation of literature, any and all literature.

- The Hermeneutic that we use is the:
HISTORICAL – GRAMMATICAL – LITERAL to interpret the word of God.

Hermeneutics

- **Historical** because the Bible was originally written 2000 years ago and more.
- **Grammatical**: because the Bible was in fact given to us in a written form...using language; grammatics.
- **Literal**: because the Lord God has chosen the written word to speak to us and to tell us what he has to say.

The 5 Major Rapture Positions (Theories)

1. Pre-Tribulation Rapture
2. Mid-Tribulation Rapture
3. Post-Tribulation Rapture
4. Partial Rapture (happens throughout)
5. Pre-Wrath Rapture (between the 6th & 7th Seal)

Partial Rapture

Really nothing to do with the time of the rapture but with the individuals who are raptured.

- This position, simply put is that not all believers will be taken at the rapture of the church; only those who *are faithfully “watching & waiting.”* Those who have achieved a certain degree of spiritual ability that makes them more worthy.

Partial Rapture

Based, in part, on the following Scripture passages.

- **Hebrews 9:28** So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and **unto them that look for him** shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.
- **2 Tim. 4:8** Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto **all them also that love his appearing.**

Partial Rapture

Based, in part, on the following Scripture passages.

- **Luke 21:36** Watch ye therefore, and pray always, **that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things** that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.
- **Philippians 3:20-21** For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also **we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:**
²¹ Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Partial Rapture

The Scriptural difficulties

1. This position is based upon a complete misunderstanding of the **VALUE** of the suffering; shed blood and death of Jesus Christ on the Cross at Calvary.
 - The suffering and death of Jesus Christ on the cross frees every sinner that will come to him by grace through faith. (**John 3:16**)
 - The sinner is justified, completely righteous hidden in Christ Jesus; and completely accepted by God the Father in heaven. (Rom. 3:28 - Rom 5:1 – 1 Cor. 6:11 - Gal. 2:16)

Partial Rapture

The Scriptural difficulties

2. **The partial rapture position denies the Unity of the body of Jesus Christ.**
 - **1 Cor. 12:12-13** For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ.
¹³ For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.
 - **Eph. 5:30** For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

Partial Rapture

The Scriptural difficulties

3. The partial rapture position denies the literal interpretation of the Word of God.

1 Thes. 4:16-17 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Partial Rapture

The Scriptural Difficulties

3. The partial rapture position denies any distinction between the Nation of Israel and the Church (The body of Christ)
 - If you'll look back at your notes from Part 2 of this study we pointed out 25 differences that cannot be ignored.
4. The partial rapture position confuses the distinctions between the Law and Grace.
 - If a believer is raptured because of his or her works; then they are basically saying it's the law and works instead of the grace of our Lord God almighty.

Mid-Trib Rapture

The church will be raptured at the end of the first 3 ½ years of the 7 year tribulation.

- Those that hold this position say that the church will have to endure the first half of the tribulation period, but is raptured right before the 2nd half begins.
- They teach that the 2nd half is actually the wrath of God being poured out.
- The rapture is to occur at the sounding of the 7th (final trumpet) and the resurrection of the two witnesses in Rev.

Mid-Trib Rapture

Based, in part, on the following scriptures

- They hold this position because they say that Jesus promised the true believer tribulation.
- **John 16:33** These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.
- **Romans 5:3** And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; ⁴ And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

Mid-Trib Rapture

The Scriptural Difficulties

- The mid-trib position denies the differences between the Nation of Israel and the Church.
- They also rest on the position that the tribulation is really two separate things: the 1st part and a completely separate 2nd part.
- The mid-trib position denies the doctrine of Imminence
- The mid-trib position must also use a non-literal interpretation. They must spiritualize the text to get the position they hold.
- They also deny the nature of the seals and the trumpets, Revelation 6 thru 10.

Mid-Trib Rapture

The Scriptural Difficulties

- The mid-trib position confuses the identity of the Last Trumpet.
- They argue that the 7th trumpet in Rev. 11 is the Last Trumpet of 1 Cor. 15:52 & 1 Thes. 4:16.
- The trumpet in 1 Cor & 1 Thes. Summons the church and it is called the Trump of God.
- The trumpet for the church is singular. No trumpets have preceded it...the 7th trumpet in Revelation has 6 preceding it.
- The trumpet in 1 Thes. Issues a blessing while the trumpet in Rev issues a call to judgment upon the enemies of God.

Mid-Trib Rapture

The Scriptural Difficulties

- The trumpet in 1 Thesslonians is clearly, unmistakably, for the Church, the body of Jesus Christ.
- While the trumpet in Rev. 11 is clearly, unmistakably, to call for judgment upon the inhabitants of the earth...

Pre-Wrath Rapture

With a few differences this position is pretty much the same as the mid-trib position