



The Rapture & The Advent (Return) of Jesus Christ

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, 1 Corinthians 15:51-53
& Revelation 19:11-20**

The Rapture

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

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.

¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

The Rapture

1 Corinthians 15:51-53

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² **In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.** ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

The Return of Jesus

Revelation 19:11-20

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. ¹² His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. ¹³ And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

The Return of Jesus

Revelation 19:11-20

¹⁷ And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, *Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;* ¹⁸ *That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.* ¹⁹ *And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.* ²⁰ *And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

Differences between the Rapture & The second coming (Advent) of Jesus Christ

› **RAPTURE**

- Includes the removal of all true believers.
- Believers meet Jesus in the air
- Jesus comes to claim his bride
- The results are the church taken to heaven & the tribulation begins after that

› **RETURN OF JESUS (ADVENT)**

- No removal of any believers
- Believers return with Jesus, the armies of heaven.
- Jesus returns with his bride
- Results in the establishment of Jesus Christ's millennial kingdom

Differences between the Rapture & The second coming (Advent) of Jesus Christ

› **RAPTURE**

- The rapture is imminent meaning at any moment
- The rapture is to be a comfort to the church
- God's program for the church
- The Church and the rapture were a mystery

› **RETURN OF JESUS (ADVENT)**

- The second coming is preceded by a multitude of signs that people should be looking for
- The second coming is accompanied with death and judgment
- God's program for Israel and the unbelieving world
- The Second coming was predicted in both the Old & New Testaments

Differences between the Rapture & The second coming (Advent) of Jesus Christ

› **RAPTURE**

- Believers are judged at the Bema Seat (2 Cor. 5:10)
- Leaves creation unchanged
- Israel's covenants are still unfulfilled
- For believers only

› **RETURN OF JESUS (ADVENT)**

- Israel and the Gentile nations are judged
- A huge change in creation: the Ox will lie down (dwell) with the lamb etc.
- All of Israel's covenants are fulfilled
- Has an effect on all of mankind

Differences between the Rapture & The second coming (Advent) of Jesus Christ

RAPTURE

- The church is taken into the Lord's presence and into Heaven
- Time of Joy and Blessing
- The example in God's Word is Lot

RETURN OF JESUS (ADVENT)

- Israel is taken into the Kingdom of God here on earth, The Millennial reign of Jesus Christ
- Time of judgment, death and mourning (Zech 12:10)
- The example in God's word is Noah

Distinctions (differences) between the Church & Israel

› **CHURCH**

- 1/5 of the Bible
- Divine purpose: heavenly promises in the gospel
- Spiritual seed of Abraham
- Spiritual birth produces relationship
- Headship: Jesus Christ

› **ISRAEL**

- 4/5 of the Bible
- Earthy promises in the covenants
- Physical seed of Abraham
- Birth: physical birth produces relationship
- Headship: Father Abraham

Distinctions (differences) between the Church & Israel

› **CHURCH**

- Covenants: indirectly related to the Abrahamic covenant and the New Covenant
- Nationality: from all nations
- Ministry: the Great Commission
- Dispensations: seen only in this present age
- Death of Christ: saved by his death and resurrection

› **ISRAEL**

- Covenants: Abrahamic covenant and all the following covenants
- Nationality: One nation
- Ministry: No mission: no gospel to preach; no missionary activity
- Dispensations; seen in all ages from Abraham
- Death of Christ: guilty nationally, rejected and crucified

Distinctions (differences) between the Church & Israel

› CHURCH

- Jesus Christ: Savior, Lord, Bridegroom, Head
- Holy Spirit: indwells every true believer...forever.
- Governing principle: Grace
- Farewell discourse: upper room discourse
- Promised return: to receive us to Himself

› ISRAEL

- Jesus Christ: Messiah (rejected) Immanuel, King
- Holy Spirit: came upon individuals only temporarily...
- Governing principle: Mosaic Covenant: the Law.
- Farewell discourse: Olivet discourse
- Promised to return: in power and glory for judgment

Distinctions (differences) between the Church & Israel

› **CHURCH**

- Position: members of Jesus' body
- Jesus' earthly reign: We reign with him
- Priesthood: is a priesthood
- Marriage: Bride
- God's judgment: delivered from all judgments

› **ISRAEL**

- Position: servants of the Lord
- Jesus' earthly reign: his subjects
- Priesthood: only had a priesthood
- Marriage: unfaithful wife
- God's Judgment: facing God's judgment

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The Seven Dispensations

