

## QUESTION: Where does the "rapture" fit into Matthew 24?

**ANSWER:** The Rapture has already taken place when these events of Matthew 24 take place, and the CHURCH is in heaven at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. The church or Bride of Christ will NOT have to go through the Great Tribulation, because that is a time of TESTING and pouring out of God's WRATH on a sinful world. God will not pour out His wrath on His Bride!

- **Rev. 19:6-9** "And I heard, as it were, the voice of a GREAT MULTITUDE ....saying, "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the **marriage of the Lamb** has come, and **His wife has made herself ready**. And to her (the bride) it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, CLEAN and BRIGHT (WHITE), for the FINE LINEN is the RIGHTEOUSNESS of the SAINTS.....Blessed are those who are called to the MARRIAGE SUPPER of the LAMB."
- **Eph. 5:27 & 30-32** "That He might present it to Himself a GLORIOUS CHURCH, not having spot or wrinkle..... For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and **be JOINED to his wife**, and the two shall become one flesh. **This is a great MYSTERY, but I speak concerning CHRIST and the CHURCH.**"
- **Rev. 3:10** "Because you have kept the word of My patience, **I also will KEEP YOU FROM the hour of TESTING**, which shall come upon ALL the WORLD, to test them that dwell upon the earth."
- **I Thess. 1:10** "And to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even **Jesus, which DELIVERED US FROM the WRATH to COME.**"

Jesus was answering the Disciples' question, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the **SIGN of Your coming**, and of the **END of the AGE?**" (Verse 3) He was speaking to the JEWS, and their question concerned the Temple in Jerusalem. In Matthew 24, Jesus is **telling the JEWS about what will happen to the JEWS and their TEMPLE** in the LAST DAYS (vs. 16 "then let **those who are IN JUDEA** flee to the mountains...."). Many people get confused when reading the Bible, because they do not distinguish between ISRAEL and the CHURCH. There are prophecies that concern Israel, and there are prophecies that concern the Church of Jesus Christ, and these two are NOT the same!

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ at the END of the seven-year Great Tribulation will be VISIBLE (the "sign" of His coming). The Rapture is when we, the Believers in Christ, are CAUGHT UP to meet Jesus in the clouds at His SECRET coming for His church. The Rapture is NOT the same as His VERY VISIBLE Second Coming on the Mount of Olives with all His armies of saints and angels with Him (we will be COMING BACK WITH Jesus then). The Rapture and the Second Coming at the "end of the age" are TWO SEPARATE EVENTS.

### **RAPTURE - His coming FOR the saints:**

- **I Thessaonians 4:16-17** "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first (Christians who have died will be RESURRECTED). Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up (taken up) together with them **in the CLOUDS** to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall ALWAYS BE WITH the Lord."

### **SECOND COMING - His coming WITH the saints:**

- Matthew 24:31 "Then shall **APPEAR the SIGN of the Son of Man** in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth MOURN, and **they shall SEE the Son of Man coming** in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."
- **Zechariah 14:1-5** "...and I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle..... Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations.... and **His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives**, which is before Jerusalem.....and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof.....and the Lord my God shall come, and **ALL the SAINTS WITH THEE.**"
- **I Thessalonians 3:13** "....at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ **WITH ALL HIS SAINTS.**"

**Please also read Second Coming of Jesus.**