

Questions About The Rapture

- 1) Isn't the pre-Tribulation Rapture view a recent invention?
 - a) The Claim
 - i) One of the constant charges leveled against the pre-Tribulation Rapture is that it can't be right because it only came into being around 1820 through the ministry and teaching of a Brethren preacher named J.N. Darby.
 - b) What History Reveals
 - i) Apart from what we've already be studying, seeing the pre-Tribulation rapture taught in the Bible, let's look into church history.
 - ii) A clear statement of the pre-Tribulation Rapture position can be found written by Pseudo- Ephraem (306 - 373). His sermon written in tract form is entitled, "On the Last Times, the Antichrist, and the End of the World." In it he states...
 - (1) "We ought to understand thoroughly therefore, my brothers, what is imminent or overhanging.... For all the saints and elect of God are gathered, prior to the tribulation that is to come, and are taken to the Lord lest they see the confusion that is to overwhelm the world because of our sins..."
- 2) Can those who hear and reject the Gospel before the Rapture be saved during the Tribulation? (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12)
- 3) What will happen to babies and young children at the Rapture? (2 Samuel 12:20-23; 1 Corinthians 7:14)
- 4) Is it ever right to set a date for the Rapture? (Matthew 24:42, 44; 25:13; Acts 1:7)

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6) Are paradise and heaven the same place (1 Thess. 4:16 vs. Luke 23:43)

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Conclusion: Until the Rapture happens...

- Q: What difference does it make? A: God gave prophecy to change our hearts, not to fill our head with knowledge. God never predicted future events just to satisfy our curiosity about the future. Every time God announces events that are future, he includes with His prediction practical applications to life. God's pronouncements about the future carry with them specific advice for the 'here and now.' Charles Dyer, *World News and Bible Prophecy* (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, 1995), pg. 270

- a) The Rapture Has a Converting Influence on Seeking Hearts
- b) The Rapture Has a Caring Influence on Soul-Winning Hearts
- c) The Rapture Has a Cleansing Influence on Sinning Hearts
- d) The Rapture Has a Calming Influence on Stirred Hearts
- e) The Rapture Has a Controlling Influence on Serving Hearts
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- i) __% of the Bible was prophecy at the time it was written.
- ii) We can't understand the Bible without know at least the basics of _____. And the Rapture is a central cog in God's end-time program.
- iii) Understanding the Rapture gives clarity to our Bible _____ and clarity about what's going on _____ us in these turbulent, chaotic times.

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