

## *The Israel of God Bible Study Class*

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(773) 374-6413 or (800) 96-BIBLE

### WILL THERE BE A RAPTURE?

*(ST. MATTHEW 24:40-44)* "Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this that if the Goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

This is one of the places in the Bible people use to support the teaching of a Rapture. If such an event is to take place, why doesn't the word **Rapture** appear in the Bible? People have accepted this **myth** for a very long time. Also, the religious teachers have perpetuated this myth for just as long. Why do I refer to the **Rapture** as being a **myth**? This is good question, and we will answer that question in the following paragraphs.

All of the Prophets, even David, a man after the Lords' own heart does not speak of a rapture, but instead discusses the wilderness (the place of safety during the Great Tribulation) which is right here on the earth. Exactly what does Rapture mean anyway? ("Ecstasy, Intense Spiritual or Emotional Ecstasy") *Webster's Dictionary*

This doesn't sound anything like what the preachers preach in the churches. What does ecstasy have to do with going to heaven? Yet still, people say that they're going to be raptured off to heaven before the Great Tribulation. And they use scriptures such as *(St. Matthew 24: 40-42)* "Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." To support their claim, if you go back and start reading this same scripture at the 15<sup>th</sup> verse and continue down to the 31<sup>st</sup> verse, skip down to the 36<sup>th</sup> verse and continue down to the 42<sup>nd</sup> verse, you will see that this happens after the tribulation and there is no mention of going to heaven said here. Jesus said with his own mouth *(St. John 3:13)* " And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man

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which is in heaven." Also, (*St. John 7: 33-34*) " Then said Jesus unto them, **Yet a little while am I with you, and then I go unto him that sent me. Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither: ye cannot come.**" Another scripture they use is (*St. John 14:1-3*) " *Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*" Why do they, when using this scripture, always leave out the part, or ignore, that Jesus said, "I will come again"? Come again to the earth to receive you to myself.

Paul, in the book of Hebrews gave us clarity on this, (*Hebrews 11:13-16*) " These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that *country* from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better *country*, that is, a heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city. Also, the Apostle John added to this, (*Revelation 21:1-2 & 10*) "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea." And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband and he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God."

Another scripture used is, (*1 Thessalonians 4:13-17*) "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 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: Then we which are alive *and* remain

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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."

We see here that the Lord is steadily descending from heaven coming to the earth. We have people meeting him in the clouds and in the air. This is the dead in Christ rising first and then, them that are left alive being taken. Now that we're in the clouds and in the air with the Lord, where do we go from here? Let's let Zechariah tell us, (*Zechariah 14:1-5*) "Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which *is* before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, *and there shall be* a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south **and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.**"

All over the Book, we see Jesus coming to the earth. Nowhere do we see where he's going to take man to heaven.

(*Acts 1:1-12*) "The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: To whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but **wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.** When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, "**It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put**

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in his own power." But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven?" this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a Sabbath day's journey."

Why is Jesus so determined to return to the earth? (*Psalm 132:13-18*) "For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired *it* for his habitation. This *is* my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it. I will abundantly bless her provision: I will satisfy her poor with bread. I will also clothe her priests with salvation: and her saints shall shout aloud for joy. There will I make the horn of David to bud: I have ordained a lamp for mine anointed. His enemies' will I clothe with shame: but upon himself shall his crown flourish."

(*2Timothy 4:1-5*) "I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, **make full proof of thy ministry.**"

Now let us proceed to making full proof of our ministry. Jesus is the **God**, who took sweet counsel with **God**, and spoke unto man all of what God wanted man to know and do. Jesus is the God who inspired the writings of the Prophets in the Old Testament. And Jesus said through the prophet Amos, (*Amos 3:7*) "Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets."

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Nowhere in the Old Testament from Genesis to Malachi will you find reference to a **Rapture**.

In fact all of the prophets spoke of the Kingdom and all things pertaining to the Kingdom being here on earth. Now if God is going to take his faithful (church) to heaven before the Great Tribulation to protect them and keep them away from Armageddon, then surely the prophets would have told us of this event. Instead the prophets tell us (*Isaiah 45:11-12 & 18*) "Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me. I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, *even* my hands, have stretched out the heavens and all their host have I commanded. For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; "God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, and he formed it to be inhabited: I *am* the LORD; and *there is* none else."

God so much intended for man to inhabit the earth that he made man of the earth!

(*Genesis 2:4-7*) "These *are* the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and *there was* not a man to till the ground. But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground. And the LORD God **formed man of the dust of the ground**, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

After man was created from the earth and multiplied upon the face of the earth, God chose the children of Israel to be a Kingdom of Priest unto him. To declare his Laws and Statutes to the rest of the sons of Adam. (*Exodus 19:3-6*) " And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and *how* I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth *is*

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mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation. These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel."

(Amos 2:11) "And I raised up of your sons for prophets, and of your young men for Nazarites." *Is it* not even thus, O ye children of Israel? saith the LORD."

Jesus spoke by Moses and had him to tell the children of Israel (Deuteronomy 27-31 & 39-40) "And the LORD shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the LORD shall lead you. And there ye shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell. But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find *him*, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul. When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; (For the LORD thy God *is* a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them. Know therefore this day, and consider *it* in thine heart, that the LORD he *is* God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: *there is* none else. Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes, and his commandments, which I command thee this day, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong *thy* days upon the **earth**, which the LORD thy God **giveth thee, for ever.**"

Remember, the children of Israel are the Priests of the Most High God his plan is to scatter them among the nations where they will be forced to serve false gods and digest false doctrine; insomuch, as they will demand of their teachers to tell them smooth things and to prophecy deceits. This will lead them into tribulation, even in the latter days. Even so, the Lord said that for those who seek him, no matter where they may find themselves and be obedient unto his voice, he would not forsake them. He would then prolong their days upon the earth. The Lord did not state he would take man to Heaven to save him from Tribulation.

The Prophet Zephaniah speaks of the Day of the Lord and a time of trouble, but says nothing of the Lord taking you to heaven to avoid it. (Zephaniah 1:14-18) "The great day of the LORD *is*

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near, *it is* near, and hasteth greatly, *even* the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day *is* a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land."

(*Zephaniah 2:1-3*) "Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired; Before the decree bring forth, *before* the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD come upon you, before the day of the LORD'S anger come upon you. Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be **hid** in the day of the LORD'S anger."

Zephaniah speaks of possibly being hid from the Lords anger; let's see where he's talking about being hid at.

(*Hosea 2:14-23*) "Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her. And I will give her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Anchor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt. And it shall be at that day, saith the LORD, "*that* thou shalt call me Ishi; and shalt call me no more Baali. For I will take away the names of Baalim out of her mouth, and they shall no more be remembered by their name. And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and *with* the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely. And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in loving-kindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD. And it shall come

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to pass in that day, I will hear, saith the LORD, I will hear the heavens, and they shall hear the earth; and the earth shall hear the corn, and the wine, and the oil; and they shall hear Jezreel. And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to *them which were* not my people, Thou *art* my people; and they shall say, *Thou art* my God."

The prophet Ezekiel speaks of the same thing, (*Ezekiel 20: 33-38*) "As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you: And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out. And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face. Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD. And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant: And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD.

The prophet David tells you what you will see and what to expect in the wilderness.

(*Psalms 91:1-1*) "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." I will say of the LORD, *He is* my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, *and* from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth *shall be thy* shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; *or* for the arrow that flieth by day; *Nor* for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; *nor* for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; *but* it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the LORD, *which is* my refuge, *even* the most High, thy habitation; there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling, for he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways."

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Be careful of the false doctrine in the world and remember the words of the Lord spoken by Isaiah the prophet.(ISAIAH 30:8-10) " Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever: That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits:"

Jesus is the God and creator of Heaven and Earth. He will rule on this earth at the time appointed. All of that, which he created on the earth in the beginning, including man, will be here when he returns. Remember, the Lord will do nothing except he reveal his secrets to his servants the prophets. The prophets didn't speak of Rapture, and there won't be one.

Peace in the name of Jesus.