

1. Where does the Church fit in End time events?

2. The Rapture of the Church & the Rewards are Events that the Lord has encouraged us to prepare for

Messages like God's Judgements and today's message inspire and remind me that I am here to SERVE the Purposes of God in my generation ...

Acts 13:36 *David served the purposes of God and then rested with the fathers ...*

Galatians 1:15 GN *God, in His grace, **chose me** even before I was born, and CALLED me to SERVE Him.*

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 ...*do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and **you are not your own?** ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

3. Jesus Christ Model the life of a Servant

Matthew 20:28 LB ***Your attitude must be like My own, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give My life as a ransom for many.***

Romans 14:12 NIV ... **each of us will give an account** of himself to God.

We will be REWARDED for our service

Colossians 3:23-24 NIV *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.*

There has been much teaching and debate around the subject of End Times: the Rapture, the Tribulation, the Antichrist, the Return of the Lord, and the Battle of Armageddon. **A FILM CAME OUT CALLED "LEFT BEHIND"** (Matthew 24)

Jesus commanded us in the Parable of the Minas is to: *"Occupy until I come"* (Luke 19:11-27)

4. The Three View points on the 'timing' of the Rapture of the church"

- I. **Pre-Tribulation Rapture:** Teaches that the Church will be taken up before the 7 Years of Tribulation.
- II. **Mid-Tribulation Rapture:** say Christians will be 'raptured' in the middle of the Tribulation (Rev 7:14)
- III. **Post-Tribulation Rapture:** Teaches that the Christians will go through the 7 years of Tribulation.

Satan wants Christians to believe they are powerless and must go through the Great Tribulation and be martyred!

5. God does not want us to be ignorant concerning End Time events (1 Thessalonians 4:13)

6. Understanding God's Prophetic Time Clock is not difficult

KEY 1: We must understand who God is speaking to!

The Bible identifies three distinct groups of people: Israel The Church The Nations

When we understand WHO God is speaking to in the Scriptures, it allows us to see which events apply to **Israel**, which apply to the **Church**, and which apply to the **nations**.

KEY 2: Understand the Dispensations of Time

Dispensationalism is an approach to biblical interpretation that teaches God has worked with people in different ways during different seasons of history.

Hebrews 1:1–2 *God, who at various **times** and in **various ways** spoke in **time past** to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son.*

7. Dispensation of Grace – The Church Age – the Time of the Gentiles, ‘the mystery’

Ephesians 3: 1-2, 5-6 *I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles— 2 if indeed you have heard of the **Dispensation of the grace of God** which was given to me for you, 3 how that by revelation He made known to me the **mystery** ... 5 **which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men**, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: 6 **that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel**, 7 of which I became a minister*

Colossians 1:25-27 KJV ... *I am made a minister, according to the **dispensation of God** which is given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, ...**the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.** 7 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this **mystery among the Gentiles**: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

- I. The Church Age was a mystery, hidden from other Ages and generations.
- II. The Old Testament PROPHETS didn’t understand the Church Age, the Time of the Gentiles (2000 years).
- III. The DISCIPLES didn’t understand the Dispensation of Grace ...
- IV. The ‘CROWD’ who followed Jesus also believed when Messiah came He would set up His kingdom on the earth

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people shouted, “**Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord,**” ..., days later they shouted, “Crucify Him.”

- V. SATAN DIDN’T UNDERSTAND God’s Time Clock, He didn’t know about the ‘mystery’

1 Corinthians 2:7-12 *But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, ⁸**which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.***

8. Jesus lived during the Dispensation of the Law – not the Church Age

Jesus was sent primarily to the lost sheep of Israel and He operated under the Law of Moses.

When He spoke about End Times it was in relation primarily to Israel and the nations Matthew 24, 25, Luke 21).

Jesus spoke about the new birth in John 3, the ‘river’ that would be in us, in John 7, In Matthew 16:18, “church” was used. Jesus told His disciples, YOU DON’T UNDERSTAND NOW, but when I leave I will send the Holy Spirit, He will teach you all things that I have spoken to you.

9. The Dispensation of Grace – the Church Age

- I. Being born again, did not exist in the Old Testament
- II. As Christians, we can call God Abba, FATHER. This was not possible in other Dispensations.
- III. Every believer has victory over sin, and death.
- IV. As Christians we have been delivered from the powers of darkness and has authority over satan
- V. we are heirs of god, and joint heirs with Christ Jesus
- VI. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit; our bodies are the temple of GOD!
- VII. The priesthood of every believer (I Peter 2:9)
- VIII. Every believer can operate in the gifts of the Spirit. Under the Old Testament LAW, only the prophet, the priest, and the king could operate in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The Tribulation is NOT part of in the Dispensation of Grace. Jesus will ‘catch away’ RAPTURE HIS Church

10. The Apostles taught on the ‘Rapture’ in the letters to the churches (1 & 2 Corinthians, Titus, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 2 Peter 3:1-4, John 3:2-3)

“rapture” – Latin “*rapere*” – **“take or transport from one location to another”**

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 ... *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. Then we who are alive and remain shall be **caught up together** with them in the clouds **to meet the Lord in the air**. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

At this Event believers will be supernaturally **caught up together** to meet the Lord in the air.

11. The Bible Records 3 Previous Raptures

I. ENOCH WAS RAPTURED

Genesis 5:24 *And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for **God took him**.*

Hebrews 11:5 ... *Enoch **was taken away** so that he did not see death, ‘and was not found, because God had taken him’*

II. ELIJAH WAS RAPTURED – Elisha saw Elijah being taken up!

2 Kings 2:11 *Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.*

III. JESUS WAS ‘TAKEN UP’ – people SAW Jesus being ‘taken up’

Acts 1:9–11 *Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, **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, who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, **who was taken up from you into heaven**, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.*

These Examples suggest that when the Christians are ‘caught up’ to meet Jesus Christ in the ‘air’ – the people on the earth will ‘SEE’ us go!

(Some people wrongly teach that the believers will disappear in the twinkling of an eye! That is not Bible!

1 Corinthians 15:51-54 *Behold, I tell 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 trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For **this corruptible must put on incorruption**, and this mortal must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, ...*

12. We will all appear before the Judgement Seat of CHRIST – the overriding theme of the Bema of Christ is rewards

2 Corinthians 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that **each one may receive** the things done in the body, according to what he has done, **whether good or bad**.*

13. The church has not been called to wrath!

- I. Noah – ark saved Noah and his family from the flood
- II. Lot – the angels delivered Lot from Sodom and Gomorrah before God rained down fire
- III. God protected Israel in Goshen when judgment came on Egypt
- IV. God will call His ambassadors home (2 Corinthians 5)

Final thoughts ...

*There is a life here after. What we do in this life will depend on where we are and what we will do in the next life. **We are here at this time ... to serve the Purposes of God in our generation...***