

I'll See You in the Rapture!

Introduction

Scripture Reading: **1 Corinthians 15:24-28**

1. Premillennialism is to religion what science fiction is to science.
 - A. A bizarre theory dealing with the coming of Christ which appeals to the fantastic, the far-fetched thinker.
 - B. A religious doctrine that has gained much popularity in this generation and has become the focus of much denominational preaching.

Defining Premillennialism

1. It's difficult to make a definitive statement about what premillennialism is.
 - A. It is a lot like Heinz; there are about 57 different varieties. There is a basic shell, but varying details and particulars.
2. **"Pre"** means before and **"millennium"** means 1,000.
3. The basic doctrine teaches that Jesus will return to earth before He begins His 1,000 year reign on earth. After the 1,000 year reign on earth, the saints will go to heaven for eternity and the wicked will be consigned to hell for eternity.
4. **Show Chart** (Rapture and Tribulation)
 - Rapture and Tribulation
 - The Revelation
 - The Millennium
 - The End

The Rapture

1. Perhaps you have seen the bumper sticker “In case of rapture, this car will be without a driver.”
 - A. You no doubt are familiar with the expression “the rapture.”
2. The rapture theory is part of the premillennial speculation.
 - A. It states: “Before a seven year period called the great tribulation, saints will be snatched, or the righteous will be raptured from the earth to be with Christ. After this time, Christ will come to the earth with His church and commence His 1,000 year reign in Jerusalem.
 - B. Now brethren and friends, if you have been content on just reading your Bible, this is all NEWS TO YOU!
 - 1) Like infant baptism, Christmas, Groundhog day, and the Pope, the rapture doctrine is not in the Bible.
3. The central text to support the rapture:
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
4. The central text to refute the rapture doctrine is also
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18!
 - A. **The Quiet Coming:**
 - 1) Rapturists teach that they will quietly, mysteriously be taken away. They will become instantly invisible.
 - 2) The Bible teaches: a noisy affair -a shout, trump of God. A great noise will occur
2 Peter 3:10 (We can't read of a hushed up rapture)

B. The Two Comings:

- 1) The rapturists vision two comings. Those with visions of “rapture” (stage one), expect their deliverance to protect them from the seven years of tribulation, and then a “rapture” (stage two), after the seven years of tribulation when the Lord returns to set up His kingdom on earth.
 - a) But is that what 1 Corinthians 15:24-28 teaches?
1 Corinthians 15:24-28

- 2) Notice what the Bible continues to teach in **1 Thessalonians 5:1-4**
 - a) We see from scripture that when the Lord comes and the righteous are “caught up,” then at the **SAME TIME** the wicked will be overtaken and destroyed. This is also taught in:
2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

 - b) God is going to repay:
 1. Tribulation to the troublers
 2. Rest to the troubled

 - c) When?
 1. “... the Lord is revealed from heaven....”

 - d) What will He do?
 1. Reward EVERY man (not some or part) according to his works (2 Corinthians 5:10).

- e) **There will be a resurrection of the dead – the just and unjust!**

Acts 24:15 "I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a **resurrection of the dead**, both of the just and the unjust.

3) Jesus taught:

John 5:28-29 "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice "and come forth-- **those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.**

- a) **The "shout" of 1 Thessalonians 4:16 is the voice of John 5:28!**

4) Place all of these passages together. If you come up with:

- a) **A separate coming of the Lord for the saints only.**
- b) **Seven years of tribulation on the earth.**
- c) **Another coming of the Lord and the beginning of a 1,000 year earthly reign.**

- 1. **THEN you are reading that which has not come from the Lord!**

C. The Duration:

- 1) Rapturists say the saints will soar to meet the Lord in the air for seven heavenly years before being hauled back to earth for 1,000 earthly years.
- 2) The Bible teaches:
 - a) (1 Thes 4): "so shall we EVER be with the Lord..."
 - b) The destruction of the wicked will be unending. "shall not escape," --- "shall be punished with everlasting destruction..."

D. The Invisible Coming:

- 1) The premillennialists say that the wicked will not see the Lord when He comes to rapture the righteous. Where do they get that?
 - a) They say: The Lord is coming **for** His saints (the rapture), and then He will come **with** His saints (the second coming). The first time He will not be seen or manifested, but He will be seen the second time.
- 2) The Bible teaches:
 - a) Both the "alive and dead" will be judged "at His appearing" (2 Timothy 4:1).
 - b) Both the righteous and wicked will see Jesus when He comes.
(Col 3:4; 1 Pet 5:4; 1 Jn 2:28; 3:2).
 1. The word "revealed" does not mean concealed!

Conclusion

1. **Premillennialism and the rapture doctrine is a delusion and a false teaching.**
2. **One can not honestly go to the Bible to prove that theory.**
3. **If the hope of the rapture is so prevalent and prominent in the present premillennial preaching, why is it not frequently advocated and demonstrated in the Bible?**
4. **Why? Because it is false!**
5. **Those that teach or associate themselves with this false doctrine do not have God.**

A. The Bible says:

2 John 9-11 Whoever transgresses and **does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God**. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

Invitation

Place

Date

Ill See You in the Rapture.wpd
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