

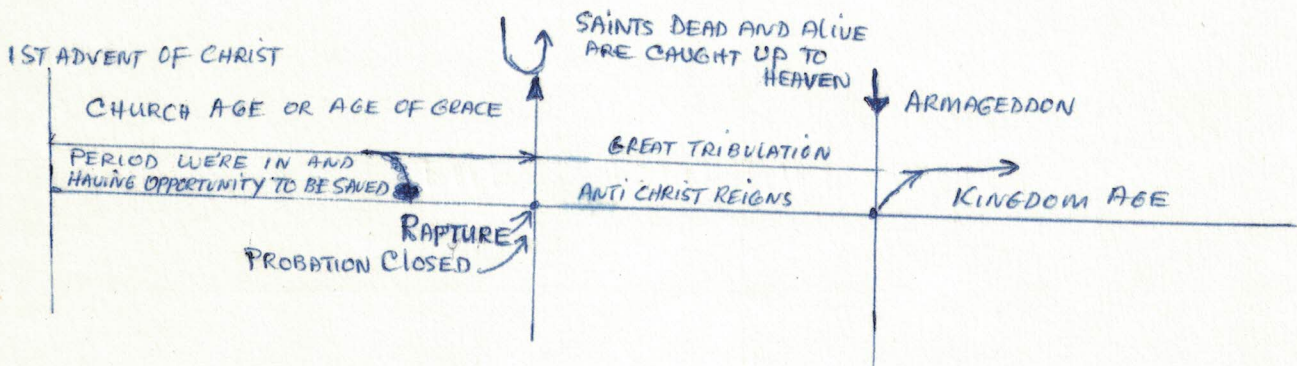
THE RAPTURE

DURRELL BROWN

Rapture

What is the rapture theory?

There are several variations of the Rapture Theory. The clearest exponent is Dr. Dehon. The rapture is the coming of Christ for His saints, both the dead and those alive. This is said to occur anywhere from 3½ to 30 years before the coming of the great tribulation. At the end of the tribulation Christ returns to this earth with His Saints. This is termed the "Revelation of Christ."



The rapture can occur at any time. This doctrine lends strength in the whip hand of its ministers and proponents because of its imminence.

Dr. Dehon says because mystery--means hidden or secret, that there is a rapture. Paul was speaking of the mystery of godliness. The truth of the kingdom of God is a mystery (Mat.13:11,25). This statement does not indicate a rapture. The rapture cannot be proved from the Bible. Dr. Dehon found it profitable to teach the rapture theory. Before the 1600, there was no rapture theory extant.

The Jesuit Priests said there would be a secret coming of Christ to take away the righteous. Cardinal Belleriman had the idea of a

pre-tribulation taking away. In 1825, Samuel Maitland, librarian of the Archbishop of Canterbury, propounded the rapture theory. Derby, of the Plymouth Brethren embraced a rapture in 1830. This doctrine is relatively new or the Catholics would have mentioned it and authorized it had the fathers propounded such a doctrine.

Most proponents of this doctrine agree that its occurrence is pre-millennial.

IIThess. 2, is one of the chief rapture texts. Both the rapture and the revelation is said to be mentioned here. There are four Greek words used for coming. These words are used to substantiate the rapture theory:

1. Parousia-exclusively refers to the rapture.
Christ is said to be present but invisible.
Really never means secret presence.
2. Epiphaneia-revelation and brightness
3. Apocalupsis-revelation, brightness manifestation, coming with his saints.
4. Erchonai-coming

These four terms speak of one singular event. They express the same thing in four ways.

Dr. Dehon says to say that Christ's coming is to be preceded by certain specific events, is to delay that coming. He also says there is a key of distinction between the trumpets in Revelation. One has to be tuned in to a special frequency to hear that final trump. One group of passages speak of a secret coming. The second speak of a visible coming. After the fourth chapter of Revelation, the church is not mentioned again until Rev.19:11, says Dr. Dehon.

Truth

How many times is Christ coming? Once. The church is mentioned many times after the 4th chapter of Rev.. It is spoken of in Rev. 6:11 and Rev. 7:3 speaks of the church also. Who are the two witnesses in the 11th chapter if not members of the church. If the saints are in heaven at this time mentioned in Rev. 13:1, how can Satan make war with them? Who are the 144,000 and the innumerable multitude (Rev. 14), if not members of the church?

According to Dr. Dehon, Christ delays his own coming (Mk.13:7, Lk.21:9). If the saints are in heaven, who will preach the gospel (Mat.24:14). Paul too delays Christ's coming (IIThess.2:3). Who will reveal that man of sin? If not the church. Christ speaks only of one coming.

What armies are to return with Christ (Rev.19:14)? They are angelic hosts, not saints (Mat.25:31).

There is something in the truth that may be similar to the rapture-the church fleeing to a place of safety. Here are the true time sequence of events leading to and climaxing with the one and only return of Christ.

