

[Why I Believe in a Pre-Tribulation Rapture: Part 2](#)



By [Nathan Jones](#)

In [Part 1](#), I covered what I call the "bedrock" foundational tenets about the Bible and its interpretation that provide the foundation in which to analyze the reasons for why I believe the Bible teaches a Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church. The following are two of those reasons.

1) The Bible describes the Rapture and Second Coming as different events.

The Bible must see the Rapture ([Jn. 14:1-14](#); [1 Cor. 15:51-58](#); [1 Thes. 4:13-18](#)) and the Second Coming ([Zech. 14:1-21](#); [Matt. 24:29-31](#); [Mk. 13:24-27](#); [Lk. 21:25-27](#); Rev. 19) as separate events, because when the verses are compared they describe two very different scenarios:

1. Rapture — believers meet Christ in the air

Second Coming — Christ returns to the Mount of Olives to meet the believers on earth

2. Rapture — Mount of Olives is unchanged

Second Coming — Mount of Olives is divided, forming a valley east of Jerusalem

3. Rapture — living believers obtain glorified bodies

Second Coming — living believers remain in same bodies

4. Rapture — believers go to heaven

Second Coming — glorified believers come from heaven, earthly believers stay on earth

5. Rapture — world left unjudged and living in sin

Second Coming — world is judged and righteousness is established

6. Rapture — depicts deliverance of the Church from wrath

Second Coming — depicts deliverance of believers who endured wrath

7. Rapture — no signs precede it

Second Coming — many signs precede it

8. Rapture — revealed only in New Testament

Second Coming — revealed in both Old and New Testaments

9. Rapture — deals with only the saved

Second Coming — deals with both the saved and unsaved

10. Rapture — Satan remains free

Second Coming — Satan is bound and thrown into the Abyss

Since the Rapture and Second Coming clearly are different events that do not occur at the same time, this would rule out a Post-Tribulation Rapture scenario.

2) The Rapture is described as occurring at any time without warning.

Jesus stated in [Matthew 24:42,44](#) to *"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come... So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."* Not only do believers in Christ not know when to expect Him, but the Father Himself seems to have left Jesus out on the exact time His Son is to return. As Jesus stated in [Matthew 24:36](#), *"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."* These and other

verses ([Mat. 24:36,42,44,50](#); [25:13](#); [1 Thes. 4:18](#); [Tit. 2:13](#); [1 Jn. 2:28](#); [3:2-3](#)) indicate that Jesus' arrival will come when nobody expects it.

The Second Coming, on the other hand, is preceded by many events, such as the rise of the Antichrist ([Rev. 12:13-17](#); Zech; 13:7-9), a treaty with Israel ([Dan. 9:27](#)), the rebuilding of the Jewish Temple ([Mat. 24:15](#); [2 Thess. 2:3-4](#); [Rev. 11:1-2](#)), as well as plagues and judgments and persecutions destroying most of the world's population (Rev. 6-18). The Book of Revelation reports these events as occurring during the 7-year Tribulation, which Revelation reveals precede the Second Coming.

Because the Rapture could happen at any moment and without warning and the Second Coming is preceded by so many signs, then the Rapture and Second Coming must be different events. The Rapture has to occur before the seven years' worth of signs, because Christians are called to look for the Lord's return rather than signs such as the Antichrist's arrival. Once the signs begin, then the seven year countdown begins towards its end with Christ's return at the Second Coming.

Jesus' imminent return dismisses any of the other viewpoints related to a rapture that occur within or at the end of the Tribulation.

I will continue posting in [Part 3](#) why I believe in a Pre-Tribulation Rapture over the coming days.