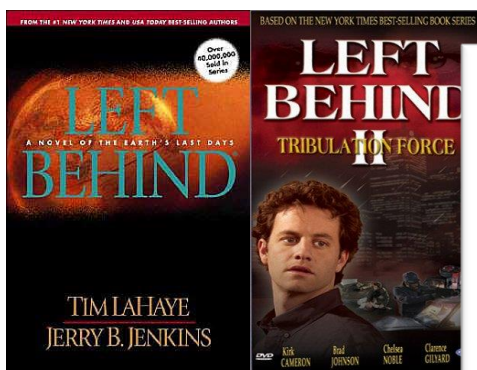




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THE LAST NIGHT ON EARTH

What Happens When Jesus Comes Again?



KEY QUESTION: IS THERE A SECRET RAPTURE AND OR A GLORIOUS SECOND COMING?

Does the Bible teach that Jesus will come in two stages?

- A popular teaching that is being taught now is that Jesus will come in a secret rapture followed by a glorious Second Coming.
- The traditional Christian belief has been that Jesus will come only one more time in a glorious Second Coming. (Hebrews 9:28)
- Let us look at a few Scriptures that confirm the traditional Christian belief.
- Pray for an open heart and expect God to make it plain. (Jeremiah 33:3)



Re LEFT BEHIND books - "Multiple books in the series have been on the *New York Times* best-seller list. Starting in 2000, Books 7 and 8 reached number one on the list followed by book 10, which debuted at number one.^[3] Total sales for the series have surpassed 65 million copies. Seven titles in the adult series have reached #1 on the bestseller lists for the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, and *Publishers Weekly*. (Wikipedia)

What encouraging promise did Jesus give to His disciples and to us?

"Let not your heart be troubled; you 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 to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." John 14:1-3

- Jesus promised that He will come again.
- Jesus did not say “I will come again and again.”
- If any preacher or church promotes the belief of Jesus coming two times or in two stages this would be false.
- Therefore a secret rapture followed by the Second Coming is incorrect.

What is the only blessed hope of Christians?

Titus 2:13

“Looking for that **BLESSED HOPE AND GLORIOUS APPEARING** of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.”

- The blessed hope is the glorious, visible, audible, climactic Second Coming of Christ.
- A false hope is to believe there are two stages of Christ’s return.
- The choice is between a true hope vs. false hope.
- The secret rapture is a false hope.

**What does it mean that Jesus will come like a thief?
Does this term refer to the manner or timing of Christ’s return?**

1 Thessalonians 5:1-5

“But concerning the **TIMES AND SEASONS**,...the day of the Lord so comes as a **THIEF IN THE NIGHT.**” “But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.”

2 Peter 3:10,12

“But the day of the Lord will come as a **THIEF IN THE NIGHT**, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”

“Looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?”

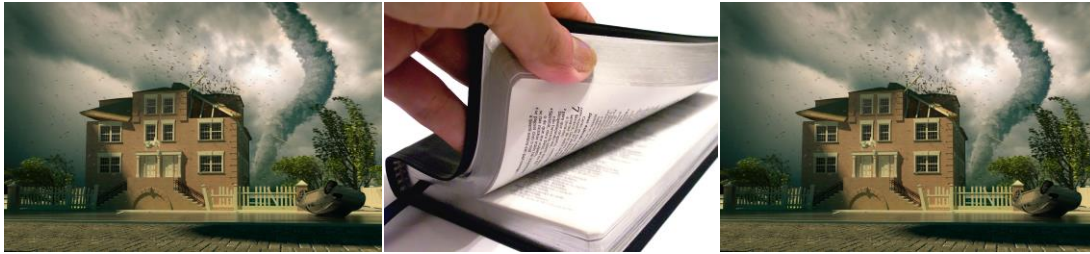
Matthew 24:42-44

“Watch therefore, for you do not know what **HOUR** your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what **HOUR THE THIEF** would come, he would have **WATCHED** and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready for the Son of Man is coming at an **HOUR** you do not expect.”

- Jesus Coming as a thief refers to the timing of Christ’s return when most will not be ready when He comes again.
- When Jesus comes as a thief sudden destruction comes and the earth is burned up.
- When Pearl Harbor was attacked like a thief in terms of timing when it actually happened it was cataclysmic and destructive and nothing secret about it. No one was guessing about what happened.

Now we can see that Jesus is coming again in power and glory with no secret rapture.





Must God Remove the Righteous Before the Tribulation?

Will the righteous go through the tribulation before Jesus comes again?

After revealing five plagues that will fall on the wicked in the context of the sixth plague Jesus says, "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame." Revelation 16:15

- Jesus encourages His believers to hold on to Him by faith and to not give up.
- God delivered the Israelites after the plagues fell in Egypt; so the bride of Christ delivered after plagues.
- Jesus is saying He will come as a thief after the tribulation after the seven last plagues.
- Christ will come again after the man of sin (antichrist) is revealed and the mark of the beast is enforced.

THE GREAT TRIBULATION OF REVELATION 15 & 16

1 st Plague Rev. 16:2	2 nd Plague Rev.16:3	3 rd Plague Rev.16:4-7	4 th Plague Rev.16:8,9	5 th Plague Rev.16:10,11	6 th Plague Rev.16:12-16 Jesus says He will be coming as a thief soon.	7 th Plague Rev.16:17-21
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Will the righteous be protected, kept, preserved and guarded during the tribulation?

"No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling. For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways." "A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand." Psalms 91:10,11,7.

- The Seven Last Plagues fall on the wicked only.
- Righteous are protected by Holy Angels as they make Christ their Refuge.
- Thousands will perish all around them but the righteous will stand firm.
- Earthquake, fire, flood and tornado insurance is familiar but, do you have plague insurance?

Did Jesus promise to keep His saints during the tribulation?

- Jesus made this precious promise, "I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth." Revelation 3:10
- What does it mean that Jesus will keep us from the hour of trial? What does the word keep mean?
- It means to "protect." Some Bible translations use the word protect instead of keep.
- To understand the word keep we must read the intercessory prayer of Christ:
- "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep (protect) them from the evil one." John 17:15
- Jesus prayed not that saints would be removed but kept by God's power.
- We are tempted but kept from falling.
- We will go through the tribulation but protected or kept by God's power.

What are four examples of God's protection amidst trial?

- Dan. 3 -- God protected 3 Hebrews in the fiery furnace.
- Gen. 6-8 -- God preserved & protected Noah and his family in the midst of the global flood.
- Dan. 6 -- God protected Daniel in the lion's den.
- Isaiah 33:16 -- The bread and water of the righteous is sure during the tribulation.

Is the Antichrist revealed before or after the tribulation? Answer: Before

"Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him,...that Day will not come unless the falling away (apostasy) comes first, and the man of sin is revealed,..." 2 Thess.2:3,4

- Jesus will come again after the antichrist is revealed.
- Jesus will gather His believers to Himself after everyone makes the choice between following the antichrist or the true Christ.

- Everyone who face the choice: wrath of man or wrath of God. Revelation 14:9,10; 13:15,17
- Wrath of God = Seven Last Plagues . Revelation 15:1

What did Jesus teach us in the parable of the wheat (righteous) and the tares (unrighteous)?

- Read Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.
- Both the righteous and the wicked remain together on earth until the Harvest of the world when Jesus comes again in glory and power.
- See the chart below and see if there is any room for a secret rapture before the Second Coming of Christ.



No room for a secret rapture to occur before the Harvest (Second Coming of Christ).

SEQUENCE OF FINAL EVENTS

Signs of the times (our present day) Matthew 24; Luke 21	Mark of the Beast Enforced around the world. Rev. 13:15-17	Economic boycott Death decree Rev. 13:13:15-17	7 last plagues Tribulation. Rev. 15-16	Jesus Comes again for His faithful. The Harvest . Rev.14
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THE MARK OF THE BEAST CONFLICT

Sequence of Final Events

<p>Mark of the Beast Rev. 13:16,17; 14:9,10</p>	<p>Probation Closes 7 Plagues Rev.22:11,12; 15:1; 16:1,2</p>	<p>The Second Coming of Christ First Resurrection Righteous dead raised Key verse Rev.20:4 Some of those who overcame the mark of the beast are in this first resurrection.</p>	<p>1,000 Years Righteous reign with Christ Rev. 20:1-6</p>
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Revelation 20:4,6

“And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and **had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands.** And **they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**”

“Blessed and holy is he who has part in **the first resurrection.** Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”

- Some of those who reign with Christ for 1,000 years overcame the mark of the beast. Therefore,
- the mark of the beast conflict is followed by the 1st resurrection which begins the 1,000 yrs.
- The first resurrection is after the mark of the beast.
- No room for a first resurrection which begins the thousand years and then a 7 year tribulation.
- What begins the 1,000 years? The first resurrection of the righteous dead. Rev.20:6
- **False** = First resurrection and rapture then mark of the beast then
- **truth** = mark of the beast then 1st res second coming
- If there was a seven year tribulation that begins at the secret rapture and ending with the glorious Second Coming then those during the tribulation would hear exactly when, what year Jesus would come again. Matthew 24:30
- The righteous go through the tribulation. (See Rev.16:15)



Summary: Sequence of Final Events

1. **Gospel is preached around the world / Must Endure till the end** - “But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.” Matthew 24:13,14
2. **Human probation closes for the whole world / the door to the marriage is shut / Lukewarm are spit out of the mouth of Christ / Names removed from the Book of Life**
“He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.” ‘And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.” Revelation 22:11,12; Rev. 3:5; 3:14-21; Matthew 25:10
3. **Then the end comes / The Harvest / The Second Coming of Christ / First Resurrection** – Matt. 13:40; Rev. 14:14-20; 20:6; Heb.9:28
4. **Thousand Year Reign of Saints with Christ begins** – Rev. 20:6



The one shall be taken and the other left.

Read these Scriptures prayerfully and see the comparisons that Jesus presented.

“And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man.” “Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.”

Luke 17:26,27

“Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot...the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.” “Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

” Luke 17:28,29,30

“In that day,...in that night...the one will be taken and the other will be left.” “‘Where Lord?’ So He said to them, ‘Wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together.’”

Luke 17:31,34,35,36,37.

In all three examples what condition is the one who is left in?

- When Jesus comes it will be like = Noah’s Day = Global Flood = Destroyed the wicked.
- When Jesus comes it will be like = Lot’s Day = Sodom and Gomorrah = Destroyed wicked.
- When Jesus comes the wicked will be food for the birds. (Luke 17:37)

TWO GROUPS = TWO SUPPERS

- The book of Revelation presents a clear contrast between two suppers. When Jesus comes there are two groups:
- Those who go to the marriage supper of the Lamb in heaven. (Revelation 19:7-9)
- Those who are destroyed and become food for the birds. (Revelation 19:17,18)
- This supper of the wicked is in Luke 17:37 as a result of being left behind.

The popular teaching that there will be millions left behind after Jesus comes and yet they have a second chance to be save is false. Now is the day of salvation. 2 Cor.6:1,2; Hebrews 9:28



COMPARISON BETWEEN CHRIST AND ANTICHRIST

Read primarily Revelation 5,13,16&19 and Daniel 7

CHRIST THE LAMB OF GOD	ANTICHRIST
Lamb	Beast
Arise from the Jordan	Arise from the Sea
Speaks the Word	Speaks Blasphemy
Horns	Horns
Father's Name	Blasphemous Name
Authority	Authority
Miracles	Miracles
Seven spirits	Evil spirits
Throne	Throne
War against evil & Persecutors	War against the saints
Forgiveness	Claims to forgive sin
Global	Whole world follows
3 ½ Years of special reign of grace.	3 ½ Prophetic years of special reign persecution.
Sword	Sword
Crucified, slain	Deadly wound
Resurrected	Deadly wound healed
Followers – Rev. 14:4	Followers
Seal of God	Mark of the Beast
Special number 7	Special number 666
Uplifts Law of God	Promotes Law of Man in opposition of the Law of God.
Second Person of the Holy Trinity	Second Beast of the Trinity
Image of the Lamb	Image of the Beast
Worship	Worship
Crowns	Crowns

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