

New Features on Prewrathministries.org

Brand new on the website is the Answer Workbook. This is the exact same workbook that accompanies the "In View of the End" PowerPoint® presentation, but all of the answers are already filled in. In live presentations there have been many requests for the answers to workbook blanks that the participants may have missed. This provides the presenter with a tool that makes finding missed answers easy. Also, for those who purchase the study, the answer workbook can be helpful in learning to present the study more effectively.

The Days of Noah and Lot

Even as a pre-tribulational rapture believer, I was always confused over the scriptures that compare the coming of Christ to the days of Noah and Lot. The passage in question is...

Luke 17:26 (NIV) "Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. **27** People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage **up to the day** Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. **28** "It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. **29** But **the day** Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. **30** "It will be just like this **on the day** the Son of Man is revealed (emphasis added).

I had heard many sermons that all basically concluded that as life had gone on in the days of Noah and Lot, life will go on in the last days until unexpectedly Christ will return and judge the world. The emphasis was on the unexpected nature of Christ's return. When I began to

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Feature Article: The Rapture

By Elbert Charpie

I have been asked the question, "Where in the Bible is the Rapture mentioned?" The word "rapture" is not in the Bible. It is from the Latin Vulgate (ancient Latin translation of the Bible) "rapere" which means to "catch up." In 1 Thess 4:17 the Bible states that we will be "caught up" and this is the phrase where the Vulgate used the word "rapere." But the concept of the rapture is in many places. The most definitive description of the rapture is found in 1 Thess 4:15-18.

1 Thess 4:15 (NIV) According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. **16** For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** After that, ***we who are still alive and are left will be caught up*** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. **18** Therefore encourage each other with these words (emphasis added).

But there are many more passages which describe the rapture. For instance, **Matt 24:29** (NIV) "Immediately after the distress of those days "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' **30** "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. **31** **And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other** (emphasis added). Also...

Matt 24:36 (NIV) "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. **37** As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. **38** For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; **39** and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. **That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left** (emphasis added).

Most people agree with the concept of the rapture, but the controversy comes in deciding exactly **when** the rapture will occur. One aspect of the rapture that is most often overlooked is that the Apostle Paul had his own name for the rapture. In the 1 Thessalonians 4 passage we read above, that chapter ends with verse 18. But immediately the first verse of chapter 5 continues...

1 Thess 5:1 (NIV) Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, **2** for you know very well that the **day of the Lord** will come like a thief in the night (emphasis added).

It becomes obvious that Paul is continuing the thought he began in chapter 4, but now he gives a name to what he has been talking about—the Day of the Lord!

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He does the same thing when he writes about the Lord's coming in 2nd Thessalonians...

2 Thess 2:1 (NIV) Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, **2** not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the **day of the Lord** has already come (emphasis added).

Now Paul defines his subject as "the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" **AND** "our being gathered to him." Our "gathering" to Him can only be the rapture. These people were alarmed that they had missed the rapture. He goes on to again name this event as "the Day of the Lord." The fact that the Apostle Paul names this event in both cases where he addresses the rapture in major context proves two assertions. First, the Day of the Lord was a major doctrine of eschatology that was well understood by Paul's readers at the time of writing, and second, the rapture was (and is) a part of the doctrine of the Day of the Lord.

Paul, himself, called the rapture the "Day of the Lord." When you realize this, then anywhere the scripture uses the term "day of the Lord," it is speaking of the rapture and the rapture is all through the scripture. For instance in the book of Acts...

Acts 2:20 (NIV) The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. **21** And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

This passage begins to take on new meaning, as will many others when the connection is made between the rapture and the Day of the Lord. Matthew 24 begins to make sense and the ultimate conclusion is that the Day of the Lord is initiated by the sign in the sun, moon and stars; the rapture takes place; and then God's wrath begins to fall upon the world. The book of Revelation describes the sign and declares that the "great day of their wrath has come..." and immediately thereafter the multitude appears that "no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language" that are said to come out of the great tribulation. Who else could this multitude be except all of the saints from all of the ages?

Now, when one answers the question, "Where in the Bible is the rapture mentioned?" the conclusion is that the rapture in the form of its Biblical name, "Day of the Lord," is all over the Bible. It is in the Old Testament, New Testament, and the book of Revelation.

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understand the concept of the Day of the Lord and that this event was initiated by the sign and the rapture, these passages took on new and important meaning. In the Genesis story we read...

Gen 7:1-4 (NIV) The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. **{2}** Take with you seven... **{4}** *Seven days from now* I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made." (emphasis added)

Now because of the "seven days from now" this passage has been used to argue a pre-tribulational rapture because according to the "pre-trib" view the rapture happens seven years before Christ's return. But, if you continue reading the passage you find that Noah and his family did not actually enter the ark until the DAY the flood came...

Gen 7:12-13 (NIV) And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. **{13}** *On that very day* Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark (emphasis added).

You may notice the highlighted words in the Luke passage at the beginning of this article—"up to the day Noah entered," "the day Lot left Sodom," and "on the day the Son of Man is revealed," and also the Genesis passage "On that very day Noah... entered the ark." There seems to be an almost ridiculous accent on "the day." But, because of the connection of the rapture with the Day of the Lord it becomes apparent that the significance of the Luke passage is the teaching that on the day God delivers His people, His judgment will begin. Now, the Luke passage intensifies the connection between the rapture and the Day of the Lord. Luke says "It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed." Therefore, the sign of the Day of the Lord will appear, the saints of God will be raptured, and the Day of God's wrath will begin. The Luke passage is a warning that the Day of the Lord is coming, and also that the Day of the Lord will begin by God rescuing His people.