

-PREPARATIONS FOR THE 7-YEAR GREAT TRIBULATION-

The Rapture

-The Great Multitude in Heaven (The Rapture)

John sees a lot of people in Heaven that came out from all the nations of the Earth: Rev 7:9 *After these things I looked, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, out of all nations and kindreds and people and tongues, stood before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palms in their hands.* Notice that John had previously counted 144,000 Jews in the same chapter Rev 7, yet now he sees such a large multitude that no man could number them. Now, he didn't say that God could not number them – just that no man could number them. This multitude that he gazes upon is the millions of people who were raptured.

Rev. 7:10-12 *And they cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God sitting on the throne, and to the Lamb. And all the angels stood around the throne, and the 24 elders, and the four living creatures, and they fell before the throne on their faces and worshiped God, saying, Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever. Amen.* Notice that not just millions, but all the angels – in addition to the 24 elders and the four living creatures – fell before the throne and worshiped God because they are so happy to see the Church appear in Heaven in the presence of God. The rapture has happened!

These Christians then say “*Salvation to our God sitting on the throne, and to the Lamb,*” pointing out that they are in Heaven because of their faith in Jesus Christ, who saved them. Try to imagine this incredible event: we will suddenly appear in Heaven, Jesus will present us to the Father, and we will see all the angels, along with the 24 elders and the four living creatures, rejoicing because we have just arrived! These angels will be our brothers for all eternity and, of course, we will be overwhelmed when we finally get to meet our Maker! I want to make it very clear that the Church will come to Heaven with the Holy Spirit who is in us 1 Cor 3:16, and our angels Mt. 18:10, Psa 91:11 that protect us will also come up, and don't forget about the dead in Christ, 1 Th. 4:16 which are the ones who have been waiting in paradise for this moment in which we will receive our new bodies. 1Th 4:14 *God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.*

One of the 24 elders asks John a question: Rev. 7:13-14 *And one of the elders answered, saying to me, Who are these people who are arrayed in white robes, and where do they come from? And I said to him, Sir, you know. And he said to me, These are the ones who came out of the great tribulation and have washed their robes, and have whitened them in the blood of the Lamb.* Many do not interpret this scripture correctly. The elder says that the multitude came out of “*the great tribulation,*” yet many interpret this to mean that they went through the great tribulation. But that is not what it says. It says; “*the ones who came **out** of the great tribulation*”. We will emerge from the **very beginning** of the period known as the 7-year Great Tribulation.

The elder had asked, “*Who are these people who are arrayed in white robes...*” This is a clue that let’s us know that we will receive white robes after we are transformed, receiving an immortal and sinless body, the souls under the altar also received white robes, which represent sinless bodies Rev 19:8. No man can receive a white robe before receiving a new transformed “sinless” body.

The rapture will happen at the very beginning of the 7-year Great Tribulation, and it is very easy to prove because God shows us earlier in this same chapter that He will seal the 144,000 Jews that will stay on Earth. The seal is for their protection from the seven trumpet judgments that will start to happen after we are taken to Heaven at the beginning of the 7-year Great Tribulation. Notice that the great multitude in Heaven washed their robes and have whitened them with the blood of Jesus Christ. They have not washed their robes with their own blood, as if they were killed, but by the blood of Jesus, who washes away our sins.

Someone might ask, “If they came out at the beginning of the 7-year Great Tribulation, why even say that they came out of it?” The wording is certainly not meant to confuse us; instead, it is to be used as a point of reference. If we were only told that these people were raptured, many false teachers would say that this event has already happened. **For example:** I live in Houston, and when the early Katrina hurricane evacuees came here, someone could have asked me who are they? I could have answered; they came out from the Katrina hurricane, yet they had left New Orleans before the hurricane hit land. Therefore, I am only using the Katrina hurricane as a point of reference. So the point of reference in Rev 7:13-14 is to the very beginning of the 7-year great tribulation. They did not live through the great tribulation, they came out of it: Rev 7:14 *came out of the great tribulation*

Jesus Christ has promised us; His children, that we will not be in the 7-year Great Tribulation, as we see in Rev 3:10: *Because you have kept the Word of My patience, I also will keep you from the hour of temptation which will come upon all the habitable world, to try those who dwell upon the earth.* Jesus is very clear here. He will take us to Heaven to keep us away from the hour of temptation when the antichrist will reign on Earth. The antichrist will deceive many and, as seen in, Mt 24:24, *would even try to deceive the elect "if it were possible."* The 7-year Great Tribulation will happen in order to try those left on Earth, so they will have to choose between God and the antichrist. The first half, Satan will attack all the ones who will finally believe in Christ (after the rapture) and in the last 42 months, he will use the antichrist to rule the whole Earth, killing all those who do not accept the mark of the beast.

The elder continues speaking of the great multitude: Rev. 7:15-17 *Therefore they are before the throne of God, and they serve Him day and night in His temple. And He sitting on the throne will dwell among them. They will not hunger any more, nor thirst any more, nor will the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will feed them and will lead them to the fountains of living waters. And God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.* Notice that when the elder speaks of the Great Multitude, he is speaking in the future tense: “they will,” “will live,” will feed them,” “will lead them.” This is a clue that tells us they have just arrived. He goes on to say they will no longer be hungry, thirsty, or hot. As we know too well, everyone on Earth gets hungry and thirsty daily, but this won’t occur in Heaven. In some places, the sun is burning hot, but in Heaven it will feel cool. Our bodies will be neither too hot, nor too cold in Heaven. I believe it will feel just like when we are outdoors with a cool breeze. With our new bodies, we will be able to eat just as Jesus did in His resurrected body as seen in, Lk 24:43, but we will never be hungry.

Some people say this great multitude of people have been killed, but that is found nowhere in these verses. It only says they will no longer hunger or thirst. **Jesus promised us:** Jn 6:35 *And Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes on Me shall never thirst.* Jesus fulfills His promise since the Great Multitude will no longer hunger or thirst. Please notice that the great multitude are not under the altar, instead they are **“before the throne of God”**. If they had been killed, they would have gone to rest with the souls under the altar.

These people are clearly the ones who will be raptured, and here are some clues: they are from every nation, they likely number in the millions, they are clothed with **white robes**, they have **palms** in their hands, they stand in **front** of God's throne, they thank God for their **salvation**, and **all** the angels are present in Heaven. There is no mention of suffering or death, and their robes are whitened by the **blood of Christ**. They will be taken from Earth at the very beginning of the 7-year Great Tribulation so they will be spared from the judgment of the seven angels with the seven trumpets. At this time, we will finally get to meet all the saints in heaven, **Jesus said:** Mt 8:11 *And I say to you that many shall come from the east and the west, and shall sit down with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of Heaven.* Imagine meeting Abraham, David, Job, John, Paul, Peter and the rest of the saints. We will also get to be with our family members and with friends who have died, this will be a joyous event.

The **144,000 Jews** will stay behind for the first 1,335 days of the 7-year Great Tribulation, but they will be protected with the seal on their foreheads. It is not a coincidence that in chapter 7 of the book of Revelation, we are shown both the 144,000 Jews on Earth who will now believe in Jesus, and the Great Multitude, which appear in Heaven in the same chapter. Anybody with any commonsense can conclude that God is showing us His two groups of believers; the Christian church, which is raptured, and the Jews who will finally believe in Christ. **One group;** the Church, goes to Heaven, while the **other group;** the 144,000 Jews stay on Earth with God's seal of protection. Jesus spoke of these **two flocks** in, John 10:16 *And I have other sheep who are not of this fold. I must also lead those, and they shall hear My voice, and there shall be one flock, one Shepherd.*

THE GREAT MULTITUDE:

ARE A GREAT NUMBER OF PEOPLE

FROM ALL NATIONS, KINDREDS, PEOPLES AND TONGUES

WILL INCLUDE THE DEAD IN CHRIST (1 Th 4:16)

ARE CLOTHED WITH WHITE ROBES (White means sinless)

HAVE PALMS IN THEIR HANDS

THEY ARE NOT UNDER THE ALTAR

THEY STAND BEFORE GOD'S THRONE

THEY CRY, SALVATION TO OUR GOD AND TO THE LAMB

THEY SEE ALL THE ANGELS SURROUND THE THRONE

JESUS PRESENTS THE GREAT MULTITUDE TO THE FATHER

We noticed that the raptured saints have received **palms** in their hands, which represents victory and they will rejoice for 7 years as the Jews would for **seven days**: Lev 23:40 And you shall take the fruit of majestic trees for yourselves on **the first day**, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the valley. And you shall rejoice before Jehovah your God **seven days**. This is a clue that God has given us, He told them that they would have “*branches of palm trees*” and they were to rejoice before Jehovah for a total of seven days. Well, it is not a coincidence that the raptured saints have palms in their hands, instead this proves that we (the great multitude) will be in Heaven in the presence of Jehovah for seven years before we return with Christ to reign on Earth for 1,000 years.

The fact that **all** the angels are seen in Rev 7 with the great multitude proves that this is the rapture, since our angels would not leave us on Earth without their protection. By the way, this is the only place in the book of Revelation where all the angels are in Heaven.

THE 2 GROUPS IN REVELATION CHAPTER 7:

THE 144,000 JEWS ON EARTH WITH GOD’S SEAL

THE GREAT MULTITUDE IN HEAVEN WITH WHITE ROBES

-Our New Bodies

When we get raptured, our bodies will be changed into a body that can never die again, as Paul talks about in 1Cor 15:51: Behold, I speak a **mystery to you; we shall not all fall asleep** (die), **but we shall all be changed**. Why is this, a mystery? Because everyone is supposed to die once as discussed in Heb 9:27-28: And as it is appointed unto men **once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation.** Men are supposed to die once and then be judged, yet those who will be raptured won’t ever die.

Death occurs because of Adam’s sin, yet we see this future mystery of the rapture in which some of us will not die: 1Cor 15:52-53 In a moment, in a glance of an eye, at the last trumpet. For a trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall all be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. Our sinful bodies will be changed into sinless bodies, thanks to Jesus Christ, who will wash away our sins. We will put on immortal bodies, meaning that we will never die again. We will never cry again, feel pain or get sick again, Rev 21:4.

Our sinful bodies will be transformed into new sinless bodies.

Paul continues: 1Cor 15:54-56 *But when this corruptible shall put on incorruption, and when this mortal shall put on immortality, then will take place the word that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory. **O death, where is your sting?** O grave, where is your victory?" The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the Law.* The mystery is that our mortal body shall put on immortality yet we will not die as a result of the rapture, "*O death, where is your sting?*"

I want to point out that Jesus was the first one to receive the new body, which happened when He was resurrected. He was the first one so that in everything, He is the first: Col 1:18 *And He is the **Head of the body, the church, who is the Beginning, the First-born from the dead, that He may be pre-eminent in all things.*** You might recall that Jesus resurrected Lazarus – but Lazarus died again.

So we see that, indeed, Jesus Christ did receive the new body first. And He will never die again: Rev 1:18 *and the Living One, and I became dead, and behold, I am **alive for ever and ever, Amen.***

OUR NEW BODIES:

WILL HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO PERFECT BODIES
CAN NEVER DIE AGAIN, HAVE NO SIN, CAN NOT GET SICK,
WILL HAVE NO MORE TEARS, WILL FEEL NO MORE PAIN

These verses explain how we will be forever and ever:

Dn 12:3 *And those who are wise shall **shine** as the brightness of the sky; and those who turn many to righteousness shall **shine** as the stars forever and ever. **And Jesus Christ said:** Mt 13:43 *Then the righteous shall **shine** out like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.**

1 Jn 3:12 *we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*

-You Better be Ready!

Jesus constantly warned us to be ready because we would not know the day or the hour when the Son of man would come. Stop making excuses, and accept Jesus Christ as King of your life! Do not wait until after the trumpet sounds and you are left behind to ask God to take you to Heaven with those who have been raptured.

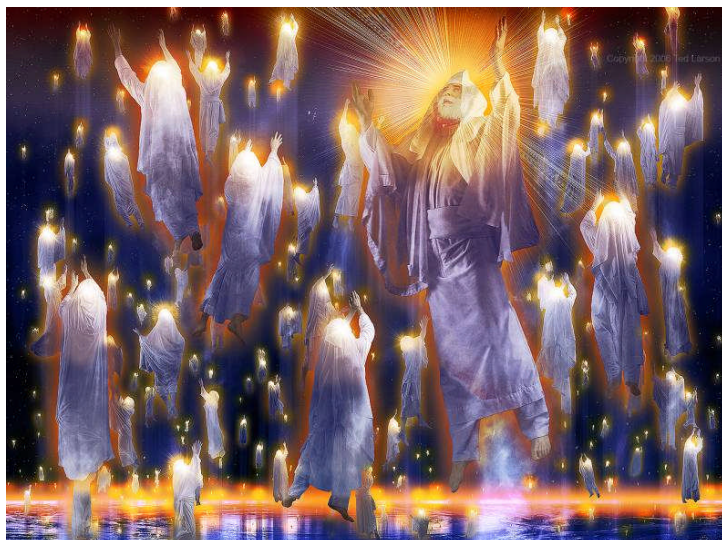
Remember the warning **Jesus** gave us in: Mt 25:11-13 *Afterwards the other virgins came also, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Truly I say to you, I do not know you. **Therefore watch, for you do not know either the day or the hour in which the Son of Man comes.*** Jesus tells us **to watch, be ready!**

This is reality! Make the decision to accept Jesus as your Savior, and He will give you eternal life.

So look up to the One who offers you eternal fulfillment and knowledge and happiness: Luke 21:28 And when these things begin to happen, then look up and lift up your heads, for your redemption draws near. **Always** “lift up your heads” and think of Jesus.

Remember what we read in Heb 9:28 ...and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

Is 26:19 Your dead ones shall live, together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in the dust; for your dew is as the dew of lights, and the earth shall cast out the dead. Is 26:20 Come, my people, enter into your rooms and shut your doors around you; hide for a little moment, until the fury has passed by.



VERSES THAT TALK OF THE EVENTS OF THE RAPTURE:

AS THE LIGHTNING IS FROM THE EAST TO WEST (Mt 24:27)

WATCH! FOR HE COMES LIKE A THIEF (Mt 24:43-44, Lk 12:39-40, Rev 3:3)

NOAH'S FLOOD VS THE RAPTURE (Mt 24:37)

TWO IN ONE FIELD; ONE TAKEN (Mt 24:40)

THE 10 VIRGINS (Mt 25:1)

TWO IN BED; ONE TAKEN (Luke 17:34)

IT WILL HAPPEN IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE (1 Cor 15:52)

WE WILL MEET HIM IN THE AIR (1 Th 4:14-17)

SOULS UNDER THE ALTAR RECEIVED WHITE ROBES (Rev 6:11)

THE GREAT MULTITUDE WITH WHITE ROBES (Rev 7:9)

THE SON OF MAN IN THE CLOUD WITH A SICKLE (Rev 14:16)

YOUR DEAD SHALL LIVE, THEY SHALL ARISE (Is 26:19-20)

JESUS PRESENTS US TO THE ANCIENT OF DAYS (Dn 7:13)

THE SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN:

All of these examples of the rapture have one thing in common: they all reference to the **coming of the Son of Man**, which was a prophecy found in Daniel 7:13. In Mt 24:3 Jesus was asked by His disciples, “what shall be **the sign** of your coming?” Jesus had already confirmed to them that He was the Son of Man Mt 16:13 so He first answered by saying: Mt 24:27 For as **the lightning** comes out of the east and shines even to the west, so also will be the **coming of the Son of Man**. This explains how quickly the rapture will happen: “**as the lightning**”.

A few verses later, Jesus answers the disciples’ question: “**What shall be the sign**” of your coming to reign on Earth:

Mt 24:30 And then **the sign** of the Son of Man shall appear in the heavens. And then all the tribes of the earth shall mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of the heaven with power and great glory. Mt 24:31 And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. The question was simple: “**What shall be the sign of your coming?**” The answer was simple: “**And then the sign of the Son of Man shall appear in the heavens with power and great glory**”.

The sign is that the Son of Man will return to Earth in the clouds after He tells His angels to gather all the Christians in Heaven Mt 24:31, and as He returns with His army, the Earth shall mourn.

Daniel had prophesied: Dn 7:14 And dominion and glory was given Him, and a kingdom, **that all peoples, nations and languages, should serve Him.** Jesus Christ will reign on this Earth Rev 20:6.

Notice that the rapture happens first: Mt 24:27 For as the lightning comes out of the east and shines even to the west, so also will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then the armies of the antichrist are killed only to be eaten by the birds Mt 24:28 For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered. (Also seen in Rev 19:21) Mt 24:29 And immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun shall be darkened and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from the heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.

And immediately after the 7-year great tribulation: “*the sun shall be darkened and the moon shall not give her light*” and hail falls to the Earth: “*the stars shall fall from the heaven*” as Christ returns with great power and glory Mt 24:30. And we follow Him clothed in fine linen, white and clean, riding white horses Rev 19:14. Jesus asked:

Luke 18:8 When the **Son of Man** comes, shall He find faith on the earth?

Some people have asked; where is the word rapture in the Bible? Well, the word itself is not in our modern Bibles but you can find the explanation of that word in 1 Cor 15:50 & 1 Th 4:13 where Paul explains this event, it is the same event explained twice, let's look at it. I had already mentioned 1 Cor 15:51 but I will put it together with 1 Th 4:13. Let's first look at 1Cor 15:51 Behold, I speak a mystery to you; we shall not all fall asleep (die), but we shall all be changed; 1Cor 15:52 in a moment, in a glance of an eye, at the last trumpet. For a trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall all be changed. 1Cor 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 1Cor 15:54 But when this corruptible shall put on incorruption, and when this mortal shall put on immortality, then will take place the word that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. **And we also read, 1Th 4:13 But I would not have you ignorant, brothers, concerning those who are asleep (dead), that you be not grieved, even as others who have no hope. 1Th 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will also bring with Him all those who have fallen asleep through Jesus. 1Th 4:15 For we say this to you by the Word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord shall not go before those who are asleep. 1Th 4:16 For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ shall rise first. 1Th 4:17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be **caught up** together **with them** in the clouds, to meet the Lord **in the air**. And so we shall ever be with the Lord. 1Th 4:18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.** If you combine these two explanations of the rapture, you will have a better understanding of it. We are told to “comfort one another with these words” since they tell us that we will be reunited with our deceased relatives in the air to meet the Lord Jesus Christ, and we will be with Him forevermore.



JESUS WITH THE SICKLE TO REAP THE EARTH (Rev 14:14-16)

Jesus warned us 7 times, to WATCH for His return:

(1) Mt 24:42 *Therefore **watch**; for you do not know what hour your Lord comes*

(2) Mt 25:13 *Therefore **watch**, for you do not know either the day or the hour in which the Son of Man comes.*

(3) Mark13:33 *Take heed, **watch** and pray, for you do not know when the time is.*

(4) Mark13:35 *Then you **watch**, for you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, at evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrowing, or early*

(5) Mark13:37 *And what I say to you, I say to all. **Watch**.*

(6) Luke 21:36 ***Watch** therefore, praying in every season that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things which shall occur, and to stand before the Son of Man.*

(7) Rev 3:3 *Remember then how you have received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. Therefore if you will not **watch**, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.*

-We Will See God's Judgments from Heaven

This question has been asked: After we are raptured, and God sends His judgment upon the Earth, will we see all of this from Heaven? The answer is yes. We will watch everything unfold, because God is not ashamed of what He will do. And He is going to judge with justice. He will not hide anything from us, because He will not be doing anything wrong. In fact, when the final judgments are being sent upon the Earth, we will praise God and tell Him that His judgments are just. We see this in, Rev 19:1-2: *And after these things I heard a great sound of a numerous crowd in Heaven, saying, Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and honor and the power to the Lord our God! For **true and righteous are His judgments**.* This numerous crowd in Heaven are all the raptured saints, and we will confirm that every judgment He makes is, indeed, just. This is also seen in, Rev 19:11: *And I saw Heaven opened. And behold, a white horse! And He sitting on him was called Faithful and True. And in **righteousness He judges and makes war**.* Jesus judges in righteousness and all throughout the Book of Revelation, we see everyone saying that His judgments are just. There is even an angel that protects the waters, and he will say that God is just in turning the waters into blood Rev. 16:5. In conclusion, we will get to see all the events that will happen on Earth from Heaven since we will confirm that His judgments are “*true and righteous*”.