

## APPENDIX D

### THE TIMING OF THE RAPTURE

The Rapture is the end-time event called out in Scripture in which the saints are physically gathered from around the world, to be with Jesus Christ. Those who have died in Christ will be resurrected, and those who are alive in Christ will be physically transformed. Whether formerly dead or alive, the saints are given their new eternal bodies and are whisked away in the air, to meet Christ. Christians mostly agree it will occur, and agree on many of the major features of this event, i.e. the saints are transformed or resurrected, and fly through the air, and meet Christ. The big argument is on the timing of the Rapture that is, is it prior to the seventieth week, during, or at the end?

No other topic as the timing of the Rapture in all of Bible prophecy has so much emotional energy and investment attached to it by so many Christians in the West. This really shouldn't be surprising, as in the imaginations of many Western Christians it can mean the difference between experiencing martyrdom and nightmarish conditions on earth, and being in heaven with our God. Traditional prophecy teaching emphasizes the Tribulation as mostly God's wrath in the form of horrendous trumpet and bowl plagues, and that God's wrath will take place in the world ubiquitously, with no control, without regard to saint or sinner.

Excerpt from  
*Hidden Babylon and God's Last Warning*

I have even witnessed believers of one school of thought even show anger towards those of an opposing school.

All that aside, though, what does the Bible actually say about the timing of the Rapture? This, of course, has been a topic of intense debate in the West for the last several decades. Some say the Bible doesn't give a time. However, it does! Like many truths presented by the Bible, Scripture presents the truth in pieces, over many passages, that we must assemble.

### SEVEN RAPTURE SCRIPTURES AND SEVEN RAPTURE FEATURES

As with any given topic or subject there are properties, or features, to that topic. The Rapture is no different. Scripture describes seven significant features of the Rapture. These seven features are mentioned over seven Scripture passages. The features are not mentioned as one per Scripture passage, but two or three are mentioned per Scripture passage, so there is some overlap of features between passages. There are more features to the Rapture than these seven, but these seven are enough to tell us the timing of the Rapture.

We will label the seven features as "A," "B," "C," "D," "E," "F," and "G." There are two reasons why this is done, which will be made apparent.

### THE FIRST AND SECOND SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

The first two of the seven Scripture passages are verses that everyone on every side of the debate of the timing of the Rapture can agree on, and those two verses definitely speak of the Rapture. They are also both neutral in the timing of the Rapture.

The first Scripture passage of the seven is from 1 Corinthians 15:51–52 (emphasis added):

Excerpt from  
*Hidden Babylon and God's Last Warning*

Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, *at the last trumpet*; for the trumpet will sound, and *the dead will be raised* imperishable, and we shall be changed.

We can immediately see that this verse is indeed speaking of the Rapture. This is the verse that includes the phrase “in the twinkling of an eye,” and that we will be changed. We need to note the two italicized portions of those verses that the dead are raised back to life, and the Rapture occurs at the last trumpet, whatever and whenever the last trumpet is. That is all we are given here. (Yes, the Rapture occurring in the twinkling of an eye is another feature, but it is not needed for this discussion.) We will now start constructing a list using the alphabetical letters given earlier to represent features of the Rapture:

A = Auditory: “at the last trumpet.”

B = Bring the dead to life: “The dead will be raised.”

Therefore, the passage in 1 Corinthians 15:51–52 brings two features to our list. The letter A is auditory and represents, “at the last trumpet.” The letter B represents, “The dead will be raised.”

The second passage is 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 (emphasis added) which says,

For the Lord Himself will 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*. 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 thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Like 1 Corinthians 15:51–52, this passage from 1 Thessalonians is instantly recognized as a passage about the Rapture, and is neutral in timing.

The three italicized phrases in this passage are three of the seven

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significant features. First is “with the trumpet of God,” and the second is, “The dead in Christ shall rise first.” Both of these features we saw in the first passage in 1 Corinthians 15:51–52. “At the last trumpet” can be thought of as the same as “with the trumpet call of God,” can it not? How many different trumpet blasts might there be in which the dead rise? Also, “The dead in Christ shall rise” is the same as “the dead will be raised,” as we saw in 1 Corinthians 15:52. The third feature—which is new—is, “Meet the Lord in the air.” We now show our list again with three features:

- A = Auditory: “at the last trumpet,” “with the trumpet call.”
- B = Bring the dead to life: “The dead will be raised,” “The dead in Christ shall rise.”
- C =
- D =
- E =
- F = Flying to meet Him: “meet the Lord in the air.”
- G =

The phrase, “meet the Lord in the air,” is assigned the letter “F,” for “flying.” Yes, we skipped some letters; but they will be assigned momentarily.

### THE THIRD AND FOURTH SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

The third and fourth passages are both from the Gospel of John. People may not have thought of John as having anything to say about the Rapture, but it does nonetheless. Moving on to the third passage, we come to John 6, in which Jesus speaks to the religious Jews of what it is to have Christ in you. John 6:40, 44, and 54 (emphasis added) says,

Everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him,  
may have eternal life; and *I Myself will raise him up on  
the last day.*

Excerpt from  
*Hidden Babylon and God's Last Warning*

No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and *I will raise him up on the last day.*

He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and *I will raise him up on the last day.*

Notice that Jesus says the same thing three times. He doesn't say it just once or twice, but three times. This means we need to sit up and take notice what He says. Notice the words I have italicized. There are two features that run together within those words. The first is that Jesus says He will raise up the believer. In other words, the dead are raised as we saw in the two earlier passages. The second part is a new feature. Here, the believer is raised not at the time a trumpet sounds, but simply at the last day, whatever the last day is. The last day could be the last day of the age, or as some have argued it could be the last day prior to the Tribulation. At this point it doesn't matter when the last day is. What matters is that in the big picture this is another puzzle piece.

"I will raise him up," is the same as "The dead will be raised." Also, we have a new piece which is, "on the last day." We now add to our list:

A = Auditory: "At the last trumpet," "With the trumpet call."

B = Bring the dead to life: "The dead will be raised," "The dead in Christ shall rise," "I will raise him up."

C = Chronological: "On the last day" (three times).

D =

E =

F = Flying to meet Him: "Meet the Lord in the air."

G =

The fourth Scripture passage, also from the Gospel of John, gives further definition to what is going on at the last day. John 12:48 (emphasis added) says, "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My

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sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what *will judge him at the last day.*"

Two features are run together in the italicized words. The first is about judgment of the wicked. Jesus speaks of the Father, the one who judges the person who rejects Christ (i.e., the wicked). Notice the judging occurs at the last day, which is the second part. Therefore, between this verse and the three verses just noted in John 6, we have more information about the last day. It is the day at which both the dead are raised, and those who reject Christ are judged.

Our list grows to five items:

A = Auditory: "At the last trumpet," "With the trumpet call."

B = Bring the dead to life: "The dead will be raised," "The dead in Christ shall rise," "I will raise him up."

C = Chronological: "On the last day" (three times).

D = Dead judged: "will judge him."

E =

F = Flying to meet Him: "Meet the Lord in the air."

G =

### THE FIFTH AND SIXTH SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Continuing on to the fifth Scripture passage, Revelation 11:15, 18 (emphasis added) says,

*And the seventh angel sounded; and there arose loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."*

*And the nations were enraged, and Thy wrath came, and the time came for the dead to be judged . . . and [the time] to give their reward to Thy bond-servants the prophets and to the saints and to those who fear Thy name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth.*

Excerpt from  
*Hidden Babylon and God's Last Warning*

The three italicized phrases stand out as significant here. The first is, “the seventh angel sounded.” Among the seven trumpets being sounded in Revelation, the seventh sounding is the last trumpet. First Corinthians 15:51 (“at the last trumpet”) and Revelation 11:15, therefore, are likely speaking of the same trumpet. The second italicized phrase is, “the time came for the dead to be judged.” This judging is the same dead being judged as in John 12:48. The third italicized phrase is a new feature and is, “Destroy those who destroy the earth.” In other words, the wicked will be punished.

Our list grows to six items:

- A = Auditory: “At the last trumpet,” “with the trumpet call,” “The seventh angel sounded.”
- B = Bring the dead to life: “The dead will be raised,” “The dead in Christ shall rise,” “I will raise him up.”
- C = Chronological: “On the last day” (three times), “At the last day.”
- D = Dead judged: “Will judge him,” “The time came for the dead to be judged.”
- E = Extinguish the wicked: “Destroy those who destroy the earth.”
- F = Flying to meet Him: “Meet the Lord in the air.”
- G =

The sixth Scripture passage comes from 2 Thessalonians 1:6–9 (emphasis added). That passage says,

For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when *the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven* with His mighty angels in flaming fire, *dealing out retribution to those who do not know God* and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.

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In the 2 Thessalonians passage, there are two italicized phrases. The first is a new feature which is, “The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven.” In other words, Jesus will be made visible so people can physically see Him. The second is a repeat of destroying those who destroy the earth and is, “dealing out retribution to those who do not know God.” These two phrases in this passage say that when Christ is revealed visibly and physically, retribution, i.e. punishment, will be dealt out to the wicked.

Our list of seven items has been completed:

- A = Auditory: “At the last trumpet,” “With the trumpet call,” “the seventh angel sounded.”
- B = Bring the dead to life: “The dead will be raised,” “The dead in Christ shall rise,” “I will raise him up.”
- C = Chronological: “On the last day” (three times), “At the last day.”
- D = Dead judged: “Will judge him,” “The time came for the dead to be judged.”
- E = Extinguish the wicked: “Destroy those who destroy the earth,” “Dealing out retribution.”
- F = Flying to meet Him: “Meet the Lord in the air.”
- G = Get to see Him: “The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven.”

### THE SEVENTH SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

We now add the seventh and final Scripture passage. Matthew 24:29–31 (emphasis added) says,

But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken, and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will *see the Son of Man* coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. “And

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He will send forth His angels with *a great trumpet* and they will gather together *His elect from the four winds*, from one end of the sky to the other.

In the passage from Matthew, the three significant features for this discussion are italicized. The first is that the Son of Man, that is Jesus, is visibly seen. We also saw this in the 2 Thessalonians passage. The second is a great trumpet sounding, which we have seen in the other passages. The third phrase we only saw way back at the second passage, in 1 Thessalonians, which is to meet the Lord in the air. The elect, that is, the followers of Christ, are gathered together “from the four winds.” In other words, the elect are in the air, with the winds, from all parts of the earth—from the four extreme points of the compass.

The final version of the list is as follows:

- A = Auditory: “At the last trumpet,” “With the trumpet call,” “The seventh angel sounded,” “A great trumpet.”
- B = Bring the dead to life: “The dead will be raised,” “The dead in Christ shall rise,” “I will raise him up.”
- C = Chronological: “On the last day” (three times), “At the last day.”
- D = Dead judged: “Will judge him,” “The time came for the dead to be judged.”
- E = Extinguish the wicked: “Destroy those who destroy the earth,” “Dealing out retribution.”
- F = Flying to meet Him: “Meet the Lord in the air,” “His elect from the four winds.”
- G = Get to see Him: “The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven,” “See the Son of Man.”

### TABLE OF SCRIPTURES AND FEATURES

We now take our seven features, and our seven Scripture passages, and arrange them in a table presented in figure D-1.

Excerpt from  
*Hidden Babylon and God's Last Warning*

The seven features are labeled at a slant across the top, with the corresponding letter, A to G, as we saw in the earlier lists. The seven Scripture references are shown in the column on the left. The features represented by letters are arranged vertically in columns, and appear on the same rows of the Scripture passages in which they are mentioned.

Of all seven features, it is the chronological one, labeled with a “C” that is the center target of this debate. That column is circled to highlight the main topic of this appendix.

In each row of Scripture passages, we see the two or three letters representing the two or three Rapture features spoken of by that passage.

Note the equal signs, i.e. “ = ” in the table, between the letters. The table in figure D-1 makes use of two basic mathematics principles. The first is a simple property of numbers and ideas, called the identity property. An example is, “ $X = Y$ ,” which means  $X$  is the same as  $Y$ . Secondly, there is the transitive property of numbers, using identities. This says that if  $X = Y$  and  $Y = Z$ , then  $X = Z$ .

Therefore, in the first row we see 1 Corinthians 15:51–52, with the letters A and B. They are shown equal to each other ( $A = B$ ) because both features are spoken of together in that passage. We know from the passage that both features are part of the same event, i.e., the Rapture.

In the third row, which is the three verses from John 6,  $B = C$ , because the dead being raised (B) is spoken of as occurring on the last day (C); they are spoken together as occurring together. We can carry this logic to all the remaining passages. In the fourth row,  $C = D$ . In the fifth passage row we see  $D = E = A$ , or  $A = D = E$ , and so forth.

As the reader can see, since  $A = B$  (in the first and second row), and  $B = C$  (in the third row), and  $C = D$  (in the fourth row), then C, the time of the Rapture being the last day, is equal to not only A, B, and D, through the transitive property of math, but C is also equal to E, F, and G.

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Figure D-1. The Seven Rapture Features of the  
Seven Rapture Passages Compared

7 SCRIPTURE PASSAGES	7 FEATURES						
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1) 1 Cor. 15:51–52	A = B						
2) 1 Thess. 4:16–17	A = B =					F	
3) John 6:40, 44, 54		B = C					
4) John 12:48			C = D				
5) Revelation 11:15,18	A =			D = E			
6) 2 Thess. 1:6–9					E = G		
7) Matthew 24:29–31	A =					F = G	

In other words, the Rapture's feature of the trumpet sounding (A), happens with the dead being raised (B), and on the last day (C), when the dead are judged (D), and the wicked are destroyed (E), with the saints meeting Jesus in the air (F), and all with the world seeing the Savior visibly (G). All seven features are equal to one another by the identity and transitive properties of the seven features carried over the seven Scripture passages.

Therefore, all seven Scripture passages taken together, point to a Rapture that occurs at the end of the Tribulation at the last day. It is the same day when the wicked are destroyed and judged, with Jesus being visible and the saints meeting Christ in the air.

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CONCLUSION OF THE SEVEN PASSAGES:  
A POST-TRIB RAPTURE

All seven of these passages taken together are all talking about seven features, or aspects, of the Rapture. These passages taken together should prove the Rapture is “post-trib,” that is, occurring when Christ visibly appears at the end of the Great Tribulation.

This argument for a “post-trib” Rapture is presented here not to try to win an argument only for argument’s sake, but to help prepare all brothers and sisters to truly get out of Big Babel for the end times.

In chapter 14 we see that to leave Big Babel is to move to the Bride, and that means a personal encounter with Christ, not changing religions. You can only move to the Bride with the power of the Holy Spirit to convict you of sin and idolatry. If the Rapture is truly at the end of the age—and the interpretation presented here is straightforward and points to just that and not seven years or any number of years prior—then that is another reason to get out of Big Babel and be ready, and to completely rely on God.

Being in the Bride is not only to get you through the hard times leading up to the seventieth week. It is also to prepare you to be ready to disciple new believers when the gospel is preached worldwide just prior to God’s wrath (see chapter 12). And then there is the Great Tribulation itself in which brothers and sisters must stand up against man-made persecution from whatever source—the CCP, the Antichrist, or whatever government rules over you in the Americas in the end times.

If this argument has not convinced you that the Rapture does not occur at an earlier time, please be honest with yourselves. Is your differing opinion truly because you believe Scripture says something different, and for no other reason? That is at least being honest. Or is it only because every teacher you have ever heard for all the years you’ve been a Christian said the Rapture was before the Tribulation? Most of the time, a teacher will teach only what he or she has been

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taught. At the root of this teaching in the Church (not due to the teacher) may be idols of nationalism, pride, and greed. It is best to read and study God's Word for yourself.

Do you yourself believe the Rapture must be before the Tribulation due to: (1) a fear of persecution and martyrdom by the hands of men; or (2) an attitude that we in the West are somehow above such troubles; or (3) the fear that God's wrath, when poured out in the final forty-two months, will catch saints and sinners together with no differentiation? Please be honest with yourself. Let's briefly look at each of these three possible reasons.

#### First: Fear of Persecution

The idea of the Rapture happening at the end of the Tribulation may be astonishing for many Western Christians who have grown up all their lives thinking the Rapture would whisk us away from any trouble. Be aware that Christians in Red China and the Muslim realm have been living in tribulation for decades and centuries. They are routinely persecuted and martyred. Jesus even said you "will have trouble" (John 16:33).

Here are two examples of the mindset of Christians living or having lived in the Middle East. At one point several years ago I had the pleasure and honor of meeting two Christians from Egypt. (Of all the communities of Christians remaining in the Muslim realm, the Coptic Christians of Egypt are probably the most numerous, being 10 percent of the population of Egypt.)

One Christian was a brother, a priest of the church, and one was a sister, a layperson. I tried to tell them about the Four Signposts from Daniel Revisited. They said they were not interested because they were ready for the Antichrist to appear. To them, it won't matter when he appears, or under what circumstances—they are ready to die for Jesus. Also, to them, a pre-tribulation Rapture isn't even on the table.

As a second example, several years ago I was at a conference about churches in the Middle East. A Syrian pastor was being interviewed

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remotely, and was asked if he wouldn't rather come to the United States to be safe instead of leading his flock in ISIS (that is, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) territory. He matter-of-factly, and without hesitation, said, "The safest place to be is where Christ wants you to be."

Christians in the underground churches in China and the Muslim realm tell us Western Christians, via partnering ministries based here in the United States, to pray for them. However, they don't pray for deliverance, they simply tell us to pray that God gives them strength so they can stand up under the persecution.

Do you see the difference in attitude between them and us Christians in the West?

We should have the same attitude as those Middle East Christians. If we do not, and cling stubbornly to a pre-tribulation Rapture position, we could endanger ourselves regarding the faith by not being ready. When trouble really comes, will we stand up under it, or fall away?

### Second: We Are Above Such Troubles

The second reason, that somehow we are above being martyred, is simply an idol of pride mixed with nationalism. Yes, the United States has been an exceptional nation among nations, but there is no favoritism with God (Rom. 2:9–10). If the Scriptures are showing us a post-tribulation Rapture, do not think that somehow Americans have an out. Along these same lines, if somehow you think there is no way the saints would get caught up in all this persecution to come, this goes against what much Scripture says about standing up for the faith in the face of trouble.

Also, did all those martyrs who went before us die in vain? If you are an American, having been born here, and grown up here, just remember, America has only been here 10 percent of the time of the Church age, and held only 5 percent of the population in its last fifty years or so. We have been existing our whole lives in a very unique anomaly.

Excerpt from  
*Hidden Babylon and God's Last Warning*

### Third: Fear of God's Uncontrollable Wrath

If you believe we won't be here for the Tribulation simply because God's wrath will be poured out and saints would get caught up in it, please read chapter 13. The Bible tells us the saints will not be caught up in it but will be kept safe in the midst of the storm. In fact, one of the trumpet judgments could even be considered a blessing for the saints.

### FINAL REMARKS

This book has been about the human heart and idols, and about replacing the idolatry and idols in our hearts with a love for Christ, and rejoicing in a full personal relationship with Him.

A common mark of a doctrine being an idol is if it replaces a simple biblical interpretation, and explains it away in terms that are more complicated. In the face of these seven passages, a more complicated explanation is needed as to why the Rapture would not occur at the last day, or the last day is some other day, or that there are additional trumpets sounding.

If a simple interpretation of Scripture is disregarded, ask yourself why are you disregarding it? Be honest, for your sake. Have you made an idol out of your own comfort? Or is fear present because of another idol keeping you from fully trusting our God? Idols always give us a false comfort. Is it possible you are taking comfort from this idol rather than from Christ Himself in living day to day? If you are a pastor or ministry leader, are you afraid of losing most of your congregation by taking such a stand? Aren't you making either money or pride or self, your idol?

These questions are not meant to condemn anyone. They are meant to make everyone take time to honestly think and pray about where their heart stands. This is part of "coming out of her."