

**2 Peter 3:11-12** *Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire,*

**1 Corinthians 15:23-24** *But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.*

**Fifth**, the resurrection of the dead is said to happen to all men, not just the dead in Christ.

**John 5:28-29** *Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.*

**Acts 24:15** *I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.*

So let us sum up what the Bible has show us. First, the idea of the rapture is not found in the Bible. Second, the doctrine of the Rapture is not from Christ, but is a modern doctrine of men. Third, the descriptions of the return of Jesus Christ

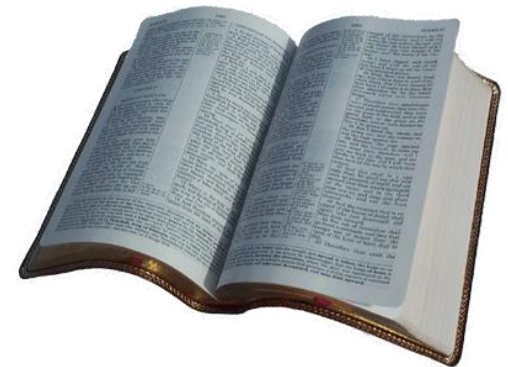
in the Bible are quite different than those believed.

Why do so many people permit themselves to believe something that is not from God, but from men? Perhaps the sad and simple truth is that they do not have the proper esteem for God, but have instead found the ideas they desire.

**2 Timothy 4:3-4** *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.*

The return of Jesus Christ will come as a thief comes, when we least expect. When that day comes, there will be no time of reconciliation with God, but immediate and dreadful judgment to those who falsely believe.

# The Rapture



**What** is the Rapture? The most common definition that many people would use is the time when the Church is “caught up”. The word “Rapture” itself is found nowhere in the Bible, but is a loose transliteration of the Latin word *raeptius*, taken from **I Thessalonians 4:17** for “caught up”. It might be described as follows: on one day in the future Christians will be suddenly taken away from the earth (and those dead in Christ will be raised). This is either the beginning of, or in the middle of a great tribulation (suffering) that is mentioned in Matthew 24/Mark 14/Luke 21. One Newsweek poll found that 55 percent of Americans believe in the rapture as described above.

What many people would be surprised to know is that the idea of a secret or special rapture of Christians is not a Biblical idea, but invented in the 1830s by a Bible commentary writer, John Darby. In fact, the idea simply did not exist in the minds of any Christians before that time. The Bible does not support this idea, instead providing us with a different image of the end of time.

**First**, Scripture refers to a single day of Judgment, rather than a day of judgment for Christians, and then a day of judgment later for others. Let's look at some Bible passages that indicate this:

**2 Peter 3:7** *But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the*

*same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

**1 John 4:17**...*that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.*

**Matthew 25:32** *"All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats"*

**Romans 14:10** .... *For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.*

**Second**, the coming of Christ for His Saints is identified in the Bible as something that the whole world will witness; this is directly opposed to the idea of a secret rapture.

**Revelation 1:7** *Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him*

**Acts 1:11** *who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."*

**1 Thessalonians 4:16** ... *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God....*

**Third**, there is the problem of the tribulation that the Rapture concept keys around. The tribulation spoken of in Scripture was identified by Jesus as being in the lifetime of those to whom He spoke:

**Matthew 24:34** *"Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.*

John would later state that he was living in the time of the tribulation in Revelation 1:9

The Bible is also clear that Christians would not be removed from the tribulation

**John 17:15** *"I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one."*

**John 16:33** *"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation;*

**1 Thessalonians 3:4** *For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened, and you know*

**Fourth**, when Jesus returns, nothing and no one will remain. In fact, the Bible says that when Jesus returns, His reign will END, not BEGIN