

# Should We Expect The Rapture In The Near Future?



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## Introduction

THE RETURN OF CHRIST IS A MAJOR THEME OF THE BIBLE AND THE “BLESSED HOPE” FOR CHRISTIANS.

### 1 - Questions about the return of Christ

#### Is Jesus literally coming back to Earth?

Some “Christians” don’t believe in the second coming. They actually don’t really believe the rest of the Bible either – don’t take it literally, which is the only way it makes sense.

#### Are there two phases to the return of Christ?

Some Christians believe in Christ’s return to reign at the end of this age, but do not believe in “The Rapture,” His return for believers before the end of the age.

Why? 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and several other passages require a separate, earlier return for believers.

“harpazo” – “catch up” – very literal expression, translated by “rapture.”

Why it is confusing to some people: Jesus did not explain the Rapture; only His Glorious Return. Why? Even though He had announced that He would build His Church, the nature of the Church was still a mystery – not to be revealed until after His ascension into heaven. 1 Corinthians 15:51-55; Ephesians 1:9-10; Colossians 1:26-27; Revelation 2:20.

Further study: See “Differences between the Rapture and the Glorious Return of Christ.”

#### When will the Rapture occur in relation to the Tribulation?

Some Christians expect the Rapture in the middle or the end of the Tribulation.

Revelation 4:1 - Place in the chart of future events for a pre-tribulation Rapture.

Further study: “See Reasons for believing in the Pre-Tribulation Rapture.”

### 2 - Questions about the timing of the Rapture

#### When will it happen?

Matt 24:3, 36 - No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

#### Why hasn’t it happened yet?

Prophecy teachers have been expecting it any time for decades!

"Where is this 'coming' he promised? – 2 Peter 3:4

#### Could it be soon?

This is the last generation – Lesson of the Fig Tree - Matthew 24:32-35  
The world is ready  
Everything that needs to be fulfilled has been

#### The Big Question: Are you ready?

#### Questions and Comments

#### Our Response

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