

This Rapture Thing that We are Counting On...

I am sure that most of us have been thinking on the rapture quite a bit lately – duh!

I also am quite certain that most all of us are aware of the classic verses on the rapture. And we also are quite sure that America will never be the same as we knew it a month ago. But do you still wonder – maybe just a little...?

As life continues to get tougher and more painful with more things being shut down in the name of health (like the internet being controlled more – my websites becoming non-essential, etc.) and daily life becoming more confusing as well as a growing instability everywhere, all increasing on a daily basis that we could even find ourselves growing bit of doubt concerning the rapture from which we have been having our comfort established within our minds and hearts!

I mean, it sounds so science ‘fictiony’ to think that we could be suddenly whisked “*up up and awaaay with(out) a beautiful balloon*” to meet the risen Saviour in the clouds while the rest of the world is expecting this all-loving, all-allowing Jesus to come down and fix everything and bring everyone together in this global unity (and who will behead them if they don’t worship and follow him).

I even find it hard to believe that it might be very soon that while the world is being forced to worship ‘another Jesus’, as Paul calls him, and with those people all thinking everything is back to being hunky-dory again, (*if not even better than ever with the new global design in everything from food to finances, work to charity, etc.*) that at the same time, we will be present with the risen Lord.

Now, we have heard about the rapture for years – we have talked about it; hoped for it many times; ‘kind of’ studied it, preached about it, stood on street corners and yelled at people about it, and scared our children with it and have even watched a few zillion YouTube videos on it. In fact, many of us are also old enough to remember how many times we thought we were about to go “zoomin’ out of here” only to be disappointed again and again. Yup – and once again, we notice that we are still here!

Thankfully though, most of us have hung on! We have stayed with Paul, kept our KJB as the ONLY one we believe as we read, study, carry, talk about, etc. and having that understanding of being aware of ‘another Jesus’ who is not only making the big headlines today in the major media but is also going strong in the ‘religious wrong’ world of modern gospel preaching found in all the churches across America along with their written materials, books, videos, mp3, podcasts, websites, etc. – all part of Satan’s plan, of course, with his believing he can increase his goal of “being like the most High.”

Side comment (“bunny trail,” as I always called them): *I believe that if it hadn’t been for God showing me about rightly dividing correctly by knowing to look to Paul’s books only for sound doctrine thus causing me to throw out the modern gospel with all its empty promises of blessings and the threatening moments in the sermons that tried to instill the fear of God’s severity to get me to respond to the preacher,*

I would have been like most young people – I would have dumped the religion business a long time ago. Or, even worse, I could have actually stayed with it and continued to use my music talent, etc. and grown more involved being that song leader, musician, minister of music, etc. in any of the churches I had been part of over the years. Not only could I be rolling in that ministerial money today, but I also could still be part of Satan’s plan to receive worship, etc. through all kinds of music!

But honestly, even during those music ‘ministering’ and pastoring years, I was realizing more and more that it all was fakery. I even sat at the table with those ‘great’ KJB Bible preachers and saw the reality of being behind the scenes. Talk about schizoids – hypocrites – liars – abusers – selfish – blind leading the blind, etc.. I can, to this day, understand totally why God describes them as evil men and seducers that wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. Anyway, back to the topic at hand...

I think we can have a pretty good idea of what is now going on in America and the world these days without having to just spend all our time digging and searching YouTube, GodTube, Fox News, etc. checking out everybody’s take on this thing (looking for that person who agrees with yourself, I suppose).

For me, myself and I, I am reminded of the infamous but false picture of “Footprints in the Sand,” where a Jesus is pictured carrying people in the sand – or in another version, shows you walking in his same steps, etc. I, however, continue to keep my head in the sand of the King James Bible, reminding myself that because I am risen with Christ, I am already dead and my life is hid with Christ in God.

I can’t control how things are going – and to constantly seek and watch someone’s opinion on what is going on or where this is all going, etc. eventually creating a fear in me... I am going to try hard to stick to my KJB through it all. That is why I call it, “Sticking my head in the KJB sand!”

Classic Verses:

Like I said, we know the classic rapture verses:

I Thessalonians 4:13-18 - *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

Then there is **II Thessalonians 2:1-4** - *Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who*

opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Then, ‘almost lastly,’ the most recent verse that I have come to count on, especially since I got into rightly dividing rightly which helped me understand that *blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in* which then helped me see and correctly grasp **Romans 11:22** - *Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.*

Personal Doubts in your mind?

So, as I have personally discovered through my own readings and re-readings, etc., if one were to read those slowly and carefully – and repeatedly, we could still possibly see some areas where we could ‘wonder’ and allow some doubt to sneak in. Questions such as:

- 1) Are you sure that isn’t referring to Christ’s coming in Revelation 19?
- 2) Could that all be talking about Christ coming to meet us in the air at our death?
- 3) Maybe He has already come, and we are now living in the Tribulation preaching the wrong gospel?
- 4) Maybe we are simply going to have to go through the Tribulation?
- 5) Maybe we are simply going to go through just the peaceful time of the Tribulation?
- 6) Maybe we are still years, decades or even ages away before the ‘rapture’ or even until Christ returns?
- 7) Isn’t this just a new teaching, only recently developed?
- 8) More...?

Well, also remembering that **Daniel 12:4** says: *But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased*, we see that there is NOBODY that really has all this nailed down, as we say, and no one will until that ‘book’ that has been sealed even until the time of the end, when all the truth will finally be available. Is that the KJB being mentioned even back in those days? (*As Twilight Zone music quietly begins playing; na na na na, na na na na...*)

In fact, just about every one of those popular homegrown online people with their books, pamphlets, home-videos all yakking publicly and developing their own big followers about what they know about they claim about the present situation are really just people who are bible correctors, professional re-writers, gospel teaching, Paul-hating, God-hating scholars or self-promoted knows-it-all.

Need I remind you what God says about that kind of person? God’s words tell us that those people are just people with more ‘wisdom of the world’ – ‘wisdom of the wise’ – disputers of the world – they appear to be mighty and noble – all of whom are glorying in their flesh with their self-designed knowledge and direction - *especially hoping to build their earthly ministerial*

kingdom or to get you to buy their book, their gold, their health cures, their pills, their home-made medicines, or maybe even just dress like them, etc.

Instead, God simply uses the foolish things of the world to confound the wise. God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty, along with the base thing so of the world, and things which are despised.

To prove that point, look at the apostle whom God had chosen to actually bring to the heathen Gentiles: 1) the truth of the greatest dispensation; the dispensation of the grace of God containing 2) the biggest mystery of all time; 3) the miraculous fact that the Gentiles could now be fellow-heirs, and 4) be of the same body, and 5) be partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel; 6) and that Paul should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ to all the heathen. God went to the worst of the worst to reach out to the worst – they were never ever God's people. In fact, they were a people who hated His chosen people. Read some history!

And even worse, Paul was a man like us. Paul was so much like us, (or should I say many of us are more like Paul than we want to admit?) Before Paul was made nigh by the blood of Christ, he was a man without Christ, as were we! Paul was an alien from the commonwealth of Israel, as we were! He, like we were, was a stranger from the covenants of promise. Like us, Paul had no hope and was without God in the world. Paul even said himself that he was less than the least of all saints.

In fact, even after Paul had met face-to-face with the risen Saviour, he still described himself as a wretched man who with his mind served the law of God but to his frustration, as it is also with us today, he served the law of sin with the flesh. He battled within himself all the time, (*we all sure understand that war, eh!*), warring against the law of his mind and bringing him into the captivity to the law of sin, which was still in his members. Know anybody like that? Hello!

So, do you see why I am just going to stick with my KJB and take all that comes across in the media with a grain of salt. Have you noticed how often the updates change everything anyway? I think we just continue being hid with Christ in God and to set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

America is never going to be the same; it is probably going to continue to get worse and worse, as compared to older America – but probably greater and greater to the left / the socialists / the millennials / the religious, etc. But you and I know better! We are rare birds, without a doubt. We will NOT be liked – we will be even less accepted by everyone if we even survive all this nonsense and germ warfare – and satanic attack on truth and our way of life.

Do some of you remember the chalk artist evangelical preacher who would draw number 666 written ON their foreheads in his pictures? We always wondered why anyone would do wear a number that way! Well, today with all the computer and chip technology, (www=666) we know why as well as how that will come about. And yet our own kids just laughed it all off back then

– they knew better... but are now less than a little interested anymore... and I can't say as I blame them! I am still disgusted with religion and despise it more than ever.

My point is that over time, we always seem to eventually come to see the light shine a little brighter as we finally understand a little more of the truth and get 'some' of our doubts fixed and questions answered.

Concluding Verse

So, in case you have any doubts about the rapture, let's look at one more verse. In **Revelation 3**, we remember the stuff about the seven churches. Note that one can't take a history of the earthly churches as much as we have in the past because for the most part, the 'local' church has rejected God's words, rejected Paul and have designed their own religion and doctrine, etc. That would be another sermon to take a refresher look at **Revelation 2,3**. But these days, I am not interested in that stuff, anymore. We have bigger and better things on our plates these days.

But we can still see some application for us in **Revelation 3:10**. Over time, I have come to see that the Philadelphian church description has to be the one we are 'in'.

First of all, let me say that I have quit believing we are or ever were in the Laodicean 'church age'. **Verses 3:14-22** do not fit Paul's doctrine at all. It is that simple. I sure wish I could get rid of all my sermons from the website that show me preaching about the Laodicean church age.

So, we must still be in the Philadelphian. We are what's left of the ones who **1)** realized that we have little strength but we continue to rely on God's grace; **2)** we kept his word in the KJB while everyone else went to their new 300+ bible versions, fulfilling **Romans 1:25**, and **3)** we have not denied his name, the name being the true risen Christ, not the Jesus teachings of the gospels, etc.

We also see the mentioning of the *synagogues of Satan*, of which I totally agree as referring to the many local churches today as they are teaching Jewish teachings in the churches, thus the increase of and application of the words '*synagogue of Satan*' during these modern days.

So, while that is all obviously fading away, I simply say we must be on the last hair of the tail of the Philadelphian church age. The 'local church' is about to undergo an official 'change' in their spiritual leadership and 'god'. And, I must say, with what the pastors have been preaching during these times has certainly prepared their congregations for **Revelation 6**.

So the concluding rapture verse for me (*in other words, I have said all that to say this...*), is **verse 10**, *Because thou hast kept the word of my patience* (the grace and goodness of God, through Paul – **Romans 11:22**, etc.) , *I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*

Yes – I believe without a shadow of doubt, we will not have to go through the Tribulation. However, how close is it going to get before we are actually raptured 'taken out' and Gentile nation is cut off and the everlasting gospel (instead of Paul's gospel) must be preached? I think

it will be very close... and times will become even more challenging, to say the least. *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*

We surely have been and are seeing more of a falling away than ever before – and not just from the riches of America – a true falling away from truth noting that as the falling away takes place, there must also be a buildup for the coming of the antichrist, Revelation 6.

So really, I believe we just have to wait for the man of sin to be revealed. I wonder who that could be? I even wonder if he isn't already in place, but just hasn't been revealed? You don't suppose it really could be _____, do you? 😊 (*Fade out with the Twilight Zone theme song again... na na na na na na na na.*)

Anyway – it just seems that the time of our departure, one way or another – dying or flying - must be quickly approaching... and this time, it won't be another pastor-preacher-hyped false alarm.

Colossians 3:1-3

*If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above,
where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*

*Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.
For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*