**The ‘Rapture’ – Before or After Tribulation…**

**…or not coming at all?**

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When the discussion of the ‘rapture’ comes up these days, I am hearing more and more surprising responses. There are those folks think the rapture can still come at any time – there are those that think it is a long way off – there are those who think it won’t come until after the tribulation, and of course, there are those who still think it must come before the tribulation; and sadly, more and more people seem to be losing hope, giving up, wondering if the rapture is just another teaching that is also not true anymore.

**Introduction:**

We all should know by now that anyone can prove anything from a King James Bible. They certainly don’t have to go to any new ‘version’ or to a ‘new’ denomination, etc. to find false teachings. They can get them right from a KJB (check with a Mormon or 7th Day’er) – but despite what the scholarly trained pastors and leaders say as they flash their brain from their pulpit to their congregation, the average common person should easily be able to tell if a ‘teaching’ is true or not.

*“How can they do that, you ask*?” Answer: that simple concept is solved in a second by understanding ‘rightly dividing the word of truth’. In other words, all they must know is ‘***to whom***’ any reference is being written/spoken ***‘to’*** in comparison to ‘***for whom***’ any reference is written/spoken ***‘for’***.

Simply stated: any reference must be from the apostle Paul as he is the only apostle that we are to follow today. Add to that, we must be able to see who Paul is talking to within that specific context of verses one is reading. In other words, if he is directing his words to or about a woman, then a man doesn’t need to ‘follow’ those words – he would have to just know and understand them for his wife, daughter, etc. and visa versa throughout Paul’s writings.

That is called ‘rightly dividing the word of truth’ in **II Timothy 2:15**. Now, **II Timothy 2:16** warns the reader that anything else is called ***‘profane and vain babblings***” and all that leads to an ***increase unto more ungodliness*** – and ***will eat as doth a canker*** – ***who concerning the truth have erred***… So, the simple command is to ‘***shun***’ anything that is not rightly divided according to Paul. NOTE: ‘***shun’*** does not mean ‘*tolerate’* nor does it mean ‘*agree to disagree*’ or to ‘*pick the peas from a plate of bad food*,’ etc. / or to ‘*live with and love’* those who preach those profane and vain babblings amongst their ***good words and fair speeches***! So if those books that you are reading, or those sermons you are listening to, or those videos and YouTube you are watching are not listed as from a rightly divided King James Bible, then SHUN THEM!

And if that all sounds complicated, then just dedicate yourself to sit down and read your KJB from **Genesis** to **Revelation** – and you will see how it all fits together and how rightly dividing is nothing more than reading your Scriptures with common sense. It is not some fluky teaching invented by Paulson – it is a common-sense application from reading the entire Bible and observing the dispensational direction it all ‘*has’* taken, ‘is’ *taking* and ‘*will’* continue to do so.

All of the ‘above’ words that I have said have been in a general and quick overview; if you want a more detailed study, just visit the website. It is all there in detail – many times over. Just go to the search and type in rightly dividing and I have enough ‘stuff’ there to last you a longggg time.

With all that having been said, let’s go right to the ‘*rapture reminder*’ lesson.

**Pre-Study Comments:**

Let’s start this mini-bible study this with the conclusion: Yes – the rapture is still coming. Yes, it could come at any time, so keep your hope hoping! Yes, it is coming before the Tribulation – you do not have to go through the Tribulation (if you have the faith of Jesus Christ now). And yes, you may still have to go through the dying process. So, either way, the next big event in your life from God will put you with the risen Saviour. It will either be sudden through rapture, quick death or that dreaded slow death.

But to think the rapture is to take place ‘after’ or ‘during’ the tribulation is to believe a false teaching concluded from profane can vain babblings – and that false teaching will eat at you as doth a canker – because those who are teaching that stuff are erring from the truth.

**Main Study**

So, you ask, “How can you say that with such total confidence?” It’s simple: Paul is the one who teaches it and it is as obvious as it can be – IF – you understand rightly dividing rightly*. (I know, ‘correctly’ would be correct word to use there, but using ‘rightly’ might put a smile on the reader of this mini-study)*

Ok – that was easy, wasn’t it!

However, keep reading to read a few more comments to fill up the bucket of truth about the rapture – and to make this mini-study longer for those who like to read more about the subject.

First, note that the word ‘*rapture’* is not a scriptural word. So, if that bothers you – and it does me by the way, then at least use the correct words in the description, “***Cut Off***”! In other words, the cutting off of the Gentile nation as stated in **Romans 11:22**.

There ya go, if you call it the ‘cut off’ instead of the rapture, that will certainly wiggle a few eyebrows – and either open the door for a great witness opportunity or cause your ‘listener’ to walk away - unless they instantly get belligerent and angry which is often the more common response. And why do they do that? That is another mini-bible study for another time. This one will be long enough, I can already tell.

Ya know, one of the hardest things I had to learn when I began to understand the simplicity of rightly dividing the word of truth was that I had to ‘*forget’* so much of what I had been taught earlier by my denominational religious teachings. For a while, I still tried to make Paul fit INTO what I had been taught instead of throwing out what I had learned and start fresh with Paul’s writings – ONLY! But that certainly is an important part of understanding – and the joys that come from it. Get the dirt out of the water and you will eventually have that clean water you want!

I had to forget all the ‘date-setters’ I had followed – even though he seemed to make sense at that time, anyway. I had to forget the potential ‘anti-christs’ or ‘prophets’ that our ‘in the know’ pastors tried to get us to believe. Remember the talk on Ted Kennedy, JFK, Prince Charles and on and on… all the books from the prophecy channels and speakers – etc. Up to now, they have proven themselves to be wrong – and yet they still have all our money!

**Why else would we tend to lose hope in the coming of the ‘rapture’?** (The ‘Cut Off’)

1. Maybe all we are interested in is ‘our disappearing’ and not ‘his appearing’. Honestly, I think that is one of the main reasons people are giving up. They just want OUT, they really don’t want HIM! Notice how Paul states it to us in **II Timothy 4:5-8**… and more specifically in **verse 8** when he says “…***unto all them also that love his appearing****.”*
2. Maybe they are simply caught up in being conformed to this world and have not really been transformed by the renewing of their mind; their mind is still setting their affection on things on the earth instead of things above. See **Romans 12:1,2** and **Colossians 3:1+**. We all know living the Christian life is still important – we just don’t follow the gospel teachings; we are still to follow Paul’s teachings of the Christian manner of life – as told to us from the Risen Saviour. Of course, the ‘gospel’ teachings seem a lot easier and more popular and make ya ‘feel’ better about yourself – just love everyone, etc. Keep in mind, by the way, that during the days of the gospels, the Jewish Law was still in effect, even for Jesus Himself. So if people think the gospel walk is as ‘easy’ as just loving everyone, they need to realize that their walk is still the law from Moses. (See **Hebrews 13:9**). The ‘new’ testament doesn’t begin until the ‘death’ of the testator! However, even if Paul’s manner of life is full of challenge, especially trying to be the sincere Christian in the fleshy world of today, it is a walk based on ‘***reasonable service***’ according to **Romans 12:2** and is all based in the dispensation of grace. Which ‘walk’ would you rather attempt – the ‘law’ or sound doctrine bathed in ‘grace’? (See **Titus 2** – how hard is that, anyway?)
3. A simple lack of understanding of rightly dividing the word of truth can cause a confusion that ends up discouraging people about the ‘Cut Off”!
4. Reading books about the ‘rapture’ (The Cut Off) from those preachers and authors who present their ‘***good words***’ and ‘***fair speeches’*** and ‘***deceive the simple***’ instead of reading THE BOOK – KJB – itself and by yourself (see **Romans 16:17,18**) can certainly confuse your mind. I know of no ‘Christian’ authors who do nothing but confuse the reader with their rendition of the truth - except Paul, of course!

**Simple Support of the Simple Conclusion!**

* **First** – Understanding that God went to the Gentiles through Paul – **Acts 9** - after the Jews killed Stephen in **Acts 8**, you would realize that the dispensation of the grace of God is the boat we are all in at this time. Then, knowing that before this dispensation, there existed the severity of God and that it was directed at the Jewish nation - ‘***them’*** - and now, the goodness of God is directed at the Gentile nation - “***thee***” - one could then simply see the rest of the verse explains that God will return to the Jews – the Tribulation – AFTER He cuts off the Gentile nation. See the following fantastic verse: **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***. Then one would have no doubt that the ‘*rapture’* – the Cutting Off of the Gentile nation would signify what we call ‘the *rapture’* – will take place BEFORE the tribulation.
* **Second** –The order of the 66 books in the KJB show that the ‘*rapture’* – the cutting off of the Gentiles must come before the Tribulation. At the beginning of the KJB, we have the OT, of course, which includes the gospels, by the way. Following the gospels, we have Acts which brings in Paul, first to the Jews, then to the Jews and Gentiles and then to the Gentiles ONLY. Following Acts, we have all of Paul’s books, all of which are for those people (us) during the dispensation of the grace of God. Following Paul’s books, we have the tribulation books which we know are NOT what Paul taught to the Gentiles, so then we see that the doctrine in those final books teaches the doctrine that must be followed in the Tribulation. So again, it is obvious that the ‘rapture’ comes before the Tribulation because the doctrine of grace of God comes before the severity of the Tribulation.

**Final Conclusion**

So, we can see three simple and obvious reasons to prove **1)** the rapture should be called the ‘cutting off of the Gentile nation; **2)** Paul’s teachings ONLY will prove the ‘cutting off’ must come before the tribulation; **3)** the doctrine from Hebrews to Jude will return to the severity of God – AFTER Paul which is AFTER the dispensation of the grace of God and the goodness of God – all based on the simple order of the books of the KJB!

**End**

Now you can go back to your KJB and find and apply the correct verses that teach ‘*the rapture’* comes before the Tribulation – and those other verses that those friendly, worldly wise religious leaders and authors who God calls ‘***evil men and seducers*** who are ***deceiving and being deceived*** are ***profane and vain babblings*** – all of which and whom we should ***shun***! **II Timothy 3:13**

Pretty simple, eh!

If you want to read something, then read **Romans** through to **Philemon** – over and over – and you will see that there really is nothing better or anything easier to read for Biblical truth dealing with the past, present and future.