

Standing on the Threshold of 2019

4 Key Facts All TBFers Need to Know About the Rapture

Fact 1: The Rapture Is Taught in the New Testament

John 14:1-3

Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. **And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself;** that where I am...

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope...For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. **For the Lord Himself will descend from Heaven with a shout/the voice of the archangel, and the trump of God;** and the dead in Christ shall be resurrected first. Then we who are alive and remain **shall be caught up** [*"rapturo"*] together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air...comfort one another with these words.

1 Corinthians 15:51-54

...**we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trump will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable and we shall be changed...this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

1a: Many Christians Believe the Rapture/2nd Advent are the Same Event.

1b: The AIM (Absolute Irreducible Minimum) of Future Bible Prophecy for the NT Church is a Literal 2nd Advent NOT a Separate/Distinct Rapture.

1c: The Founders of TBF/Her Three Pastors: Mike, Bob and Brad Have All Been Convinced The Rapture & The 2nd Advent Will Be Distinct Events BUT Over the Years Some TBFers Have Respectfully Disagreed:

- 1: In the Essentials: Unity (The Big 7 and The Terrific Two)
- 2: In the Non-Essentials: Liberty
- 3: In All Things Charity (Agape Love)

The Rapture

Movement: Up and Away

In the Air

To Prepared Places in Heaven

Will End the Church Age

A "Mystery" in the OT

Any Moment/Imminent

John 14:1-3; 1 Th 1:9-10

1 Th 4:13-18/1 C15:51-58

The 2nd Advent

Movement: Down and Stay

On the Mount of Olives

To Prep Earth for the Millennium

Will End the Tribulation

A Major Theme in the OT

Only After Specific Signs/Events

Psalm 2:10-12; Zechariah 14:2-9

Daniel 7:13-14

Fact 2: The Rapture is Imminent

That is It is an impending event that could take place at any moment-not necessarily soon/immediately, but quickly/suddenly and without warning

Revelation 22:12

Behold, **I am coming quickly**, and My reward *is* with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. (// Revelation 1:1; 1:3)

Revelation 4:1-2

After these things I looked, and behold, **a door *standing open in heaven***, and the first voice which I had heard, like a trumpet speaking with me, said **Come up here**, I will show you what must take place after these things.

Fact 3: The Rapture Will Initiate the End-Times

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

...you turned to God from idols (salvation) to serve a living and true God (Christian living) and to wait (out of this world motivation) for His Son from Heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* **Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath** (Tribulation-Revelation Chapters 4-18) **to come**.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The Rapture Event is Described (Christians Up and Out of Earth)

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Immediately Followed by the Tribulation on Earth Which in Turn Leads to the 2nd Advent of Christ (2 Thessalonians 1:5-10 and Revelation 19)

Fact 4: The Rapture Should Impact Us in Positive Ways Now

Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, telling us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, **looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus**; who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

*Hope: NT Greek ελπις = faith directed forward in active anticipation
IOWs: looking forward to something we know will happen in the future*

1 John 2:28-3:3

...little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears [the Rapture] we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming... See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God... For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him... now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him (resurrection body/no sin nature sarx)...

1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore (in light of an imminent Rapture-15:51-57), my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing your toil is not *in vain* in the Lord.

4 Key Facts All TBFers Need To Know About the Rapture

1: The Rapture is Taught in the New Testament

Major Passages: John 14:1-3; 1 Thes 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-58

2: The Rapture Is Imminent-Impending/Overhanging

It Could Take Place at Any Moment (So Cheer Up, Show Up and Keep Up)

3: The Rapture Will Initiate the End-Times (and End the Church Age)

Seven Years Later the End Times Will be Climaxed by the Literal, Visible, Supernatural, Undeniable 2nd Advent of the Risen Christ as the Lion

4: The Rapture Should Impact Us-Believers in Practical Ways Now

The "Blessed Hope" Should Be Both Comforting and Convicting