



The Rapture and the Revelation

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INTRODUCTION

A new convert once expressed his joy of salvation by exclaiming he had a one-way ticket to glory. After studying more about the eschatology, he testified he now had a round-trip ticket. Not only would he go to be with the Lord, but he would also return in glory with Him. Terms sometimes used to describe these two phases of the second coming are the Rapture and the Revelation. Differences between the two events are given in Scripture.

MESSAGE

1. The manner of each.
 - a. At the Rapture, in the twinkling of an eye, believers will exchange mortality for immortality (1 Corinthians 15:51–53).
 - b. At the Revelation Christ will come to the earth (Zechariah 14:4) and every eye shall see Him (Revelation 1:7).
2. The results for believers.
 - a. At the Rapture believers will go to be with Christ (John 14:1–4; 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17). They have not been appointed to the wrath of the Tribulation, but salvation through Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:9).
 - b. At the Revelation believers will come with Christ to execute judgment and to rule and reign with Him (Jude 14,15; Revelation 19:11–20; 20:4).
3. The results for unbelievers.
 - a. After the Rapture the unbelievers will experience the consequences of Antichrist being revealed (2 Thessalonians 2:7,8) and the Great Tribulation begun (Matthew 24:15–26).
 - b. At the Revelation the beast, the false prophet, and those that worship the beast are cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 19:20,21). The prophecy of the Smiting Stone of Daniel 2 will be fulfilled.
4. The time of each.
 - a. The Revelation will come at the end of the Tribulation (Revelation 19:11) and before the beginning of Christ's thousand-year reign of peace (Revelation 20:1–6).
 - b. The Rapture was considered imminent by early believers (Philippians 4:5), and believers today should be looking for His return (Hebrews 9:28).

CONCLUSION

Whether we first see the Lord at the Rapture or at the Revelation depends on whether we now accept Christ as Lord and Savior.