

**Topic : Guarantee Your Rapture and Return with the Lord Jesus!**

Speaker : SP Daniel Foo

Date : 12<sup>th</sup> May 2013

---

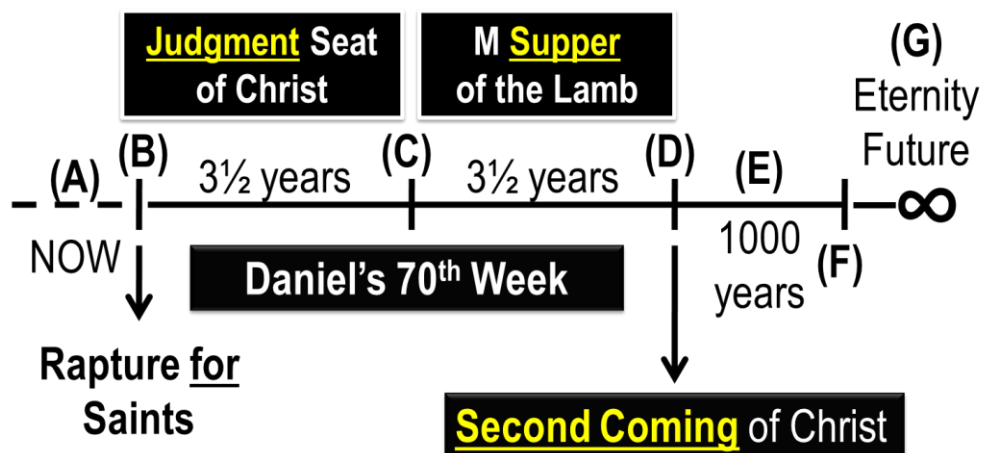
## Review End-time Line and the 7 Raptures

We need to differentiate God's dealings with

- (1) Israel as a Nation
- (2) The Gentile nations
- (3) The Church

**1 Corinthians 10:32** Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God

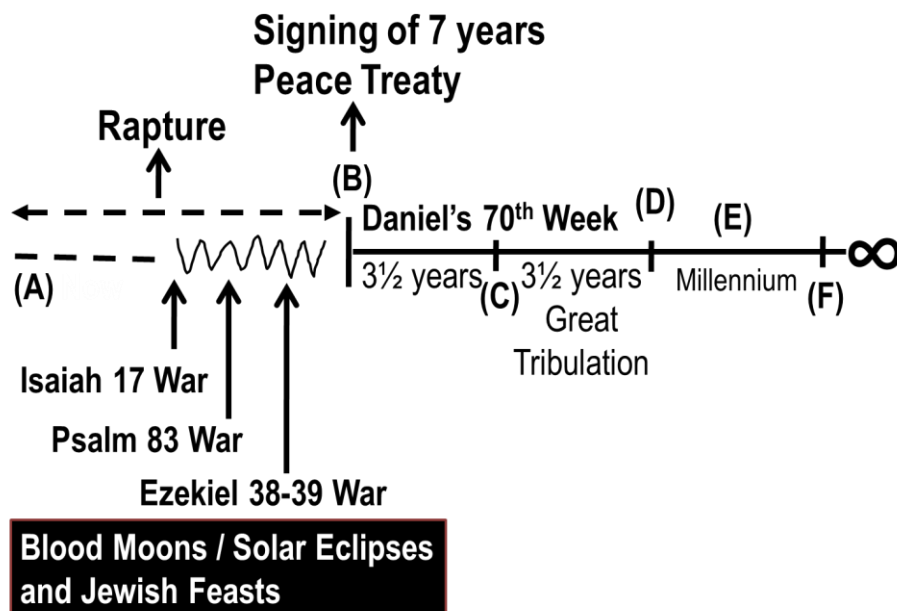
The Church was created at Pentecost and the church age is about 2000 years, ending at the rapture. After the rapture of the church, those people who are saved will not be in the same category as the church.



The timeline begins with Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week. In the middle of the 70<sup>th</sup> week, the anti-Christ will enter the temple and commit the abomination of desolation. The rapture will begin sometime before the start of Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week. During Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week, there are 2 key events in heaven i.e. the Judgment Seat of Christ and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

The second coming of Christ at the end of Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week is the height of the Battle of Armageddon. This is then followed by the period of 1000 years where Christ and His Saints will reign and rule.

What is happening now? There are potentially 3 major wars coming up: The Isaiah 17 war, Psalm 83 war and Ezekiel 38-39 war.



70 weeks were prophesied concerning the nation of Israel. Events pertaining to the first 69 (7 + 62) weeks have already happened. This leaves one week which is suspended, yet to occur. From Romans 9, 10 and 11, we understand that the one week of 7 years for Israel was interrupted by the church age. During this period, the church is grafted to the root of Israel. The history of Israel is interrupted by the Church age.

We will hear about blood moons, solar eclipses and tetrads. These happenings will be closely related to the feasts of Israel. According to scientists, this will occur between the Spring of 2014 to the Fall of 2015. According to them, there won't be such eclipses for the next couple of hundred years. We should take these as signs and hold them loosely.

Isaiah 17 prophesied the complete destruction of Syria. This is likely to be followed closely by the Psalm 83 war. Israel's neighbors will be defeated in this war. There will be a period of peace and Israel will feel secure. This will then likely lead to the Ezekiel 38-39 war. Russia will lead a confederation of nations against Israel. It will be at the time when Israel will be dwelling in peace, in un-walled villages i.e. the present wall around Gaza and the West Bank are likely to be removed with Israel feeling secure after the Psalm 83 war.

#### **Different views about the timing of rapture:**

- They are all partly true.
- Many assume one rapture.
- But there are a total of 7 raptures mentioned in Scriptures.

#### **Different phrases used:**

- John 14:3 - received unto the Lord.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16 - caught up to meet the Lord in the air. (Greek: Harpazo - seize, catch, take by force)
- 2 Thessalonians 2:1 - gathered together.

### **The first Rapture: Enoch**

**Genesis 5:24** And Enoch walked with God and he was not, for God took him.

### **The Second Rapture: Elijah**

**2 Kings 2:11** Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

### **The Third Rapture: The Lord Jesus Christ (Preceded by His resurrection)**

**Acts 1:9** Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

### **The Fourth Rapture: The Rapture of the Saints**

These are the righteous ones raptured before the 7-year Tribulation Period/Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week.

#### **Reasons for this position:**

- (A) Differentiate God's dealings
- (B) The Feasts of Israel
- (C) Type of a Jewish Wedding
- (D) Typologies in Scriptures, e.g. Songs of Solomon, Judges, Genesis, Isaiah 26:19-21
- (E) Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week - Daniel 9:24-27
- (F) Promises to the church - Revelation 3:10, 1 Thessalonians 5:9

### **The Rapture of the Saints**

**1 Corinthians 15:52** In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed.

#### **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Three things: a shout, a voice and a trumpet. The dead in Christ will rise first and then those alive. We will be changed instantly from the corrupt to the incorruptible. This company is the crystal sea company, described in Revelations 4:6. Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.

The above consists of the church company and the Old Testament saints. The sea means people. Crystals means flawless, right standing with God.

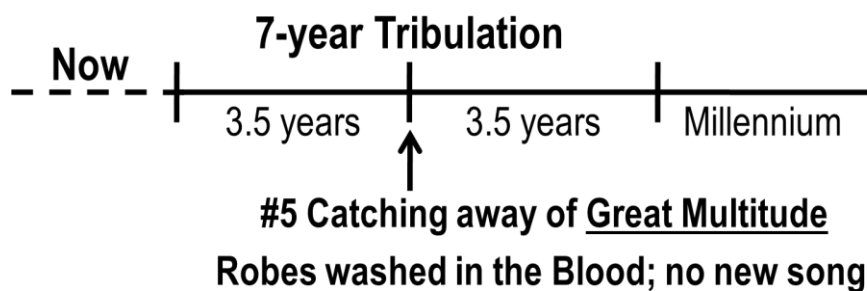
Description of this company:

- They have robes of righteousness
- They sing the new song (Revelation 5:9)
- They will reign with Christ on the earth. (Revelation 5:10)
- This is the reward of the over-comers, of the faithful and wise servants of God.

Those subsequent believers who came to the Lord in the tribulation don't sing the new song. They serve in the temple but are not priests. Only those in the church company are called priests and kings.

### **The Fifth Rapture: The Mid-Tribulation Rapture**

This is the rapture of the Great Multitudes and it will happen in the middle of the 7-year Tribulation Period, mentioned in Revelations 7:9-17.



**Revelations 7:9** After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ...

### **Revelation 7:13-14**

**13** Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" **14** And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

All nations, all tribes, all peoples and all tongues. Every people group would have been represented. These are a group distinct from the church already raptured. How do we know?

- (A) It does not have the accompanying resurrection mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.
- (B) The Lord Jesus did not meet them in the air.
- (C) They did not sing the new song but only the song of Moses and the Lamb.
- (D) They were snatched from the earth to escape the wrath of the devil. At mid-tribulation, the anti-Christ breaks the covenant with Israel.
- (E) They washed their robes in the Blood of the Lamb. (Revelation 7:14, 1 John 1:9)

### Two views:

- (1) The church company that is raptured before the 7-year will comprise every believer.
- (2) Narrower view: Only the overcomers will be raptured. Those not raptured are those who though believed, are back-slided and have no relationship with God, living in a way no different from the world. Their trust is in their savings and investments and indulging themselves in worldly things. God is not factored in their lives. There is the possibility that the robe they wear is defiled and they need to have them washed.

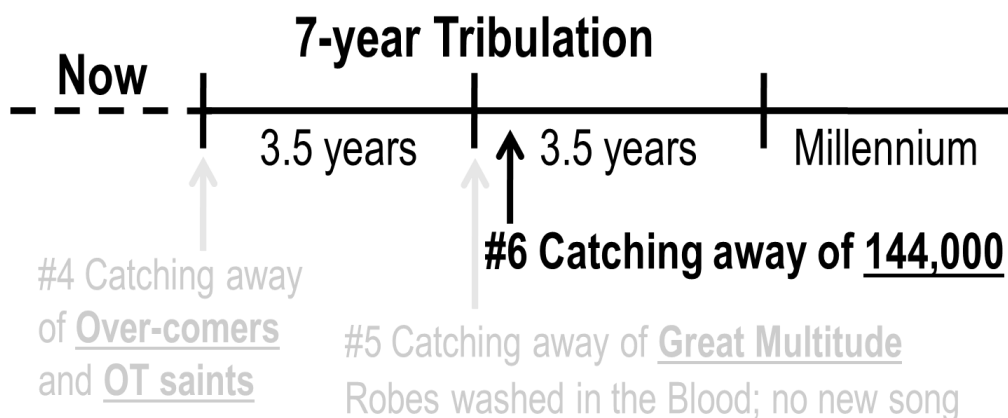
**Revelation 3:4** You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

**Revelation 3:18** I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

Our behavior has to be consistent with our beliefs. We may not be perfect but we need to live right. We should not volitionally and intentionally live a life away from God. We are to examine if we are in the faith. The confidence we have is to be in God.

### The Sixth Rapture - The 144,000 Jews

See Revelation 14:1-5



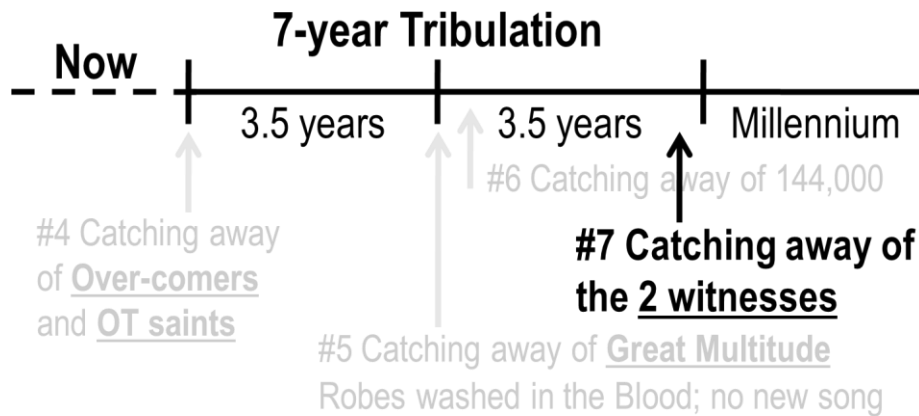
### Revelations 14:1-5

**1** Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. **2** And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. **3** They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. **4** These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being first fruits to God and to the Lamb. **5** And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

At the beginning of the 70<sup>th</sup> week, these give themselves totally to the Lord, empowered to share the gospel. They enjoy the same privilege as the church company. They sing the new song. They join the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

### The Seventh Rapture - The 2 Witnesses

This will happen on the last half-day at the end of the 7-year Tribulation Period.

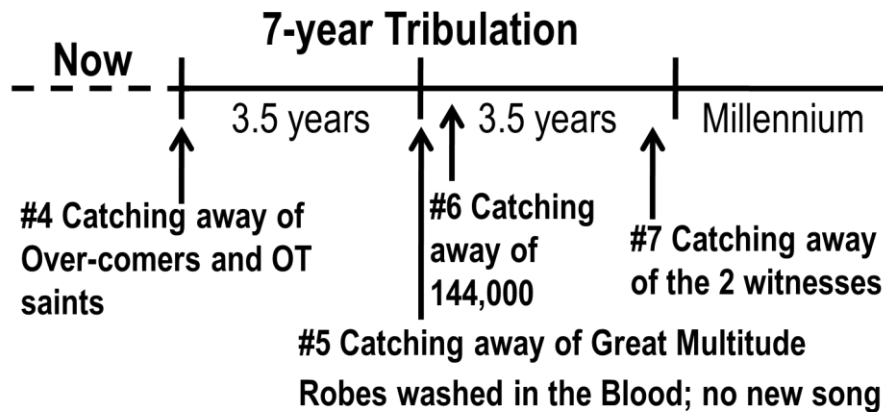


God's heart is for the world to be saved. These will be specially empowered to share the gospel with powerful signs and wonders.

### Revelation 11:3-12

**3** And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.” **4** These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. **5** And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. **6** These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire. **7** When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. **8** And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. **9** Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. **10** And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. **11** Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. **12** And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.

## Summary of the Different Raptures



Throughout the 7 years, God's heart is still to save. Those saved in the first 3.5 years are known as the Great Multitude and they serve God day and night in the Temple. But they are not called priests.

Those saved in the last 3.5 years are called Tribulation Saints / Martyrs. The Tribulation Saints / Martyrs will reign during the Millennial period. But they are not called kings.

Only the church believers are called Priests and Kings.

**Revelation 14:6** Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—

The purpose of the angelic activity is to share the gospel to every group. In every dispensation, the majority reject God. Only a remnant believed in Him. In the millennium kingdom, while it is near perfect, it is not perfect. There will still be death and rebellion.

### How to guarantee you will be raptured?

#### **Romans 10:9-10**

**9** that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

The church age is the window of grace. How to be saved? Believe in Jesus and be sure of your salvation. You will be raptured when you are a son / daughter of God.

### How can you guarantee your return with the Lord Jesus at His Second Coming?

**Revelations 7:14** These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."

Three adjectives of this group: called, chosen and faithful. The ones who are in this category will be determined at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

### **2 Corinthians 5:10-11**

**10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. **11** Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

This is the judgment for all believers, for things done, good or bad. Verse 11 says, 'knowing therefore, the terror of the Lord.' This is the correct understanding of who Jesus is. He is the Lamb. Today the cross and the tomb are empty. At the Judgment Seat, he is not sitting as Saviour but as Judge. He is coming back as Judge, Lord of lords and King of kings. In Revelation 1, when John saw Him, his response was to prostrate and worship him.

### **Matthew 7:21-23**

**21** "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. **22** Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' **23** And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

In Matthew 7, we can cast out demons but we will be out if we live lawless lives. When we are a law to ourselves, we may be in this category.

Next, there are different levels of rewards.

**Matthew 25:21** His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

**Matthew 25:23** His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

There are also different levels of punishments.

**Matthew 25:30** And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

There are different places in hell. Similarly, there are different places in heaven. Maybe outer darkness is one of the places. Our God is a just God.

**Jude 24** Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy ...

We need to dedicate ourselves to God, to Him who is able to keep us from falling.



