

The Rapture vs. The Day of the Lord

There are some stark differences between the ‘catching away’ (what has come to be known as the **Rapture**) and the climactic event known as the **Day of the Lord**. Following is a brief listing of some of these major differences. (All Scriptures in NIV)

Rapture

Day of the Lord

<p>All about Resurrection for Believers 1 Thess 4:16-18 <i>For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage each other with these words.</i></p>	<p>All about judgment for unbelievers Isa 13:6-9 Wail, for the day of the Lord is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty. 7 Because of this, all hands will go limp, every man's heart will melt. 8 Terror will seize them, pain and anguish will grip them; they will writhe like a woman in labor. They will look aghast at each other, their faces aflame. 9 See, the day of the Lord is coming — a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger — to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it.</p>
<p>Believers are taken from earth to heaven <i>1Thess.4:16-17; John 14:1-4</i> 14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.</p>	<p>Believers return from heaven to earth Rev 19:7-8, 11-14 7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. 8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) 11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.</p>

<p>Unbelievers are left on earth -> Tribulation <i>IThess.4:16-17</i></p>	<p>Unbelievers are removed from earth <i>Isa.13:6-9</i></p>
<p>Instantaneous, unannounced event 1 Cor 15:51-53 <i>51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.</i></p>	<p>Clearly announced. Every eye will see Him Rev 1:7 <i>Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.</i></p>
<p>Believer's comfort/blessed hope IThess.4:18 <i>1 Thess 4:18 Therefore encourage each other with these words. NIV</i></p> <p>1 Thess 5:9-11 <i>9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.</i></p>	<p>Unbelievers worst nightmare Rev 6:14-17 <i>14 The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. 15 Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. 16 They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! 17 For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"</i></p>
<p>Believers are kept from the Tribulation IThess.5:9-11; Rev 3:10 <i>10 Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.</i></p>	<p>Unbelievers face extreme wrath Mt.24:15-22;Rev 8:13 <i>8:13 As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: "Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!"</i></p>
<p>Focus is on Church, Jew/Gentile, in Christ IThess.4:13-18</p>	<p>Focus is on Israel. No Church mentioned... Rev.1-3 Church mentioned 20 times, Israel 0 Rev.4-19 Church mentioned 0 times, Israel MANY</p>

Soon after the Rapture the Antichrist will make a 7 year covenant (treaty) with the nation of Israel. God begins to pour out His wrath as seen in the opening of the 7 seals in the book of the Revelation. At the mid-point of the 7 year treaty (3.5 years), the restraint on the Antichrist will be removed (IIThess.2:5-12) and the next 3.5 years will be absolutely horrible. This last 3.5 years is known as the **Day of The Lord**. God's wrath is increasing (Rev.8), Satan's desperation is increasing (Rev.12:12), and the result is world-wide destruction. Finally, the bodily return of Christ ends this time. Satan is bound (Rev.20:1-3), all remaining unbelievers are removed from the earth (Mt.25:31-46), and the Lord Jesus Christ sets up His Millennial Kingdom (Mt.25:31).

The Rapture has no prophetic 'warnings', but the command to believers is to watch and be ready (Lu.12:40). For believers, this is our blessed hope (Titus 2:13). For unbelievers, it's the beginning of the end (Rev.8:13). **Knowing these two truths should be our greatest motivation for righteous living and prayerful evangelism.**