

The Rapture Is Real!

The Next Major Event On God's Agenda

By Dr. Dan Cheatham, www.devotional.net

According to the verses below, the next major event on God's agenda is NOT the rise of the Antichrist or the mark of the beast. According to these verses, the next major event is Christ appearing to resurrect His church (or what is commonly coined "the rapture").

Colossians 3:1-4 KJV - If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, **shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.**

Philippians 3:20-21 KJV - For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also **we look for** the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

1 John 3:1-3 KJV - Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, **when he shall appear, we shall be like him;** for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Titus 2: 11-14 KJV For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; **Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing** of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

1 John 2:28 KJV - And now, little children, abide in him; that, when **he shall appear,** we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

Hebrews 9:28 KJV - So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and **unto them that look for him shall he appear** the second time without sin unto salvation.

1 Corinthians 15:20-25 KJV - But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: **Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.** Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

Don't allow anyone to complicate things for you. As a believer, you will NOT be here when the Antichrist rises to power and people receive the mark of the beast. The next event, according to the bulk of scripture, is a resurrection of the redeemed. Let no man deceive you or shake you. The next major event is NOT hiding in bomb shelters and eating dehydrated food and bottled water while the Antichrist roams and rules the earth.

The Rapture is real!

Read Revelation Chapter 4. In vision form, John as a representative of the churches to whom he just wrote got a sneak-peak as he was raptured to heaven BEFORE all the judgments were poured out and the Antichrist rose to power. From Revelation chapters 1-3, John is speaking to the churches, using the term “church” 7 times and the term “churches” 11 times. Then after his rapture in chapter 4, there is not a single mention of the word “church” or “churches” until the closing remarks of chapter 22 when it says, “I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.” Why is this so? Because after chapters 1-3, the church age is concluded. The age of grace is then concluded, and the final judgments begin on the earth. And 1 Thessalonians 5:9 clearly reveals we do not have an appointment with this time of wrath.

Why certain Christians and believers want to steal “The Blessed Hope” of Christian resurrection from their fellow believers is BEYOND ME! I say to my misled brothers and sisters in Christ: STOP STEALING HOPE FROM PEOPLE! Stop in the name of Jesus! Stop preaching bad news! Stop trying to be an authority on a subject you are obsessing over. I have noticed that Christians who believe there is no rapture or that the rapture doesn't occur until after the great tribulation obsess over it. They get tunnel vision on this one issue and make it a point of contention, diverting the true focus of the church which should be to preach Jesus to the world! They feel their whole mission in life is to convince everyone that we are going to go through the great tribulation and be tempted to take the mark of the beast. They've got a spiritual obsessive compulsive disorder. Chill, man, chill! Stop trying to force your fears down our throats! We're free from your fears and worries. Leave me and my fellow believers alone! You are NOT the Holy Spirit. And you are NOT commissioned by God to head-hunt and correct anyone who disagrees with you. Get back to the basics and get off your soap box!

There is most assuredly a rapture! And according to all the commands in the scripture we are to be LOOKING FOR THIS APPEARANCE OF CHRIST any day now! This is our hope, what ye yearn for, and what the scripture says we are to eagerly anticipate. Hope is a joyful anticipation, not a fearful dread!

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 KJV - But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words. (The word “caught up” is “harpizo”, which means to be harpooned or taken suddenly.)

1 Corinthians 15:16-19 KJV - For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sin. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

1 Corinthians 15:51-58 Behold, I shew you a mystery; 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 trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

I am not looking for the Antichrist. I am not looking for the mark of the beast. I am not looking for WWIII. I am not anticipating world destruction. I am glued to the face of Jesus. I am eagerly awaiting being taken suddenly

to meet Jesus in the air. I can hardly wait. I am so excited. I know what is going to happen to me. I am certain of my future. I am secure in the Lord. I shall see him with my own eyes. Glory to God!