

THE TRUTH

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Lesson 3 - The Truth About the Secret Rapture

There is a theological question that has disturbed millions of Christians and has lent untold doctrinal confusion to the modern religious world. That question revolves around the manner of Christ's coming back to this earth at the end of the world. Multitudes have been led to believe that Christ will return secretly. What about the so-called secret rapture? A large number of Christians have been exposed to this "dispensationalist" or "futurist" interpretation of prophecy and have been hopelessly confused.

1. In a nutshell, what is the "Secret Rapture" Theory?

- First, Jesus returns silently and secretly, unnoticed by the world.
- At that moment Christians will be "caught up," or "secretly raptured", which is interpreted as the sudden vanishing of millions of people all over the globe.
- The rest of mankind, having been left behind, are then ushered into a "seven-year period called the Tribulation."
- During the Tribulation, the antichrist rises to enforce his deadly mark, those who are in the secret rapture will escape the Tribulation and will not have to face the antichrist or the mark.
- At the end of the seven years, Jesus returns visibly before the eyes of all, an event referred to as Christ's "Second Coming" or "Glorious Appearing."
- Those who miss the rapture will have a second chance during the seven years of tribulation to be saved.

2. Do the words, "Secret Rapture" appear anywhere in Scripture? Ans. _____

The words "**Secret Rapture**" do not appear in the Bible. It is an invention of Satan and his demons to deceive many sincere Christians who are looking, longing and waiting for Jesus. The rapture comes from the Latin word *rapare*, which means "seize," "snatch" or "take away."

3. If Scripture does not support a "Secret Rapture," then what does it support? [Hebrews 9:28]

Ans. A _____

Dwight Moody once said, "The Church has had very little to say about it [the second coming]. Now, I can see a reason for this; the devil does not want us to see this truth, for nothing would wake up the Church so much."

4. Is it possible for the devil to use sincere Christians? [Matthew 16:23] Ans. _____

THE HISTORY OF THE SECRET RAPTUE

5. Where did the "Secret Rapture" concept come from and who invented the concept?

The History of the secret rapture began in the early 1800s in England, and from there it spread to America. The story of how this happened is both fascinating and tragic. As I briefly share some of the highlights, I want to clarify that many of those whom I will mention were (and are) genuine Christians, but is it possible for a Christian to unknowingly become a channel for error? In other words, can a sincere Christian be used by both Jesus Christ and the devil?

_____ (1792-1834), the acknowledged forerunner of both the Pentecostal and charismatic movements. Irving pastored the large Chalcedonian Chapel in London with over 1,000 members. Somewhere around 1830, Edward Irving began to teach the unique idea of a two-phase return of Christ, the first phase being a secret rapture prior to the rise of the antichrist. Irving accepted it is a result of a "prophetic revelation" given to a young Scottish girl named, _____.

_____ added to this deception by creating the theory called "dispensationalism." Thus he is called, "The Father of Modern Dispensationalism"

Dispensationalism is the theory that states that God deals with mankind in major dispensations or periods. According to Darby, we are now in the "church age," that is, until the rapture. After the rapture, then the seven-year period of Daniel 9:27 will supposedly kick in and this is when the Antichrist will rise up against the Jews.

Darby visited America six times, preaching in all of major cities, during which time he definitely planted the seeds in American soil.

One of the most important figures in this whole drama is, _____ a Kansas lawyer who was greatly influenced by the writings of Darby.

In 1909, Scofield published the first edition of his famous Scofield Reference Bible. In the early 1900s, this Bible became so popular in American protestant bible schools that it was necessary to print literally millions of copies. Yet, in the much respected footnotes of this very Bible, Scofield injected large doses of the fluid of the secret rapture.

_____, a student of Cyrus Scofield, founded Evangelical Theological College in 1924, (now known as Dallas Theological Seminary or "DTS", a

non-denominational Protestant school.) It is likely, the most influential seminary in the United States today. However, the secret rapture (which they call the “Blessed Hope”) is a lesson taught at DTS.

- _____: Founded by Dwight. L. Moody. In 1890, Scofield began a comprehensive Bible correspondence course on prophecy, in which he promoted Futurism views.
- _____: The co-author of the Left Behind series is the former Vice President for publishing of Moody Bible Institute, and former editor of Moody Magazine. Currently, he is Moody Bible Institute's writer-at-large.

THE SECOND COMING

6. How do the Scriptures describe the “Second Coming” concept? [Acts 1:9] Ans. His _____ will correspond with His _____.

NOTE: From this we can deduce that the Second Coming of Jesus:

- Will be a _____ event. [Acts 1:11]
- Will be a _____ event. [Acts 1:11; Revelation 1:7]
- Will be an _____ event. [Matthew 24:31; 1 Thess. 4:16]
- Will be a _____ event. [Isaiah 25:9; 49:16]
- Will be an _____ event. [Matthew 24:44; 36]

NOTE: In the clearest language, Jesus Christ taught that his coming would be open, announced, personal, literal and visible and that good and bad alike would see him come. He was to come as a, “thief in the night” only in the sense that no one would know the “day and hour,” and multitudes would be unprepared.

7. Prior to the coming of Jesus, the world will be divided into four classes of people, what are they?

- The righteous _____ [Job 19:25-27; 1 Thessalonians 4:16]

“They may have been deformed, diseased, or disfigured, in this mortal life, and they rise in perfect health and symmetry; yet in the glorified body their identity will be perfectly preserved. Then shall we know even as also we are known. [1 Corinthians 13:12] In the face radiant with the light shining from the face of Jesus, we shall recognize the lineaments of those we love.” [The Desire of Ages, 804]

- The righteous _____ [1 Thessalonians 4:17]
- The wicked _____ [Revelation 20:5]
- The wicked _____ [2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jeremiah 25:33]

The second coming of Jesus Christ will not only be the grandest reunion but it will be the saddest separation that has ever taken place.

Ungodly husbands will have their godly wives separated from them for eternity. Ungodly children will have their godly mothers and fathers separated from them forever. Wherever the disobedient are, they will be struck dead by the presence of the Lord.

The devil has been sharpening his skills of deception for 6,000 years and his last masquerade will be his masterpiece. Jesus warns that he will do such a convincing job that, if it were possible, even the very elect would be deceived.

Satan has introduced the strong delusion of the secret rapture to the Christian world and it has been almost universally accepted by mainstream churches.

8. How can we be ready for this glorious event? [1 John 3:2-3] Ans. By letting Christ _____ us.

A little girl had been listening while her mother's friends were speaking about the imminent return of the Lord. After some time she was missed, so her mother went in search of her. She found her looking out a window at the top of the house. Asked what she was doing she said, "Oh, Mother, I heard you say Jesus might come today, and I wanted to be the first to see Him. See, I washed myself and put on a clean dress."

It is time to wash yourself. It is time to take off the old clothes of sin and put on the clean clothes of righteousness.

In these closing days of this earth, we have to live as if Christ died yesterday, rose this morning and is coming tomorrow.

A SOLEMN WARNING

Let us stand firm on the Word of God alone and reject these man made, man pleasing ideas that form the bulk of the whole secret rapture theory. As we have noticed, the Bible clearly teaches that Jesus Christ will come the second time in glorious majesty to take His redeemed home with Him. It will be a personal, visible, and earthshaking event that everyone alive will know about. The righteous will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, **[1 Thessalonians 4: 17]** whereas the wicked will be slain by the brightness of that coming. **[2 Thessalonians 2:8]** Let us carefully study our Bibles that we will not be deceived concerning this most important and wonderful hope, the Second Coming of Jesus.