
REVELATION AND THE RAPTURE

Text: Revelation 7:9-17

I. The Bible and The Rapture

- A. The definition of the term: “harpadzo” (Gr.)
 - 1. to seize, with a sudden, overwhelming force
 - 2. to transport to another setting
 - 3. to seize and rescue from imminent peril
- B. The definition of the time
 - 1. This will occur in conjunction with “the last trumpet”
 - 2. This will occur in conjunction with the climax of the age-long struggle/travail of humanity Jesus calls “great tribulation.”

II. The Rapture Texts of Revelation

- A. The text at hand—7:9-17
- B. Three other Revelation perspectives

III. Rapture Truth and Your Life Today

- A. The promise of being “caught up together”
- B. There is an ultimate promise of great deliverance
- C. The moment of deliverance
- D. There will be great relief.

END-QUAKE: The Ultimate Convulsion

Texts: Revelation 6:12-17 and 16:17-21

I. GOD'S TRUTH CONVERGING WITH CLARITY.

A. Blending the Seals (ch. 6), The Trumpets (ch. 7–8) and The Bowls (ch. 16).

1. Proceeding from Chapter 5's introduction of THE SCROLL (*The E-Book*) it is clear that **all that ensues from the seals is actually one and the same—within the 7th seal.** *In other words, the events forecast/described as the seals are broken, the trumpets are sounded and the bowls are outpoured, are:*

- a. Interrelated and overlapping—not all sequential, but all a part of the overall content.
- b. Described in the order they are only because that is the order in which John received each specific vision.
- c. Had to be “seen” from different perspectives because each “set of 7's” deals with a different facet of the unfolding dealings of God with earth and humankind.

2. Briefly:

Seals 1-6: Report *all history's agony and action from the time of Christ until He comes again.*

Compare: Matthew 24 (Comprehensive/Continuing)

Trumpets 1-6: Reflect both *the sum of earth's ecological deterioration and humanity's demonization.*

Compare: II Timothy 3:1-3 (Cumulative/Corrupting)

Trumpet 7/Bowls 1-7: Reveal *the brief and climaxing events attending God's visitation of wrath.*

Compare: II Thessalonians 2:1-12 (Consummate/Culminating)

B. Blending these **E-Quake** reports

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Revelation 6:12-17

- 12 I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.
- 13 And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.
- 14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.
- 15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,
- 16 and said to the mountains and 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 His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Blending these
E-Quake reports:

6:14b; 16:20—Both describe this as a ***global cataclysm***.

6:17; 16:19—Both identify this event as ***God's wrath***.

6:17; 16:18—It is unprecedented ***in time***—"the day..." and unprecedented ***in scope***, "not since."

6:12; 16:17—Both use terms making this "The End." (Join 6:12 to Matt. 24:25/Acts 2:20; and 16:18 to 1 Cor. 15:51-54 and 2 Thess. 4:16.)

6:17; 16:21—In neither case is repentance manifest following the cataclysm.

Revelation 16:17-21

- 17 Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!"
- 18 And there were noises and thunders and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.
- 19 Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.
- 20 Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.
- 21 And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.

II. GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY AND TODAY'S CREDIBILITY

III. GOD'S REDEMPTIVE ACTION AMID EARTHQUAKES