

Chapter 2 - Conclusion

The traditional Rapture passages, written by Paul, seem to outline a separate and distinct “coming” from the Second *Coming* of Jesus; which occurs before the Tribulation (wrath of God/Day of the Lord) and the revealing of the Antichrist, for the Church/Body of Christ. Paul uses a distinct word in the Greek to highlight the actual event (*harpazo* = Rapture). Paul also uses a distinct word in Greek to separate the *coming* (*parousia*) of the Lord Jesus for His Church and the *Rapture* (*harpazo*) associated with it, from the *Second Coming* (*erchomenon*), as seen by John in Revelation 19.

This idea of a separate and distinct *Coming for His Church* (Rapture), outlined by Paul, is attested to by James, Peter, and John (and possibly Matthew, Luke, the writer of Hebrews, Jude, and even Jesus himself). Individual raptures are recorded both in the Old and New Testaments as matters of fact. The examples of Philip, Paul, John, and especially Jesus (as a precursory start of the Church Age) are used by God to prophetically represent the actual Rapture of the Church at the end of the Church Age (as prophetically revealed by Chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation leading up to John’s rapture in 4:1-2). Note the following chart comparison, created by Edward E. Hindson, that graphically depicts the differences between these two separate and distinct eschatological events.

See chart on next page

Contrast between the Rapture and the Return

Rapture

1. Christ comes *for* His own (John 14:3. 1 Thess. 14:17; 2 Thess. 2:1).
2. He comes in the *air* (1 Thess. 4:17).
3. He *claims* His bride (1 Thess. 4:16-17).
4. Removal of *believers* (1 Thess. 4:17).
5. *Only* His own see Him (1 Thess. 4:13-18).
6. *Tribulation* begins (2 Thess. 1:6-9).
7. Saved are *delivered from wrath* (1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9).
8. *No signs* precede the rapture (1 Thess. 5:1-3).

Return

1. Christ comes *with* His own (1 Thess. 3:13; Jude 14; Rev. 19:14).
2. He comes to the *earth* (Zech. 14:4; Acts 1:11).
3. He comes *with* His bride (Rev. 19:6-14).
4. Manifestation of *Christ* (Mal. 4:2).
5. *Every eye* shall see Him (Rev. 1:7).
6. Millennial *kingdom* begins (Rev. 20:1-7).
7. Unsaved *experience the wrath* of God (Rev. 6:12-17).
8. *Signs* precede the second coming (Luke 21:11, 15).¹

It is this understanding of two separate and distinct *comings*, as part of Daniel's 70th Week, which will be explored in the next chapter of this thesis. The writings of the early Church Fathers will be examined to determine if they understood the Rapture in this same way, recorded it in their writings as such, and subsequently passed it on to the early Church as a doctrine. If so, an examination will be conducted to see if this belief was continued to be passed down through Church History as an accepted

¹Edward E. Hindson, "The Rapture and the Return: Two Aspects of Christ's Coming," in *When the Trumpet Sounds*, ed. Thomas Ice and Timothy Demy (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1995), 157.