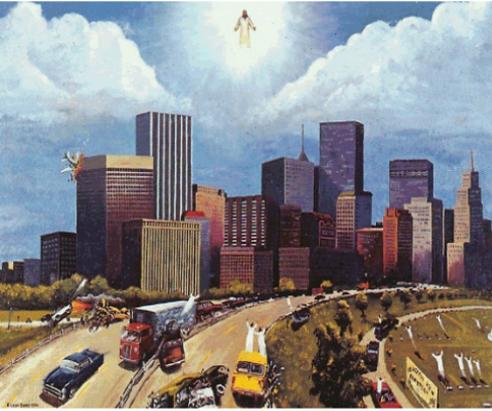


## Don't be Left Behind

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Perhaps one of the most bizarre doctrines of Biblical Christianity is the Rapture as depicted in this painting by an unknown author: *“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

*Therefore comfort one another with these words.”* 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

Actually the idea is not so strange as there are seven raptures in the Bible:

- 1) *“**Enoch** walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.”* Genesis 5:24
- 2) The death of Moses was special according to Matthew 17:3 and Jude 1:9, and according to Jewish history **Moses** was taken up in a cloud.
- 3) *“... a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared ... **Elijah** went up to heaven in a whirlwind.”* 2 Kings 2:11
- 4) *“So then, when the Lord **Jesus** had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.”* Mark 16:19
- 5) **The Old Testament Saints:** *“... many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many.”* Matthew 27:52-53
- 6) **The Church** (future): *“Then we*

*who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air”* 1 Thessalonians 4:17

7) **The Two Witnesses** (future) *“... the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; ... they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies watched them.”* Revelation 11:11-12

**First a trumpet everyone will hear:** *“All inhabitants of the world ... when he blows a trumpet, you hear it.”* Isaiah 18:3.

**The resurrection of Jesus is an example for us:** *“But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits...”* 1 Corinthians 15:23. *“...Jesus Christ... the firstborn from the dead...”* Rev 1:5 *“...we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”* 1 John 3:2 So resurrection should happen for us like Jesus.

*“... Simon Peter came ... and he saw the linen cloths lying there, and the handkerchief that had been around*

*His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself.*" John 20:6-7. Likewise for us, our earthly clothes will be left behind and our new supernatural clothing will surely be white robes. (Rev 6:11, 7:9, 7:13 & 7:14.)

Just imagine the stunning sight of a resurrected person standing next to his fallen earthly clothing, with his new heavenly clothing.

*"Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father ...".* John 20:17. So Jesus did not immediately ascend into heaven after being resurrected, but stayed around a while. Similarly, the Old Testament saints that were resurrected stayed around a while: *"... and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many."* Matt 27:52-53. So, likewise, under the leading of the Holy Spirit, when we

are resurrected in the Rapture, some of us should be able to even speak to our unsaved relatives and friends to explain to them what has happened and what they need to do to be saved.

I would expect also that we could stop our cars, or land a plane so that many would not be denied the opportunity to repent if they died instantly in a disaster.

With technology and world events advancing as prophesied in the Bible, rapidly the prophesied one-world government is becoming possible with near absolute control over all mankind. With increasing deception of all kinds, wars and rumors of wars, increase in earthquakes, and other problems, all as prophesied in the Bible, can the horrors of the prophesied Tribulation be far behind?

Don't be left behind. The **salvation of your eternal soul** is a personal matter between you and God and does not depend on rites, traditions,

human effort or belonging to any church, religion or organization. *"I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to each man according to his ways"* Jeremiah 17:10a No matter what kind of person you are or what you have done *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* 1 John 1:9 Pray today to put all your faith in Jesus Christ: *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."* John 3:16 Then study the Bible to live in obedience to God: *" Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."* 2 Corinthians 5:17