

# The Rapture # 3

by Danny Brown

## The Rapture Theory Proven False

The Premillennial/Rapture theory would make Jesus a failure for it has Jesus unable to establish the kingdom because the Jews rejected him. It makes the church which Jesus purchased with his blood a substitute for the kingdom. However, it is the theory that is false. Jesus did establish his kingdom and is now reigning and there will be no thousand-year kingdom set up following the second advent. The church is no substitute for the kingdom, but is according to the eternal purposes of God (Eph 3:10, 11) and is the kingdom of prophecy. (Dan 2, Isa 2, etc.). Whatever time element was in the O. T. prophecies Jesus said had been fulfilled (Mark 1:14). He said that the kingdom would come with power in the lifetime of some of those to whom he was speaking. (Mark 9:1). The power was to come with the coming of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:8). The Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost following the resurrection of Jesus. (Acts 2:1-4) After this the kingdom is spoken of as being in existence. (Heb 12:28). Paul and John claimed to be in the kingdom. (Col 1:13; Rev 1:9).

Jesus said, "And I appoint you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed me; that ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom" (Luke 22:29-30). The Lord's table is in the kingdom. In 1 Cor. 11 Paul furnished instruction to the church at Corinth concerning the observance of the Lord's Supper. Jesus said it was in the kingdom. Paul, by inspiration instructed the church to observe it. Those Christians in the first century who faithfully observed the Lord's supper upon the first day of the week did so because they were in the kingdom, the church (Acts 2:42; 20:7) This must be true for the observance of the Lord's Supper will cease at the coming of Christ. (1 Cor 11:26). It was not given to two different bodies. Therefore the terms church and kingdom are two different ways of referring to the same body of people. Jesus is now king on David's throne ruling with all authority (Matt 28:18) over a spiritual kingdom (John 18:36). The prophecy of 1 Sam 7:13-14 is fulfilled in Luke 1:32 and Acts 2:33-36. The prophecy of Dan. 7:13-14 is fulfilled in Eph. 1:20-23. The prophecy of Amos 8:11 is fulfilled in Acts 15:15-17. Zechariah prophesied,

"Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord: Even he shall build the temple of the Lord; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both" (Zechariah 6:12-13).

The one whose name is The BRANCH is identified as the descendent of Jesse upon whom the Spirit of the Lord would rest. (Isa 11:1ff). This is a reference to Jesus Christ.

1. He would sit upon his throne.
2. He is sitting now. (Eph 1:20; Heb 1:3, 13).
3. Therefore he is on the throne now.

Again,

1. He would sit and rule.
2. He is sitting now. (Eph 1:20; Heb 1:3, 13)
3. Therefore he is ruling now.

Again,

1. He would be a priest upon his throne.
2. He is a priest now (Heb 4:14)
3. Therefore he is on the throne now.

Jesus is a priest now, he is sitting now, he is on his throne now, he is ruling now and will continue to do so until his second coming. At which time, all enemies having been destroyed, he will deliver the kingdom up to the Father. (1 Cor 15:24,25). He, therefore, is not coming to establish a kingdom and begin a reign, but to end a reign and deliver up the kingdom.

## **Armageddon**

According to the theory this is a literal battle with helicopters, tanks, ICBM's, etc. It is to take place when Jesus appears with the saints at the end of the rapture period and just before the thousand-year reign. The king of kings and Lord of Lords comes forth with his army to do battle with Satan and his allies. Satan has gathered his army at a place called in the Hebrew tongue "Armageddon" (Rev. 16:12-16). However, the reference to Armageddon is no more a reference to a literal battlefield than the reference to the beast is to a real monster or that literal frogs come out of his mouth (Rev 16:12, 13). Armageddon stands symbolically (figuratively) for the battleground where Christ overcomes Satan and his army. Likewise Revelation 19:19-21 where more is revealed is no different. Yes, there is a battle portrayed there, but it is not literal. Christ is pictured as having a sword in His mouth (19:15,21). Again, it is a picture in symbols. The battle that is discussed is between righteousness and evil, and righteousness is the victor! Saints need to know that they are not dying in vain, that God has not abdicated His throne, and that Satan will not triumph. Saints are reassured when they see evil overcome by the power of the gospel. Those who faithfully serve the Lord are assured that ultimately they will be victorious.

## **Events at the Second Coming**

1. Christ himself will appear for a second time (Heb 9:28; Acts 1:11; John 14:2,3)
2. He will be seen by all for every eye shall see him. (Rev 1:5).
3. The time of preparation will have come to an end. In the parable of the ten virgins when the bridegroom appeared and entered the house the door was shut. No

one else could enter. (Matt 25:1-13).

4. He will come suddenly and without advanced warnings as a thief in the night. (2 Peter 3:10). There will be no signs, no warnings to let men know when that coming will be. (Matt 24:43, 44).

5. Christ will come with his angels. (2 Thess 1:7-9; Matt 25:31)

6. His coming will be with inspiring sounds such as, a shout, the voice of an archangel and the trump of God. (1 Thess 4:16-17)

7. There will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust. (Acts 24:15; John 5:28, 29).

8. The righteous who are alive at Jesus' second coming will be changed. (1 Cor 15:52, 53).

9. The world will come to an end. There will be a great conflagration. "The heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." (2 Peter 3:10). This will not be just a renovation as with the Flood of Noah. Not only are the works burned up, but the earth also is destroyed. John said, "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them." (Rev 20:11). After the resurrection a physical place is no longer needed for spirit beings. This is also sufficient evidence to show that Jesus will never set foot on the earth again. He will not return to the earth. It ceases to exist, so that which is prophesied in Zech. 14 cannot take place at this time. No place is found for it. He left in the clouds, he will come with the clouds and the righteous will meet him in the clouds and the earth will be no more. Jesus has a prepared place for the faithful (John 14:3; 1 Pet 1:3-5). A new heaven and a new earth, a new arrangement for the people on whom God has had mercy.

10. There will be a judgement of all. "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works." (Matt 16:27). In the parable of the talents when the man returned from the far country, he made a reckoning with those to whom he had entrusted talents. (Matt 25:14-30). At the last day everyone will be judged by the word of Christ. (John 12:48).

11. The rewards to the unrighteous. "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment" (Matt 25:46) "When the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe." (2 Thess 1:7-10). Note that these judgements are meted out upon the wicked at the very time the persecuted saints receive rest and the Lord is glorified in his saints at his appearing. (Col 3:4).

12. The rewards to the righteous. "But the righteous into life eternal." (Matt 25:46). The faithful are promised an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, that fadeth not away which is reserved in heaven, ready to be revealed at the last time. (1 Pet 1:4-5). "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." (Rev. 21:4).

The events of the second and final coming of the Lord prove the rapture theory to be false.

## **Conclusion**

The conclusion of the whole matter under consideration is that the Bible does not teach the doctrine of the rapture. It does not teach that the righteous are to be raised before the wicked. It does not teach that there is a two or three stage coming of the Lord. It does not teach that the righteous will be raised in two stages. It does not teach a seven-year period of tribulation. It does not teach that the righteous and wicked will be raised a thousand or so years apart. Nor does it teach that the Lord will bring the saints back to earth after the resurrection. In fact it denies the doctrine. Therefore the general doctrine of the rapture as it is taught, is both false and dangerous. It is false because the Bible does not teach it. It is dangerous because it leads men away from God's revelation and purposes.

The Bible does teach that Jesus will return with a shout. The dead will hear his voice and come forth from their graves on the last day at the last trump in the same hour. The living will be changed in a moment. The righteous will meet the Lord in the air. There will be a just judgement rendered to all men by the Lord. By this time the earth will have ceased to exist. The wicked, along with the devil and his angels, will be cast into the lake of fire. Those whose name has been written in the lamb's book of life will hear, "Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joys of the Lord."