

2. Proponents of the secret rapture assume that the return of our Lord divides into two Comings seven years apart.

-The Bible teaches the return of our Lord is the decisive moment of human history for both the righteous and the wicked. Matthew 13:30, 39-43; Revelation 22:11-12

3. Proponents of the secret rapture believe that those who are "left behind" are alive.

-The Bible teaches that the brightness of our Lord's glorious return destroys those left behind. 2Thessalonians 1:7-9; 2Thessalonians 2:8; Luke 17:24-37; Matthew 24:45-51; Revelation 6:14-17

4. The proponents of the secret rapture assume that the unsaved who go through the tribulation will have a second chance at salvation.

-The Bible teaches that the only opportunity for salvation is to choose Jesus now. Revelation 22:11; Hebrews 3:7; 2Corinthian's 6:2; Hebrews 9:27-28

5. Proponents of the secret rapture believe that the people of God do not go through the final tribulation.

-The Bible teaches that God protects his people through earth's final crisis. Psalm 91; Psalm 46; Revelation 2:10, 16:15; Matthew 24:13.

a. God delivered Israel after the plagues fell upon Egypt. Israel went through the plagues protected by God.

b. God delivered to Hebrew captives in Babylon after they met the test in the fiery furnace. They went through the fire protected by God.

c. God delivers his people after the seven last plagues. The redeemed go through protected by God. Revelation 15:8; Revelation 16.

6. Proponents of the secret rapture believe that the rapture occurs before the antichrist revealed himself.

-The Bible teaches that first the antichrist is revealed, the Mark of the beast enforced, the tribulation occurs, then Jesus returns. 2Thessalonians 2:1-4; Revelation 14:9-12; 15:1, 8; 16:1, 15.

MY CHOICE: If Jesus were to come right now would you be ready? Jesus gave His life on the cross so we can be. Soon He is coming to save His people from this dark world. I want to be ready to meet Jesus when He comes.



Lesson #7 The Second Coming of Jesus

The second coming of Jesus is probably one of the most pervasive subjects in the NT. This world is rapidly moving towards the greatest event of all time. Soon we will see Jesus, but how will He come?

1. What promise did Jesus give to His people? John 14:1-3

Note: Even though scoffers have asked, "Where is the promise of His coming" (2Pet 3:3-4), Jesus gives us His word that He will come again.

2. What is the first promise in the Bible? Genesis 3:15

Note: The subject of the Bible from beginning to end is Jesus. The Bible is divided in three parts- past, present, and the future. The OT: Jesus is coming. The four gospels: He is here. Acts – Revelation: He will come again. The last promise in scripture is like the first.

3. What is the last promise in the Bible? Revelation 22:20

Note: The theme of Bible is Jesus is coming. There are 1,500 references to the coming of Christ in scripture. For every prophecy in the Bible concerning Christ's first advent, there are eight which look forward to His second!

4. Will we **SEE** Jesus come? Revelation 1:7; Matthew 24:27; Acts 1:9-11

Note: No one will wake up the day after the second coming and need to read about it on the internet or in the newspaper because no one will miss this great event. Everyone will see it! (see also Matt 16:27, 24:30)

5. Will we **HEAR** Jesus come? 1Thessalonians 4:16-17, Psalm 50:3

Note: These are perhaps the loudest verses in the Bible. Jesus will definitely be heard when He comes. A trumpet is a loud instrument. If a trumpet played by a human is loud what will the trump of God sound like?

6. Will we **FEEL** it when Jesus comes again? Revelation 6:14-17

Note: When Jesus comes there will be a whole lot of shaking going on. An earthquake will rock this world like no other quake in history ever has. However, during this great earthquake there's good news (see Ps 50:4-5).

7. When does the **RESURRECTION OF THE RIGHTEOUS** take place? 1Thessalonians 4:16-17, 1Corinthians 15:51-55

Note: What a wonderful day it will be when the families of the earth can be reunited nevermore to part! The second coming of Jesus will end human suffering for all of God's people forever and ever.

8. When is Jesus coming? Matthew 24:36

Note: People have set dates for the second coming and have been disappointed. In the second lesson in this series we noted ten signs that Jesus must come soon. We know that the second coming of Jesus is near, but the Bible is clear, no one knows "the day or the hour."

9. What about Jesus coming as a thief? 1Thessalonians 5:1-4

Note: God's faithful people are not surprised by Christ's second coming (notice verse 4. see also Isaiah 25:9). The reason why Jesus gave signs of His coming is so that His people are ready. God's people will not be surprised, but the wicked will be because they are not ready. Jesus coming as a thief does not refer to the manner of His coming, but the timing of his coming. The only people who will be taken like a thief will be those who are living spiritually reckless lives.

10. What about one taken and one left? Luke 17:34-37

Note: No matter what one believes about "one taken and one left" the fact is too clear to require argument. When Jesus comes some people are going to be lost and some people are going to be saved. This verse in no way implies a secret rapture because the rest of scripture declares that the second coming is audible, visible, and climactic. However, Jesus answers the question as to where they are taken in the negative sense. He answers that those who are taken are taken to a place where they are eaten by birds.

11. What is the fulfillment of the scriptures about the birds & wicked? Revelation 19:17-21

Note: Those who are not ready when Jesus comes will become a great supper for the birds. On the other hand, those who are ready will have a seat reserved for them at the marriage supper of the Lamb (see Rev 19:7-9). Friends and family who have been torn apart by death can sit down and enjoy a dinner with the righteous and Jesus Himself and enjoy peace at last.

Assumptions of the secret rapture theory compared with the Bible.

1. Proponents of the secret rapture assume that the rapture is an invisible event seen only by the saved. The Bible teaches that the return of our Lord is a visible event (Revelation 1:7) witnessed by both the saved and the unsaved. Matthew 16:24-28; Matthew 24:30-31; 1Thessalonians 4:16-17