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S e c r e t
R a p t u r e ?

It is believed by many Christians that the rapture of the church will not be seen by those on earth. Is that what the Bible teaches?

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The Return Of Jesus

We live in a world that is unaware;
Yea, they don't even seem to care
That the day is perhaps very near
When Jesus is going to appear.

We live in a world that has little concern
That one day Jesus is going to return.
They're too busy searching for earth's treasure
And forbidding nothing that brings them pleasure.

We live in a world where there is little fear
Of the day when Jesus will suddenly appear;
'cause their minds are evil and their souls are black,
They couldn't care less that Jesus is coming back.

We live in a world that struggles each night and day;
Each one making a life in his own helpless way.
Their mortal bodies are tired and their spirits sour
Yet aren't consoled by His return at some soon hour.

Aids And Explanations

I wish to apologize for any mistakes to be found in this book. I wish there were none but that is unlikely. Some mistakes may be mine while others will occur in the production process. I hope that any grammar, punctuation, or typographical errors will not detract from the value of the information or your enjoyment.

Following are the explanations of terms used throughout this book.

Tribulation period refers to the **last seven years** just prior to Christ's return to earth to set up His Millennial Kingdom (1,000 years of earthly rule in Jerusalem).

Pre-tribulation means **before** the tribulation period begins.

Pre-tribulation rapture suggests a rapture which occurs **before** the tribulation period begins.

Pre-tribulationists are those who believe that the rapture of the church will happen **before** the tribulation period begins.

The below examples show how to read Bible references used in the book.

Revelation 19 refers to Revelation Chapter 19

Revelation 19-21 means Revelation Chapters 19 thru 21

Revelation 19,21 means Revelation Chapters 19 and 21

Revelation 19:21 means Revelation Chapter 19 verse 21

Revelation 19:21-24 means Revelation Chapter 19 verses 21 thru 24

Revelation 19:21,24 means Revelation Chapter 19 verses 21 and 24

Revelation 19:21-24,30 means Revelation Chapter 19 verses 21 thru 24 and verse 30

A Secret Rapture

There is an amusing belief in Christendom that the rapture will be a secret event - an invisible event. According to this belief the rapture will not be seen by people on earth. They will become aware of it after suddenly discovering millions of missing people around the world. Sounds more like a sci-fi movie than Bible doctrine.

Why should the rapture be a secret event? Did Jesus come secretly the first time? Certainly not. He was in the public eye from the manger to the grave. His adult ministry was a very public one with large crowds often pursuing Him. He was the center of attention in Israel. The four gospels authenticate His person and public presence.

If the first coming of Jesus was so visible why should His coming at the rapture be veiled in secrecy? Why should the unbelieving world not see Jesus at the rapture? They saw Him at His first coming. The Bible clearly teaches that the world will see Jesus when He takes the church to Himself at the rapture.

Jesus' earthly mission was not a secret one. His presence and works were very public and so will the rapture be. The Apostle Paul made an interesting statement to King Agrippa while defending himself against a false charge. He said, *For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner.* Acts 26:26

Paul said that King Agrippa was much aware of Jesus and His works because Jesus had not acted secretly. Jesus conducted His ministry openly to all the public. He and His works were observed by all of Israel and people from far away places. Jesus' first coming did not happen in secret so why should His second coming be secretive?

There was an aged Jewish man named Simeon who was in the temple when Joseph and Mary brought the child Jesus to be dedicated to the Lord. He had been told by the Holy Ghost that he would see the Lord's Christ before he died. When Joseph and Mary entered the temple with baby Jesus Simeon recognized Him as the Lord's Christ. He held the baby Jesus and

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prayed to God, *Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all the people...* Luke 2:29-31

Simeon understood that Jesus was Israel's salvation who God *hast prepared before the face of all the people*. God intended for Christ to be seen and known by all people. The fame of Jesus spread far abroad. The world knew of Jesus Christ and yet they rejected Him. At His second coming the world will see Him but they will not turn Him away as they did at His first coming.

The secret rapture theory has evolved mostly from misunderstanding the Bible. Basically there are two Bible passages from which a secret rapture gains merit. We will closely examine both because they weigh heavily on the issue of a secret rapture. The first reference was written by Paul in a letter to the church at Corinth.

A Quick Change

I Corinthians 15:51-52 *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

This begs explanation because it has been badly mangled prophetically. No doubt we all agree that these two verses concern the rapture but ONLY ONE PHASE OF IT. This is not the complete rapture. There are six distinct phases or actions to the rapture. They are:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 the appearing | Matthew 24:30 |
| 2 the resurrection | I Thessalonians 4:16 |
| 3 the transformation | I Corinthians 15:51-52 |
| 4 the gathering | Matthew 24:31 |
| 5 the transportation | Matthew 24:31 |
| 6 the meeting | I Thessalonians 4:17 |

Paul said, *We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. Sleep here*

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means the dead body in the grave. Not all Christians will be dead when Jesus Christ comes at the rapture but all Christians will be changed. The bodies of all Christians both dead and alive will be changed to eternal bodies. Paul said this change would happen quickly - *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye...*

Paul did not say that the rapture would happen in *the twinkling of an eye*. He precisely explained that the transformation (the changing of our bodies) would happen *in the twinkling of an eye*. The transformation will not be seen due to its quickness but that does not mean that the rapture will not be seen. It is undeterminable just how long the rapture (all six actions) will last but the world will see it.

Paul talked again of the changing of our bodies at the rapture in a letter to the church at Philippi. He wrote, *For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body...* Philippians 3:20-21 At the rapture Christ will clothe Christians with a body fit for heaven like His.

The Apostle John also was aware of the transformation of our bodies at the rapture. *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.* I John 3:2

Christians are the sons/daughters of God now but we do not have the body that we will have. When Jesus Christ appears at the rapture we will be changed to be like Him. How marvelous that will be to have a body that no longer is subject to pain, disease and death. It is beyond our imagination but not beyond happening. Give us that new body, Lord Jesus!

Why is the changing of our bodies (transformation) at the rapture so important? Paul tells us. *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.* I Corinthians 15:50 Our sinful bodies of flesh and blood are not suitable for heaven. Christians receive a new spirit at salvation and at the rapture they will be receive a new body. Jesus went to heaven in a new and glorious body and Christians will too.

The phrase *in the twinkling of an eye* does not teach that the rapture will

happen in the time that it takes to blink. It pertains only to the transformation of the body which is just one of six actions of the rapture. It describes the quickness by which our bodies will be changed. Paul is not teaching that the complete rapture will happen *in the twinkling of an eye* because it will not.

Thief! Thief!

The second Bible passage from which many suppose a secret rapture was spoken by Jesus. In this passage Jesus likened His second coming to a break-in by a thief. Many have incorrectly assumed that the moral of this thief parable is a secret rapture but it is not. The lesson is WATCHING in order to be READY. We will inspect several Bible references to gain clarity of this matter.

Matthew 24:43-44 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

In this parable Jesus likens His coming at the rapture to the coming of a thief. He did not say that His coming will be a secret event (unseen). The moral of this parable is that the householder suffered loss because he was not watching and therefore not ready. Jesus said that if the homeowner had known what time the thief was coming he would have been watching and would not have suffered any loss.

The thief parable is part of Jesus' tribulation prophecy and is a warning for the church. As the householder did not know when the thief would come so the church does not know the exact time of the Lord's return. It is therefore required that Christians maintain a watchful attitude. The homeowner suffered loss due to his failure to watch and Christians will too if they are not watching at Christ's return.

Twice in the Revelation Jesus gave warnings of His coming as a thief. Remember, Jesus gave the Revelation to the church. (Revelation 22:16)

Revelation 3:3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I

will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

Jesus warned the Christians at Sardis that if they did not watch He would come to them as a thief. Why was He concerned about their failure to watch? Because by not watching they would be unready for Jesus to come. Some Christians will be watching and therefore ready. Many more will not and Jesus will return to them as thief and they will suffer great loss.

Revelation 16:15 *Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.*

Though this is spoken during the time of God's wrath it was for the benefit of the church. Jesus said that those who *watcheth and keepeth his garments* will be blessed (happy). They will be happy because they escape God's wrath because of the rapture. To those who fail to *watcheth and keepeth his garments* Jesus will come as a thief and they will be naked and shameful.

Paul preached that the Day of the Lord will also come as thief in a letter to the church in Thessalonica. This sheds light on the parable of the thief and of Jesus' coming as a thief. The lesson is the same: WATCH and be READY.

For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child, and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch, and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

I Thessalonians 5:2-7

The Day of the Lord (God's wrath) will come as a thief to the unbelieving world in a time when they are enjoying peace and prosperity. Suddenly they will find themselves in terrible trouble - in the Day of God's wrath. Because they lived in spiritual darkness (ungodliness) they did not recognize the signs of Christ's coming. They slept in the night meaning they were spiritually

asleep.

Christians on the other hand, live in the day - live in righteousness. They are awake - not asleep. Paul urged Christians not to *sleep* as the ungodly but to *watch and be sober* (live righteously). The Day of the Lord (God's wrath) will not come upon them as a thief because they will be spiritually awake and watching. They will be removed from earth by the rapture before God's wrath strikes.

It ought now be clear that the thief parable in the Lord's tribulation prophecy dramatizes the need for watchfulness at Christ's coming. It does NOT advertise a secret rapture. The solemn truth is that there will be many unwatchful Christians when Christ comes back just as there are now. To them He will return as a thief and, like the housekeeper, they will suffer loss. Do not leave this book without reading the final chapter.

The Same Day

What will now be said is very, very important. The close relationship of the "coming of the Lord" in I Thessalonians 4:15-17 and the "Day of the Lord" just three verses later in I Thessalonians 5:2 has not been adequately communicated. We know that the coming of the Lord is for the rapture of the church and that the Day of the Lord is one of wrath and judgment. What is not generally realized is that the two happen on the same day?

Perhaps one reason this "same day" occurrence goes unrecognized is because of the chapter marker, "Chapter 5." It gives the impression that the writer moves to another subject when actually he continues the subject from Chapter 4. The original text had no chapters. Numbered chapters were added later as a help. If we disregard the chapter number in our Bible it is plainly seen that I Thessalonians 5:1 connects to the coming of the Lord at the rapture in I Thessalonians 4:15-17.

Paul opened "Chapter 5" by telling the church that they did not need to know the exact time of the coming of the Lord at the rapture. Why? Because they knew that the Day of the Lord *so cometh as a thief in the night*. (I Thessalonians 5:2) By this Paul linked the Day of the Lord which *cometh as a thief in the night* to the coming of the Lord at the rapture in I Thessalonians 4:15-17. In speaking of His coming at the rapture Jesus said, *Behold, I come as a thief*. Revelation 16:15

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Truth: Jesus will *come as a thief* to some of His church. (Revelation 3:3) The Day of the Lord will *come as a thief* to the lost world. (I Thessalonians 5:2-3) The Day of the Lord will immediately follow the coming of the Lord at the rapture. They both occur on the same day!

The "same day" rapture and Day of the Lord is gloriously demonstrated in God's deliverance of Noah and Lot from judgment. Both deliverances prefigure the coming day of the rapture which is also the Day of the Lord. Here are two verses from Noah's story.

And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights. In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark. Genesis 7:12-13

Noah and his family entered the ark of salvation on the day that the judgmental flood began. The moment God shut the door of the ark the torrential rains of judgment came down. This is an Old Testament type of the rapture and the Day of the Lord happening on the same day. When God saved Noah and his believing family the watery judgment came.

Lot's deliverance from doomed Sodom typifies the rapture and the Day of the Lord as did Noah's. Luke explained Lot's deliverance with one succinct sentence. *But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.* Luke 17:29

It could not be clearer. The same day that the angels removed Lot from Sodom God's fiery judgment fell from heaven and destroyed it. That is how it will play out on the day of the rapture. Jesus Christ will make His sudden appearance and remove the Christians from the earth. When they are safely with Jesus the Day of the Lord will begin. The rapture and God's wrath will come on the same day.

"Watch" is the watchword for Christians. To the church at Thessalonica Paul wrote, *Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.* I Thessalonians 5:6 Christians must not fall asleep spiritually. Paul urged Christians is to *watch and be sober*. How do we watch? We watch by remaining faithful servants of Jesus Christ. He will not come as a thief to faithful Christians and neither will the Day of the Lord.

We repeat. The lesson of the thief in connection with Christ's return is not secrecy. The lesson is watchfulness which keeps the Christian ready for the coming of the Lord at the rapture. The rapture will not be a secret event as we will now learn from God's Word.

It Is No Secret

Several Bible verses preclude any possibility of a secret rapture. We start with the Lord's description of His appearing at the rapture.

Matthew 24:26-27 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Jesus used a natural phenomenon to describe His coming at the rapture. His coming will be *...as lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west...* Jesus compared His appearing to atmospheric lightning which we all have seen. Lightning instantly transforms the sky into a brilliant spectacle. If Jesus' appearing resembles lightning how in the world can it be secret?

Matthew 24:30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Jesus said *...and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.* This is Jesus' appearing at the rapture. *They* are all people on earth. How can there be a secret rapture when Jesus plainly stated that the people would see His appearing?

Revelation 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.

John spoke of the same "coming" which Jesus described in Matthew 24:30. He too testified that people on earth will see Christ's appearing at the rapture with the words, *every eye shall see him.* If all eyes witness

Christ when He appears at the rapture how can it be secret?

According to John *every eye* (all humanity) will observe Christ's appearing. In respect to Christ's coming humanity can be divided into three categories.

- * The church. The appearing of Jesus Christ in the clouds of heaven is for the gathering (rapture) of God's elect.
- * All Jews. They caused Christ's crucifixion. It is true that the Romans pierced (crucified) Jesus but it was at the insistence of the Jews
- * The Gentiles. People in all nations will be overtaken with despair at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

Here is a thought. John's words *every eye shall see him* brings the blind to mind. Will they too gaze on His appearing? Why not? Jesus opened the eyes of the blind in His earthly ministry. It is not only conceivable but reasonable that Christ will open all eyes for His appearing. It seems right that Christ's appearing be seen by every man, woman and child.

The Old Testament prophet Isaiah may have revealed truth about the blind at the time of the rapture in this prophecy to Israel. *Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.* Isaiah 35:4-5

Isaiah foresaw a time when Israel would be in deep despair from her enemies. Isaiah encourages them with a word from God. He tells them that God will come and take vengeance on their oppressors and save Israel. Then their blind will see and the deaf will hear. Does Isaiah mean physical blindness and deafness? No.

Those comforting words from Isaiah to Israel project spiritual enlightenment. The Jews' Messiah will return and vanquish their enemies and save the nation of Israel. The spiritually blinded Jews will see (recognize) the returning Christ as their Messiah. The spiritually deaf will hear (listen and understand) Him and follow. Jesus will then establish His Millennial Kingdom and assume the throne of David in Jerusalem.

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Could not Isaiah's spiritual promise also be a physical promise at the rapture? When Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit they suffered death twice: a spiritual death and a physical death. The rapture will be a miraculous work by Jesus Christ bringing both physical and spiritual sight. What a miraculous day that will be.

Many consider Christ's coming in Revelation 1:7 to be His return to earth. It cannot be. John is writing to seven churches. What is the next event that the church is looking for? It is the rapture. The church must GO TO Jesus before it can come back WITH Him. So it must be Christ's coming at the rapture about which John said *and every eye shall see him*. A secret rapture? How can it be?

It Is No Secret

Solid Biblical evidence has been presented which defies the secret rapture belief. The Bible gives assurance that Christ's appearance at the rapture will be visible to all on earth. Also, it would seem that the rising of Christians to meet the Lord in the air will be viewable by all on earth. We have all heard that bit about the rapture and the world waking up one morning to find millions of people missing - unaccounted for. That is fantasy, not fact.

The Bible tells three stories of individuals who were observed as they were taken by God from earth to heaven. The first is the prophet Elijah. *And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it...* II Kings 2:11-12

What a wonderful type of the rapture - being taken alive from earth to heaven. Elijah's transport was a fiery chariot from heaven but Christians will be escorted to heaven by holy angels at the rapture. (Matthew 24:31) A significant fact of Elijah's rapture is that it was seen by his protégé, Elisha. It was not done in secret and Elisha did not keep it a secret.

The next person whose rapture was watched in astonishment is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.* Acts 1:9

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Jesus had met with His disciples on the Mount of Olives and instructed them to be witness of Him throughout the world. Jesus ended the meeting by rising toward heaven and disappearing into a cloud. The verse reads, *while they beheld*, meaning that while the disciples watched Jesus ascended into heaven. Hardly a secret rapture. The disciples saw it, preached it and wrote about it.

The last example of the rapture of the church is God's two witnesses who will preach in Jerusalem during the first half of the tribulation period.

And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. Revelation 11:11-12

The departure of the two witnesses provides a picture of both the resurrection and the rapture. After three and a half days lying in the street the dead witnesses are revived and taken up to heaven *and their enemies beheld them*. It is safe to speculate that the rapture of the two witnesses will be viewed by not only those at the scene but around the world. This will be possible by satellite television and the world-wide web or computer.

The raptures of Elijah, Jesus and the two witnesses prefigure the rapture of the church. The rapture of Elijah was seen by one person, Elisha. The rapture of Jesus was watched by the eleven disciples. The rapture of the two witnesses will be viewed by billions of people including those at the scene and around the world via satellite, television and computer .

The rapture of the church will be seen by the whole world as it happens - in real time. (Matthew 24:30 Revelation 1:7) There will be no need for electronic transmission of the rapture because Christians will rise to meet Jesus Christ in the air from everywhere on earth. The lost populace will watch it. What a spectacle that will be!

It Is No Secret

Christians are instructed repeatedly in the Bible to be looking for Jesus to return. Here are three.

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And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

Luke 21:27-28

In verse 27 Luke told us that the Lord's coming will be seen by those on earth which agrees with what Jesus said of His coming in Matthew 24:30. Luke then instructed Christians what to do in those days of tribulation.

what - *look up, and lift up your heads* - This demonstrates hope and expectation of the Lord's coming which will then be *nigh* or very near.

when - *when these things begin to come to pass* - This refers to the events of the tribulation period which Luke outlined in the chapter.

why - *your redemption draweth nigh* - Redemption for Christians is complete when Jesus Christ takes possession of the church at the rapture.

Christians should live more mindful of the Lord's return. It would be a good practice for Christians to stop occasionally and look up into heaven and imagine Christ coming. Looking up occasionally with confidence that we would leave if Jesus were coming will heighten our faith.

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ. Titus 2:13 In the two verses prior to this one Paul praised the works of God's grace saying that it:

- * brings salvation which is available to everyone.
- * teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts.
- * teaches us to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.
- * leads us to *looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.*

Christians are to be looking for (living for) the *glorious appearing* of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus described the *glorious appearing* as His appearing at the rapture. (Matthew 24:30) At least twelve times in the New Testament the "appearing" of Jesus Christ is mentioned. In all instances a visible Christ

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in His glorified body is intended. It is puzzling how the belief in a secret rapture lives on.

So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.
Hebrews 9:28

Let us not misunderstand this verse. It does not say that Christ will *appear the second time* ONLY to those who look for Him. The message is that to those who *look for him* Jesus Christ will bring salvation or deliverance by the rapture. Those not looking for His appearing will not be delivered by the rapture but will be left behind.

If we are to be looking for the Lord's appearing then it must be visible not invisible - not a secret. Christ's appearing will have a greater audience than all the TV shows, sports events and theme parks combined. All humanity will be in attendance. All eyes will be fixed on the brilliantly spectacular appearance of Jesus Christ in the sky.

A great company will be seen with Jesus Christ at His appearing. Look at these ecstatic words penned by Paul. *When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.* Colossians 3:4 The word *appear* here is the same as we read in Matthew 24:30 of Christ's appearing. *appear* means to be seen - to be visible. The world will see the raptured church with Jesus Christ in the air. What a sight that will be for both those in the air and on the ground.

Why should the world not see the rapture of the church? They will see Jesus Christ return to earth with the church after God's wrath. (Revelation 19:14) He will be seen on the Mount of Olives and heard barking the Word which will destroy the armies of the world at the Battle of Armageddon. (Zechariah 14:4, Revelation 19:15) The Bible gives no evidence that the rapture will be a secret thing.

The prophet Isaiah promised a salvation which can be applied to both Israel and the church at the close of the tribulation period. *The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of the Lord.* Isaiah 52:10 Isaiah was unknowing of the church and his promise was for Israel but still his words relate to the church. His prophecy was, *and all the ends of the earth shall*

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see the salvation of the Lord.

There will be a salvation for Israel and a salvation for the church. Israel will be saved from the Antichrist and his coalition of anti-Israel armies when Christ returns to earth after the wrath of God. (Revelation 19) The church will be saved when Jesus Christ appears in the air and sends angels to gather the church unto Himself at the end of the tribulation period. (Matthew 24:29-31) Both salvations will happen before the eyes of the world.

The world will watch an amazing preview of the rapture three years in advance. Near the start of the tribulation period God places two witnesses (prophets) in Jerusalem. After gaining ruling power the Antichrist kills the two witnesses and leaves them lying in the street. Suddenly after three and a half days they revive and stand up. A voice from heaven, heard by all, bids the two witnesses to *Come up hither*. Revelation 11:12 They rise bodily up into heaven in the sight of all the people.

That is exactly what will happen when Jesus suddenly appears in the earth's heaven at the rapture. The unbelieving population will watch as millions of Christians rise from all over the earth to meet the Lord in the air. (I Thessalonians 4:17) What a spell-binding scene that will be.

Final thought. If the rapture is a secret event (unseen) why is there so much Biblical teaching about Jesus appearing in the sky? Why are we instructed again and again to watch for His appearing? The word "appearing" communicates the idea of being visible - of being seen with the physical eye. It is silly to think that we would be advised to watch for something that cannot be seen.

There will be no secret rapture. The Bible is very clear on that. The appearing of Jesus Christ at the rapture will be seen by all people on earth. If it is seen it cannot be a secret rapture.

T H A N K Y O U...

...for reading this short book on the rapture. I hope you enjoyed it and learned from it. I would consider myself as failing if you did not.

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There is much more to be learned about the rapture which is presented in the following e-books offered on this website.

1. The Lord's Rapture
2. A Misplaced Rapture
3. Seventh Trumpet Rapture

CONTACT ME

I would be very pleased to hear from you. Your comments, questions and suggestions would be most welcomed. You may contact me as follows:

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Again, thank you and GOD BLESS..... **Phil Jellerson, Author**