

# The Rapture

## Don't Be Deceived

### Study Guide

#### *Part I*

#### The Introduction to the Rapture



## Chapter One

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# The Importance of the Rapture



“Imagine the following scenario. You wake up one morning only to realize that your family has totally disappeared. You scramble, you look around, you run into the living room and turn on your TV to see what in the world is going on. And there you watch a special worldwide global news report declaring that millions of people all over the planet are missing, not just your family, but literally millions of people. And as this slowly begins to sink in, you look down and spy your loved ones Bible sitting right there on the coffee table and suddenly it dawns on you that your Christian family was right after all when they kept telling you over and over again about this Rapture thing. And so to your horror, you realize, oh no, **you have been left behind** and you will now be catapulted into the 7-year Tribulation that’s coming upon the whole world.” Pastor Billy Crone, *The Rapture Don’t Be Deceived*.

## Study

1. Why is it important to learn about the event called the Rapture?
2. Pastor Billy says that the 7-year Tribulation is characterized by three sets of Judgments, each divided into seven horrendous events. Name the three sets of Judgments.
3. Can you name at least seven of the specific Judgments that will befall the world and those that are left behind?

4. In what way can you be assured that you won't have to go through the horrible time known as the 7-year Tribulation?
  
5. So that we won't be deceived, what is the nature of the confusion and division surrounding the event known as the Rapture?

## *Chapter Two*

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# **The Basis of the Rapture**

“The **first thing** we’re going to look to avoid being deceived about the Rapture is the **Word Rapture Itself**. What does it mean?” Pastor Billy Crone, *The Rapture Don’t Be Deceived*.

## **Study**

1. Where does the word “Rapture” come from?
2. What does the Greek word “harpazo” mean?
3. What two passages of Scripture by the Apostle Paul describe in detail the Rapture event?
4. Does Jesus refer to the Rapture, and if so, where in Scripture is it found?
5. When comparing Paul’s Rapture passages to Jesus’ mention of the Rapture, are they in complete agreement?

a. What conclusion can you make of this?

## *Chapter Three*

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# **The Purpose of the Rapture**

“Which brings us to the **third thing** we’re going to look to avoid being deceived about the Rapture and that is **What is the Purpose of the Rapture?** Why is it that Paul, Jesus and the Bible in general talk about this event? Why bring it up? What’s the purpose of it in the first place?” Pastor Billy Crone, *The Rapture Don’t Be Deceived*.

## **Study**

1. Pastor Billy mentions four reasons that the “Rapture” is brought up in the Bible—can you name them?
2. Can you briefly explain the Doctrine of Imminence?
3. What is the importance of the Doctrine of Imminence for our Christian Witness?
4. Can you name four benefits for the Christian at the Rapture?

5. What is the Millennial Reign and where is Satan during that time?

6. Can you briefly describe some of the characteristics of the Millennial Kingdom?

7. Who will occupy the Millennial Kingdom and what will be the role of the resurrected believers of the church?



*Part II*  
The Timing of the Rapture



## Chapter Four

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# The Jewish Wedding Ceremony



“And so naturally, that all leads us to the next question concerning the Rapture. WHEN? To answer that, we’re now going to look at the **fourth thing** to avoid being deceived and that is **What is the Timing of the Rapture?** And this is unfortunately, where a lot of the confusion and division seems to come in over the Rapture. The timing, when it is going to happen.” Pastor Billy Crone, *The Rapture Don’t Be Deceived*.

## Study

1. If Christ can return at any moment, how should the Christian respond?
2. Pastor Billy describes the seven parts of a Jewish marriage as the “Match”, the “Bride Price”, the “Love Gifts”, the “Dowry”, the “Marriage Contract”, the “Betrothal”, and the “Taking”. After the “Taking” the couple would go to the bridal chamber for seven days. What does this imply in regards to the 7-year Tribulation?
3. There is a part of the Jewish wedding called “the taking”. In regards to the Rapture, what is its significance?

4. What is the significance of the Marriage Supper and the presenting of the bride and groom to the world in relation to the Second Coming.

## Chapter Five

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# The Unknown Hour

“The **second evidence** the Rapture takes place PRIOR to the 7-year Tribulation is in **The Unknown Hour**. As we’ve already seen, the Pre-Trib Rapture is imminent, it can happen at any time, there’s no prophetic event that needs to occur before it can take place. We also saw Paul comforting and reassuring the Thessalonica Church to not worry about being in the 7-year Tribulation or missing the Rapture because it occurs BEFORE the “Day of the Lord” which occurs DURING the 7-year Tribulation.” Pastor Billy Crone, *The Rapture Don’t Be Deceived*.

## Study

1. We have already looked at Imminency. Can you describe what is meant by “the imminent return of Christ.”
2. There are many signs that precede the Second Coming—can you name some of them?
3. Can you name any signs to watch for preceding the Rapture?
4. Pastor Billy explains that the approximate time of the Second Coming of Christ can be calculated once the beginning or mid-point of the 7-year Tribulation is known—what reason is given for the Rapture to remain an uncalculated event?

5. Why does Pastor Billy say that the Rapture “HAS to occur BEFORE the 7-year Tribulation and its seven years’ worth of signs to calculate the event”?



4. Matthew 24:31 and Matthew 24:40-41 are often cited as proof of the Rapture of the church—can you explain why this is not so?
  
5. Who are the “elect” of Matthew 24:31?





4. In light of the phrases “come up here” and “a door standing open in heaven” of Revelation 4:1, together with “heaven standing open” of Revelation 19:11, 14, where can we surmise the church to have been during the 7-year Tribulation?
  
5. What can be said about the identity of the “24 Elders” of Revelation 4:4, 10, 11 in respect to their white linen clothing, golden crowns, and sitting on thrones?
  
6. Since crowns are rewards for faithfulness, why could the “24 Elders” not be Old Testament believers? (Hint: Daniel 12:1-2)
  
7. Of what significance does the title “Elders” have in determining the identity of the these “Elders”?
  
8. Many have tried to identify the “Elders” as angels. Using Revelation 5:11, describe how this is not possible.
  
9. Describe how Revelation 5:9 identifies the “Elders” as the church.

10. Pastor Billy points out a difference between the white robes worn by raptured church saints and the martyred saints of the Tribulation. What is that difference?



## Chapter Eight

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# The Promises to the Church

“As if what we’ve seen so far it isn’t abundantly clear enough that the Church is absent from earth during the 7-year Tribulation, we even have clear evidence from the Bible and Jesus Himself that the Church, His Bride, would be nowhere around during that horrible time frame. In fact, God has made bold blanketed promises to that fact.” Pastor Billy Crone, *The Rapture Don’t Be Deceived*.

## Study

1. Pastor Billy speaks of the church being “kept from that hour” of trial that is to come on the whole world to test those that live on the earth. What is meant by the word “hour” in Revelation 3:10?
2. Does Jesus promise that the church will never face trials?
3. What kind of Trial is referred to in Revelation 3:10?
4. Pastor Billy demonstrates that the Greek words “tereo ek” translated “from” in Revelation 3:10 clearly means “an evacuation from”. What does this mean for the church in regards to the 7-year Tribulation?

- a. Does it simply mean that the church will be “preserved” rather than “removed from”?
  
5. Who are the martyrs described in Revelation 7:9, 13-15?
  - a. How can they be the church, if as non-pre-Tribulationists postulate if they have not been “preserved” rather than removed from the hour of trial?
  
6. Explain how the “7-year Tribulation” differs from “general tribulation” experienced by all believers.
  
7. How can it be said that ALL 19 judgments, including the Seal Judgments, mentioned in Revelation chapter 6-18 are God’s wrath?



3. How is the Holy Spirit working today to restrain evil?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Explain how 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 and Daniel 9:27 support a pre-Tribulation Rapture.
  - a. Explain who are the ones that will go through the 7-year Tribulation in regards to Daniel 9:27.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Does Daniel 9:27 support the church being in the 7-year Tribulation? Explain.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Give examples of how God spared some people from a time of His judgments.











4. Where in Scripture did Jesus refer to this prophecy of the 7-year Tribulation?
  - a. Why can we say that this prophecy is yet for a future time?
  
5. What is the significance of a “gap” between Daniel’s 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> weeks found in Daniel 9:24-27?
  
6. What is the significance of Jeremiah 30:4-7 when Jeremiah states that the Tribulation will be like no other day and says that “it will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it”?
  - a. Who is “Jacob” and does this prophecy have anything to do with the church?

7. Ezekiel 20:30, 34, and 38 speaks of a future gathering and purging of Israel from among the nations. For what purpose is the gathering and purging? Explain.

8. According to Daniel 12:1, who are the “people” that are in great distress and are delivered?

a. In light of this, what is the significance of Revelation 12:1-9?

b. Who is the “woman” that is protected in Revelation 12?

9. According to Pastor Billy, “all these passages” concerning the 7-year Tribulation are speaking about who?

a. What significance does this have for the church?

- b. So, where is the church during this time?
10. In light of Romans 11:25-27, how can it be claimed that God is finished with Israel?
- a. The purpose of the Tribulation is for the redemption of who?
11. Who is the audience throughout Scripture that is receiving the message and warnings of the 7-year Tribulation?
12. Who are “the inhabitants of the earth”? Explain.
- a. Why is the church not considered to be “the inhabitants of the earth” as described in the Book of Revelation?

13. So, according to Pastor Billy, what is the “primary purpose” of the Tribulation Period?

a. Who are the “multitudes” that are also saved?





*Part III*  
The Objections to the Pre-Trib Rapture









- a. Why can't Daniel 9:27 include the church?
  
3. Explain the "mystery" of the Church Age "gap" in light of Daniel 9:27.
  
4. In light of God's plans, how can it be said that there are distinct plans for Israel and the church?
  
5. Who has God destined for His judgment in the 7-year Tribulation?
  - a. Why can it be said that this judgment is not also to include the church?
  
6. How does Hosea's portrayal of the adulterous wife of Jehovah compare with the church as a virgin bride of Christ?

- a. When does Israel repent of her harlotry according to Scripture?
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7. It is often said by critics that the Pre-Trib Rapture produces laziness. Explain why, in light of the Doctrine of Imminency, that the Pre-Trib position produces action, not laziness.
  
  8. Discuss why the Pre-Trib Rapture position allows for Jesus' imminent, any moment, return.





## Chapter Thirteen

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# The Spurious Objections



**BEGIN DVD PART 6**

“The **sixth accusation** against the Pre-Trib position is that **The Pre-Trib Rapture is a Recent Spurious Teaching**. I don’t know if it’s just a last ditch effort because the other attacks against the Pre-Trib position just don’t hold up under scrutiny as we’ve been seeing, but believe it or not, there are actually many people out there who say that they disagree with the Pretribulation Rapture because it’s a “spurious” and “recent” teaching, therefore it can’t be true. They basically state and accuse the Pre-Trib Rapture teaching as having started with a man named John Darby who then is supposed to have received this “demonic” idea from a Charismatic girl named Margaret McDonald from an utterance she made in 1830. However, when you investigate the facts of this “recent” popular accusation, the only thing you’ll see that is “spurious” about it is the accusation itself. Like all the other false accusations against the Pre-Trib position, this too does not hold up under scrutiny.” Pastor Billy Crone, *The Rapture Don’t Be Deceived*.

## Study

1. Explain why the accusation that the Pre-Trib Rapture is of recent teaching and cannot be true is a spurious argument.
2. John Nelson Darby has been accused of developing his Pre-Trib Rapture from a Scottish Lassie’s (Margaret McDonald) vision. What sort of Rapture position did she advocate as seen in this vision?
3. Margaret McDonald and Edward Irving, Darby’s supposed sources for the Pre-Trib Rapture were historicists. What do historicists believe about the Tribulation and the Church Age?







*Part IV*  
The Problematic Positions on the Rapture











8. Explain why Matthew 24:29-31, 40-41 cannot refer to the Rapture.
  - a. What is the “Angel Harvest” and why can it not refer to the Rapture?
  - b. In Matthew 24:40-41 explain where those that are “taken” are taken to—and what happens to those that remain?
9. Why does it matter who is taken first in relation to the Rapture (wicked or righteous) when comparing the Rapture (1 Th 4:16-17) with the “Angel Harvest” (Matt 13:30, 49)?
  - a. Why does this show that Matthew 24:29-31 does not refer to the Rapture?
10. What is the significance in the chronological order of the Rapture to the Tribulation in 1 Thessalonians chapters 4 and 5?

- a. How can Post-Tribs possibly maintain that the Rapture and the Second Coming are the same event? Explain why they are separate events.
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11. In light of the Rapture, why were the Thessalonians so “freaked out” after receiving a false word that they were already in the Tribulation?
    - a. Explain how this reaction supports the Pre-Trib Rapture position.
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12. Name some of the differences that show that the Rapture and the Second Coming are two different and separate events.



13. If the Rapture happens at the end of the Tribulation as Post-Tribs believe, then who is left to populate the Millennial Kingdom? Explain.

a. Why does Pastor Billy say that Post-Tribs have no satisfactory answer to this problem?

14. In Matthew 25:31-34, 41, 46 who do the sheep and goats represent and where do each go?

a. Why is this an argument against a Post-Trib Rapture and how does this fit a Pre-Trib Rapture?

15. What kind of bodies do those who come to believe during the Tribulation enter the Millennial Kingdom with?

16. What is the “Bema Judgment” and what is its purpose for the church?

a. What are the rewards depicted by in the Scripture and what is their purpose for the Christian—can you name some of the rewards?

b. Why does Pastor Billy say that the “Bema Judgment” shows that the Post-Trib Rapture cannot be true?

17. Explain the “first resurrection” mentioned in Revelation 20:4-6 and who are included?

a. Why is it called the “first resurrection” and is it a single event?

18. What is the “second death”?

19. In 2 Th 2:7-8 what is the order of events in relation to Rapture and the revealing of the Antichrist?

20. In 2 Th 2:7-8 who is “the one who now holds back” and what is the implication of “the one who now holds back” being “taken out of the way” in relation to the Rapture?

21. Explain the Holy Spirit’s influence on the church and why it is the church that is removed?

a. Explain why this invalidates the Post-Trib Rapture.

22. Explain how the Post-Trib Rapture destroys the meaning of Jesus' wedding?

23. Explain the significance of the Jewish custom of the bride remaining closeted in her bridal chamber for seven days while the Tribulation is taking place for seven years.

- a. Explain the Jewish tradition of presenting the bride and groom to the world as "man and wife" as it relates to a Pre-Trib Rapture.

24. How do we know that the armies of heaven returning with Christ represent the church?

- a. How does this conflict with the Post-Trib Rapture position?

25. What is the purpose of the Rapture and how does the Post-Trib Rapture render the purpose of the “Blessed Hope” meaningless?

26. How does imminency benefit the readiness of the church?

a. How does the Post-Trib position destroy the “cleansing effects” of imminency?

b. Which Rapture position supports the Doctrine of Imminency?

27. 1 Th 4:18 and 1 Th 5:11 speak of encouraging each other. How can it be encouraging to think that you will be in the 7-year Tribulation as Post-Tribs believe?



28. If knowledge of the Rapture is to be comforting (1 Th 4:15-18) to believers, what does this say about each of the Rapture positions? Pre-Trib? Post-Trib? Mid-Trib? Pre-Wrath?



## Chapter Fifteen

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# The Problems with Pre-Wrath



“The **second position** on the Rapture that has some serious problems with it is **The Pre-Wrath Position**. Or should I say more accurately, the Three-Quarters Rapture Position. The title is a little deceptive because it doesn’t tell you the timing of when they think the Rapture will take place.” Pastor Billy Crone, *The Rapture Don’t Be Deceived*.

## Study

1. Briefly describe what the Pre-Wrath Rapture view teaches.
  - a. Why does Pastor Billy call it the “three-quarters” Rapture position?
  
2. What does Pastor Billy say is the “basic core difference” between the Pre-Wrath and Pre-Trib Rapture positions?

- a. How would you describe the Pre-Wrath position in one word?
  - b. Do you believe God would make something as important as the Rapture confusing?
3. How can it be said that the Seal Judgments are included in what is known as the Wrath of God?
- a. When does the 7-year Tribulation begin in relation to the Seal Judgments?
  - b. Who releases the Seal Judgments, God, man, or Satan, and what does that say about whose Wrath they represent?
4. In Revelation 12:12 Satan is filled with fury (Satan's wrath). What is Satan's wrath in reaction to?

- a. According to the Pre-Wrath teaching, what series of judgments are considered God's wrath?
  - b. According to the Pre-Trib teaching, what series of judgments are considered God's wrath?
5. We have seen that Jesus (God) releases the Seal Judgments. Under whose authority do the angels release the Trumpet Judgments?
6. What does Revelation 15:1 state in regards to the Bowl Judgments that implies that the preceding judgments were also the wrath of God?
7. Discuss how Revelation 6:16-17 shows that all of the Seal Judgments are the wrath of God.
- a. If the church is not to experience the wrath of God as Scripture says, then what does this say about the timing of the Rapture?





**BEGIN DVD PART 10**

13. After accusing the Pre-Trib position of advocating two separate returns of Christ, how many returns does Marvin Rosenthal propose for his Pre-Wrath Rapture theory?

14. In Marvin Rosenthal's Pre-Wrath Rapture view, when does the earth dissolve by fire and a new earth created?

a. What is the Biblical chronology of this event, before or after the Millennium? Explain.

15. The Great White Throne Judgment is clearly after the Millennium. Explain why this fact proves that the earth will be dissolved by fire and a new heaven and earth will be created after the Millennium.

16. In Daniel 9:20-27 who is being addressed, the church or Israel?

a. Since Daniel 9:27 is the basis for the 7-year Tribulation, what does this imply is the purpose for the Tribulation?

b. Can it be said that the church has any part in the prophecy of Daniel's 70-weeks (Dan 9:24-27)?

17. Historically, when the 69<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel ended, it ended abruptly (Dan 9:24-26) and the church began abruptly. What might we expect of the church just before the beginning of Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week (Dan 9:27)?

18. Who are the "Tribulation Saints"?

a. What do they have to do with the church? Explain.



- b. Why is it better to get saved now?
19. If the martyred great multitude of Revelation 7:9 represent the raptured church as the Pre-Wrath view supposes, then where are those that simply died in Christ?
- a. What can be said of the Pre-Wrath contention that while the martyred group is in heaven another group is waiting on earth for the Rapture in light of 1 Th 4:17?
20. Discuss why Matthew chapter 24 is not dealing with the church, but rather with Israel and the Jewish people.
21. Explain what event Matthew 24:29-31 refers to and why.

22. In 2 Th 2:7-8 “the one who now holds back” (the restrainer) is taken “out” of the way before the Antichrist is revealed. Explain who this “restrainer” is and what has this to do with the timing of the Rapture.

23. Why does Marvin Rosenthal insist that the “restrainer” is the angel Michael?

24. How does the Pre-Wrath Rapture destroy the purpose and encouraging hope (1 Th 4:18; 1 Th 5:11) of the promise of the Rapture?

25. If the Rapture of the church is an imminent event, then what should our focus be as a Christian?

a. What is the hope of those that subscribe to the Pre-Wrath view?

b. What are those that believe the Pre-Wrath view looking for?

26. If, as the Pre-Wrath view believes, the end-time church will experience cleansing and purging during the Tribulation—what does that say about Christ's sacrifice on the cross for our sins?

a. Explain why this idea is similar to the Catholic Doctrine of Purgatory.



## Chapter Sixteen

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# The Problems with Mid-Trib

The **third position** on the Rapture that has some serious problems with it is **The Mid-Trib Position**. Now, even though this position is also relatively new and more in the minority position, I would still nonetheless like to at least cover the highlights of it. Pastor Billy Crone, *The Rapture Don't Be Deceived*.

## Study

1. In regards to the Pre- and Post-Trib Raptures, what word best describes the Mid-Trib Rapture view?
  2. What does the Mid-Trib Rapture view believe?
    - a. What does it believe about the church?
3. How can it be said that the Seal Judgments of the first half of the 7-year Tribulation are the wrath of God and not the wrath of man?

4. What can be said of the statement of Revelation 6:17 “For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand” in relation to the previously released Seal Judgments?

a. How does this negate the Mid-Trib Rapture?

5. In the Trumpet Judgments, who directs the angels?

a. How can it be said that the Trumpet Judgments are a continuation of the wrath of God that began with the Seal Judgments?

6. What does the Mid-Trib Rapture view say in regards to the ending of the church age in relation to the 7-year Tribulation?

- a. Why is this a false assumption?
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7. Explain why the Mid-Trib belief that the two witnesses of Revelation 11 cannot represent a Mid-Trib Rapture.
    - a. What is the fallacy of the two dead witnesses representing those of the church that will be raptured when compared to 1 Th 4:16-17?
    - b. What does the Lord do in 1 Th 4:16 that does not occur in Rev 11:12?
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8. Discuss the difficulty in identifying a particular trumpet in the Bible as the “last trump” of 1 Co 15:52.

- a. Does the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet of Revelation have anything to do with the Rapture? Explain.



9. Explain how the Mid-Trib Rapture destroys imminency.

- a. How is the church to live in light of imminency?

10. Regarding the Pre-Trib Rapture, are there any signs to look for before the Rapture?
  - a. How then should we respond in our life and witness?



*Part V*  
The Point of the Rapture





- a. What effect might the harsh accusations and contentions have on the unsaved observer over the differing Rapture positions that are being so vehemently displayed by Christians?
  
4. Why is it more important for all Christians to come together and witness to the reality of hell?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Why is the purpose of the Rapture more important than the timing of the Rapture?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What are some of the objections to a literal eternal hell and explain why they are not valid?

## **How to Receive Jesus Christ:**

1. Admit your need (I am a sinner).
2. Be willing to turn from your sins (repent).
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the Cross and rose from the grave.
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit. (Receive Him as Lord and Savior.)

## **What to pray:**

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins. I want to turn from my sins. I now invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as Lord and Savior.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

