

# THE PAROUSIA (RAPTURE)

## A. Its Purpose

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|--|------------------------|
| 1. To save the Church from God's judgments                       | 1 Thess 4:17           |
| 2. To begin Daniel's 70 <sup>th</sup> 7 of dealing with the Jews | Dan 9:24-27            |
| 3. To reward God's people  | Rev 22:12    2 Tim 4:8 |
| 4. To complete the work of redemption                            | Rom 8:23    Eph 1:14   |

## B. Its Timing

### 1. The Biblical pattern is: **Warning---removal of God's people---judgment**

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|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a. Flood of Noah                     | 2 Pet 3:5    Gen 7:1,4,23    Mt 24:37 |
| b. Destruction of Sodom              | Gen 19:13,16,24    Lk 17:28-30        |
| c. Destruction of Jerusalem (587 BC) | Eze 9:4-6    Eze 14:14,16,18,20       |
|                                      | Jer 24:5    Mt 24:2                   |
| d. Destruction of Jerusalem (70 AD)  | Dan 9:26    Lk 21:20-21               |

### 2. The Thessalonian Evidence

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| a. 1 Thess 4:17    | "Caught up" (harpazo, GR) = forcibly taken away from the danger of destruction. We meet the Lord in the air. Jesus comes into the air to remove his Church from the earth. |
| b. 2 Thess 2:7-8   | The "he" who hinders is the Church, not the Holy Spirit, because if it were the Holy Spirit, no one could be saved in the tribulation which is contrary to Rev 7:14.       |
| c. 1 Thess 5:2,4,9 | God has not appointed the Church to the wrath of the Day of the Lord, but to <u>unbelievers</u> the Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night.                     |
| d. 1 Thess 1:10    | Jesus delivered us from the wrath to come.   |

### 3. The Revelation Evidence

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| a. The Church's disappearance |   |
| Rev 2 and 3                   | The Church is mentioned 17 times.   |
| Rev 4:1                       | John (representative of the Church) told to "Come up here" (to heaven).   |
| Rev 4:2—19:13                 | No mention is made of the Church on earth.  |
| Rev 19:14                     | The saints return with Jesus at his 2 <sup>nd</sup> Coming.   |
| b. Rev 3:10                   | The Lord promises to keep the Philadelphia Church from the hour of temptation. He will even keep them from the time of testing which shall come upon all the world. |
| c. Rev 2 and 3                | He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.   |
| Rev 13:19                     | If any man has an ear, let him hear. (The Spirit doesn't speak to the churches in Rev 13, the time of tribulation.)   |

4. The Matthew Evidence
  - a. Mt 24:37-39 The coming of the Son of Man will be just like in the days of Noah. Noah first entered into the place of safety (ark) and then judgment came on the earth. We shall meet Jesus in the air, go to our place of safety (heaven) before judgment is poured upon the earth.
  - b. Mt 24:13 Since the “time of the end” is the 7 year period of the Lord’s dealing with Israel at the close of history, those that endure unto the end shall be saved (from judgment of the earth—implied).
  
5. The Isaiah Evidence
 

Isa 2:12-19 The Day of the Lord will be upon all the proud and lofty (not upon the humble---implied). Compare Isa 57:15 with Eph 2:6.
  
6. The tribulation is for judgment on Israel and unbelieving Gentiles, and not for the Church.
 

Jer 30:7 The time of Jacob’s trouble  
 Dan 9:24 70 7s upon Daniel’s people (Jews) to bring in everlasting righteousness.  
 Rev 7 Mentions 144,000 Jews as God’s servants in the tribulation.
  
7. The Acts Evidence
 

Acts 1:11 Jesus will return to the earth just as he went into heaven. This is not the horseback leadership role of Rev 19.
  
8. The Luke Evidence
 

Lk 17:28-30 The day that the Son of Man will be revealed is just like the day of Lot. The same day Lot was saved from Sodom, Sodom and Gomorrah perished.
  
9. The Corinthians Evidence
 

1 Cor 15:22-24 The end comes after the Parousia. Compare Dan 11:40-45, the time of the end involves warfare in Israel and much destruction.
  
10. The John Evidence
 

Jn 5:24 True believers shall not come into judgment.
  
11. The Romans Evidence
 

Rom 5:9 Those justified by Jesus’ blood shall be saved from wrath through him. Compare with “wrath” of Rev 6:16-17.

C. Its Nature

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| 1. Sudden                              | 1 Cor 15:52  |
| 2. Worldwide                           | Lk 17:34-36  |
| 3. Jesus descends into the earth’s air | 1 Thess 4:17 |
| 4. Reunion of believers                | 1 Thess 4:14 |
| 5. Timely                              | Lk 17:29-30  |
| 6. Separating                          | Lk 17:34-36  |