

Appendix A

Outline of Various Rapture Positions

No Rapture

1. The Rapture is the same as the Second Coming.
 - a. This is the classic Post-Millennial (modern Amillennial) position which sees only a single coming of Christ followed by the eternal state.
 - b. Modern Post-Millennialists see this as well. They see a gradual “Christianizing” of the world followed by the return of Christ and the eternal state.
2. Some refutations to differentiate the Rapture (Christ comes for his Church) and the Revelation (Christ comes to reign):
 - a. The Rapture is when the Lord comes for his people (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17), the Second Coming is when the Lord comes with his people (1 Thessalonians 3:13, Revelation 19).
 - b. The Rapture is when Christ comes in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18), the Second Coming is when Christ comes to earth (Zechariah 14:4).
 - c. The Rapture is identified with the Day of Christ (Philippians 1:6, 10), the Second Coming is identified with the Day of the Lord (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12).
 - d. The Rapture involves the Church (John 14:1-3), the Second Coming involves Israel and the nations (Matthew 24:1, 25:46).

The Partial Rapture Viewpoint

1. The Rapture will include only spiritual Christians and/or those who are looking for Christ’s return.
2. It uses the Parable of the Ten Virgins to supposedly prove its position.
3. Some refutations:
 - a. 1 Corinthians 15:51 refutes this belief (note all in 1 Corinthians 15:51).
 - b. It splits the Body of Christ into two pieces. One piece is raptured to heaven, the other is left to suffer during the Tribulation.
 - c. It confuses grace with rewards.
 - d. It misinterprets the Parable of the Ten Virgins.

Mid-Tributional Viewpoint

1. The Rapture will not occur until the middle of the Tribulation.
2. The Church is supposedly raptured at the seventh trumpet (the last trump of 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18), which occurs about halfway through the Tribulation.
3. Some refutations:
 - a. This is refuted on the grounds of 1 Thessalonians 5:9 where it says “God has not appointed us to wrath.”
 - b. It makes the timing of the Rapture possible. Just count the days from the start of the Tribulation.
 - c. It assumes that the last trump is the seventh trump. This is a very questionable interpretation.

The Pre-Wrath Rapture Position

1. Just a modified version of the Mid-Tributional position.
2. Refutations can be found in Appendix B.

Post-Tributional Viewpoint

1. The Rapture will not occur until the end of the tribulation.
2. This is the least viable viewpoint. See the support for the Pre-Tributional viewpoint for a refutation of this position.

Pre-Tributional Viewpoint

1. Christ comes for the Church prior to the start of the Tribulation.
2. The Rapture concludes the Church age since it shows the completion of the Bride, the Body of Christ.
3. All believers who have died during the Church age will be resurrected to receive their glorified bodies. Those who are alive are transformed and given their glorified body. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians 15:50-58).
4. Some evidences for this position:
 - a. The Church is the bride of Christ. If part were left on earth, then there would be a divided bride.
 - b. The church is mentioned 32 times in Revelation 1-3, and then nothing until Revelation 19 at the Second Coming. Only two conclusions can be drawn, 1) the church failed and then disappeared, 2) the church is not on earth.
 - c. God will call his ambassadors home before he declares war on the world (2 Corinthians 5:20).

- d. A clear distinction is made between Israel and the Church. The Tribulation is a time of God dealing with Israel.
- e. The Tribulation is Daniel's Seventieth Week in which God turns again and deals with Israel.
- f. The Church will not be overtaken by the Day of the Lord, which includes the Tribulation (1 Thessalonians 5:1-9).
- g. The Church is told to look for Christ, not the Antichrist.
- h. In order for the Church to return with Christ at the end of the Tribulation, it must have joined Christ prior to the Tribulation.
- i. This viewpoint allows time for the *bema* seat judgement.
- j. If Christ came at the end of the Tribulation for all the saints, there would be none in human bodies to populate the Kingdom.
- k. Believers are encouraged to anticipate the Lord's unexpected return. If the Rapture occurs at any time other than prior to the Tribulation, one could pretty much pin down the time of his return by observing the events going on during the Tribulation.