

Things to Know About the Day Before the Rapture

The average person has an awareness that there will be some kind of judgment before God someday. The average *Christian* usually has an awareness that Jesus is coming back and His coming has something to do with judgment and His kingdom. The average *Bible student* can identify what the Rapture is, when Jesus comes to take believers out of the world. He knows about the Tribulation and the Antichrist which follows. He knows that there will be a great battle called Armageddon where Jesus destroys the Antichrist and his armies, the Millennial Kingdom and the heavenly city which follows. A good Bible student will know quite a bit more. If you are at least an average Bible student, you will have a good sense of God's time line for the End Times, but it should probably cause you to pause if you hear about the *Day Before the Rapture*. You would have heard of the Rapture, Tribulation, Second Coming, and the Millennium but you never hear of attention called to the *Day Before the Rapture* as an End Times event. Preachers do cover what happens before the Rapture, but we don't actually have an event called the Day Before the Rapture. This is a made up name for today's message, but it is most assuredly not an insignificant topic.

1. The Day Before the Rapture is business as usual.

What is so significant about the Day Before the Rapture is that there is nothing particularly special about it! When Jesus was asked about the timing of His teaching on the destruction the Temple just before the Crucifixion, He pointed out that it will be just a business as usual kind of a day.

The first thing that this means is that there is nothing about the day that will give anyone a clue that in the morning they are going to wake up to their Christian neighbors all of a sudden having disappeared.

Matt 24:36-44 But of that day and hour knoweth no *man*, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

37But as the days of Noe *were*, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

38For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

39And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

40Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

41Two *women shall be* grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

42Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

43But 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.

44Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Nobody knows the day and hour. He is going to come as a thief in the night. This does not mean Christ is a thief, but that just as nobody makes appointments to have their house burglarized, there is no date and time you can put in your appointment book to meet Jesus in the air. You won't sense some kind of stillness in the air. There will be no strange glow. There will be no eerie silence. There will be no sirens going off. There will be no disturbance in your radio or tv signals. You won't see men in black and dark sunglasses in odd places doing odd things.

Normal life will seem to be going on, people getting engaged and married, planning for families and careers, and having parties. But just because it is

business as usual don't think that it going to be such a benign time. Business as usual will not mean life is all picnics and blue skies.

Business as usual as it was in the days of Noah had a very dark side.

Gen 6:5-8 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

6And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

7And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

8But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

The days before Noah were absolutely wicked! Their thoughts were only evil continually. Those days continued until suddenly, one day, the clouds broke open and only Noah and his family were tucked away safely inside the ark. It will not be able to be said that the Day Before the Rapture the thoughts of man will *only* be evil continually, but great wickedness will characterize the times.

2Thess 2:3-8 Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; **[The revelation of the man of sin will happen after the Rapture and during the Tribulation.]**

4Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

5Remember ye not, that, when I

was yet with you, I told you these things?

6And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

7For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way. **[In the meantime, before the Rapture, the mystery of iniquity is *already* at work before the Rapture.]**

8And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Things won't fare much better in church. The last church age will be described as lukewarm causing God to want to spue them out of His mouth.

Rev 3:14-19 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

15I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

17Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

18I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

19As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Examples of this attitude can be seen in a number of the megachurches where everything looks so professional and so powerful only to hear reports of their leaders falling into gross sin. This is not something that happens automatically when you are so big. The presumption is that the only way you get to be so powerful is because you were so close to God. God raises up preachers sometimes to serve Him on such a large scale so they need extra prayer. However, this age is characterized by a great portion of Christians being lulled into complacency because superficially everything *seems* to satisfactory.

2. The danger of business as usual.

Here is where we see the dangers of such business as usual.

- The first problem is to have a sense of complacency.

2Pet 3:3-10 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

4And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation.

[Complacency can set in because it seems like all the excitement about the Lord's return and yet it hasn't taken place. Jesus hasn't come back any of the times we were challenged to be vigilant, why bother now?]

5For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

6Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

7But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

[This might seem like this is a problem of the lost since it is scoffers who will be saying this. This is a problem for believers and they must be warned and not get complacent as Peter warns them in the next verses:]

8But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

10But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

- The next danger is for the believer to get weary and want to give up.

Gal 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Sometimes we look at all that is going on in the world and you want to just give up. We ask ourselves "Why bother?" When we read the headlines, we feel like we are reading the End Times News:

2Tim 3:1-9 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

4Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

5Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

6For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,
7Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

8Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

9But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all *men*, as theirs also was.

Having a form of godliness is more well known as a sanctimonious, holier-than-thou, virtue-signaling cancel-culture. Denying God it has no moral power or force. They are reprobate concerning the faith. The world has become so blatant in the execution of their agenda that the folly of their mentality is obvious and manifest to anyone.

- The third danger is to give up because the Rapture is just around the corner.

In 1 Thessalonians, Paul had instructed the believers that they would be resurrected along with the departed saints.

1Thess 4:14-17 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a

shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Then he explained to them people will think all is in peace and safety with business going on as usual.

1Thess 5:1-9 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

2For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

3For 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.

Next, Paul explained to them that they are going to miss the Tribulation because God has not appointed them to go through the time of His wrath.

9For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

Then something happened to the Thessalonians which caused Paul to write to them again to correct an error that was creeping up on them. They evidently thought they were supposed to go through part of the Tribulation so Paul had to tell them that the Day of the Lord (which starts with the Rapture) could *not* have started yet because the Antichrist was supposed to be revealed at the beginning of the Tribulation. Since he had not been revealed, then the Day of the Lord had not started yet at all.

2Thess 2:1-4 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our

gathering together unto him,
[**Don't worry about the Rapture**]

2That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. [**The Day of Christ hasn't started yet**]

3Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, **except there come a falling away first**, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.[**Since you haven't seen the Antichrist revealed, then the Day hasn't started**]

As a result of their concerns, they are then described in the next chapter as walking disorderly.

2Thess 3:6-7 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

7For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

Evidently the precious truth of the second coming of our Lord had so gripped the hearts of the Thessalonians that they were fully expecting Him to return in their lifetime [which is ordinarily a good thing]. [However,] I gather from this passage and the corresponding verses in the first Epistle (4:11-12) that some of the members of the church at Thessalonica who did not particularly enjoy hard work

were saying, “Well, if the Lord is coming soon, what is the use of working? Why not take it easy? Let those who have enough laid up for the future divide it with us. There is no need to work.” The apostle rebuked them and reminded them,¹

2Thess 3:6-13 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

7For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

8Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

9Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.

10For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

11For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

12Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

13But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

This mentality has come up from time to time. As people have guessed wrong about the day of the Rapture, on occasion believers have been known to quit their jobs (which is what walking disorderly is all about), donned white robes, and gather on the hillsides to wait

¹<https://plymouthbrethren.org/article/5468>

for Jesus. That might sound like something someone would do in a more unenlightened age, but that is just about what many people did in recent times. Harold Camping was known for predicting the Rapture to take place on May 21, 2011 and that judgment day would follow on October 21, 2011. There were people who were selling off their businesses and putting the money into Camping's ministry because they weren't going to need it anymore. There were preachers who asked for the title to Camping's national radio network since he wasn't going to need it anymore after May 21 (he couldn't have been that confident because he didn't take them up on the request). As good as Camping might have been, he was mistaken. But, that mistake was cleared up by May 22, 2011 and he later apologized. In March 2012, he stated that his attempt to predict a date was "sinful", and that his critics had been right in emphasizing the words of Matthew 24:36: "of that day and hour knoweth no man". He added that he was now searching the Bible "even more fervently...not to find dates, but to be more faithful in [his] understanding." He got his theology all straightened out on December 15, 2013 – when he passed on into glory.

The times are tough, but don't give up. We might get weary, but don't give up. It might look hopeless, but don't give up. The Rapture is right around the corner, but don't give up!

3. Occupy the Day Before the Rapture.

What *should* the Day Before the Rapture look like? The answer is found in

2Thess 3:12,13 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

13But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

With quietness work and be not

weary in well doing. Essentially, treat the Day Before the Rapture like any other day. The world will be going about its day to day *evil* business on that day. We must be going about our day to day *business of the Lord!* Someone might say, "But we don't know when Jesus is coming." The reply to that is "*Exactly!*" Since we don't know when, we just stay busy for Jesus. Go out and vote. Go out to work. Get to church. Go out soul winning. Get to Bible study. Wash your kitchen floor. Study for the tests. Use what you learn to serve God. Don't put off your decision on what God wants you to do. Dig in.

Luke 19:11-26 And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.

12He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

13And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, **Occupy till I come.**

14But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this *man* to reign over us.

15And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

16Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

17And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

18And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.

19And he said likewise to him,
Be thou also over five cities.

20And another came, saying,
Lord, behold, *here is* thy pound,
which I have kept laid up in a
napkin:

21For I feared thee, because thou
art an austere man: thou takest
up that thou layedst not down,
and reapest that thou didst not
sow.

22And he saith unto him, Out of
thine own mouth will I judge
thee, *thou* wicked servant. Thou
knewest that I was an austere
man, taking up that I laid not
down, and reaping that I did not
sow:

23Wherefore then gavest not thou
my money into the bank, that at
my coming I might have required
mine own with usury?

24And he said unto them that
stood by, Take from him the
pound, and give *it* to him that
hath ten pounds.

25(And they said unto him, Lord,
he hath ten pounds.)

26For I say unto you, That **unto
every one which hath shall be
given; and from him that hath
not, even that he hath shall be
taken away from him.**

Around the corner there is a sign
outside the coffee shop, "Drink coffee
and own the day." I went in one
afternoon and ordered a cup of coffee
and had to ask, "Since part of the day is
over, may I use some of the coffee as a
down payment for tomorrow?" With
whatever time we have left, it might be a
day before the Rapture, it might be a
hundred years before the Rapture, but
even if it is only one *hour* before the
Rapture, seize each moment and *occupy*
it. Take charge of it for the Lord.

Col 3:23 And whatsoever ye do,
do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and
not unto men;

Rom 12:11-15 Not slothful in

business; fervent in spirit;
serving the Lord;

12Rejoicing in hope; patient in
tribulation; continuing instant in
prayer;

13Distributing to the necessity of
saints; given to hospitality.

14Bless them which persecute
you: bless, and curse not.

15Rejoice with them that do
rejoice, and weep with them that
weep.

All of this, of course, only applies to those who called on Jesus to be saved. If you are not a born again child of God, you are going to be left behind to go through that terrible time called the Tribulation. You will see the Antichrist from the wrong side of heaven, but do not think that you will turn to God then because then it will be too late.

2Thess 2:8-12 And then shall
that Wicked be revealed, whom
the Lord shall consume with the
spirit of his mouth, and shall
destroy with the brightness of his
coming:

9*Even him*, whose coming is
after the working of Satan with
all power and signs and lying
wonders,

10And with all deceivableness of
unrighteousness in them that
perish; because they received not
the love of the truth, that they
might be saved.

11And for this cause God shall
send them strong delusion, that
they should believe a lie:

12That they all might be damned
who believed not the truth, but
had pleasure in unrighteousness.

1. The Day Before the Rapture is business as usual. Matt 24:36-44, Gen 6:5-8, 2Thess 2:3-8, Rev 3:14-19
2. The danger of business as usual. 2Pet 3:3-10, Gal 6:9, 2Tim 3:1-9, 1Thess 4:14-17, 5:1-9, 2Thess 2:1-4, 3:6-7, 6-13
3. Occupy the Day Before the Rapture.

2Thess 3:12,13, Luke 19:11-26, Col
3:23, Rom 12:11-15, 2Thess 2:8-12