

*Eschatology Lesson 1*  
**THE STUDY OF THE FUTURE**

*(CONTINUED FROM CHRISTOLOGY LESSON 16)*

2A. THE PROBLEM OF HIS COMING AS IT RELATES TO TIME AND PLACE

1B. The **PLACE** –

1. THE RAPTURE: We meet him in the air! There is no indication that Jesus physically comes to the earth. *1 Thess. 4:16-17*
  - A. The Rapture is an unscheduled secret event where Jesus comes part way to Earth to meet His Church in the air and take us to be with Him where He is now. It is said unscheduled and secret because its specific timing will remain unknown and sudden like the arrival of a thief in the night.
    - I. Jesus meets only believers in the air
  - B. No Judgment is mentioned.
    - I. The theme is to “comfort one another with these words”
  - C. The focus is on the Church
  - D. Satan is never mentioned; Antichrist is not mentioned
  - E. No signs prelude it; No Prophecy needs to be fulfilled before.
    - I. Imminent- Paul was waiting for it.
  
2. THE SECOND COMING: He comes to the earth! *Isaiah 63:1-6, Rev. 1:7*
  - A. The Second Coming is a scheduled public event where Jesus comes all the way to Earth with His church to establish a Kingdom here. It is meant scheduled because the general time of His coming will be known on Earth over 3 ½ years in advance, and public because everyone on Earth will be able to witness His arrival. Where as the rapture is only for the church.
    - I. He will come to Bozrah, defeating all the nations (capital city of Edom)
    - II. Then He will come to the Jerusalem: Mount of Olives, *Zech. 14:4-5*
    - III. No mention of or description of rapture. People watch from the earth.
  - B. Judgment is focused upon:
    - I. The Sheep and Goat Judgment *Matt. 25:31*
    - II. The Great White Throne Judgment *Rev. 20:11-15*
  - C. The Focus is on the kingdom
  - D. Satan is bound; Antichrist is overthrown

E. Multitude of signs are given, Multitude of prophecies need to be fulfilled first. *Matt 24*

I. Occurs after the great tribulation.

\*When comparing the detailed descriptions of the 2 events above one cant help but notice that there are distinct differences in the “Rapture” and the “Second Coming of Christ.

2B. The **POSITION** of His coming in relation to the tribulation – Where is Jesus... *1 Thess. 4:16-5:9 cf. Matthew 24:29-30*

1. Before the tribulation?

A. He is at the right hand of God *1 Peter 3:22*

2. During the tribulation?

A. He is at the right hand of God *Rev. 5-19*

3. After the tribulation?

A. He is on earth ruling and reigning *Rev. 20*

I. If this was to fit the timeframe that Jesus was speaking of in John 14:2-3 then it would have been that He would be coming here to be where they are, not Him coming to take us where He is.

II. The Rapture is an event “*for His saints*”; The Revelation is the Coming of the messiah “*with His saints*”! *1 Thess. 4:15-17; 1 Thess. 3:13, Jude 1:14, Zech 14:5*