



The Elect

Ro 9:13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

Table Of Contents

Copyright

Copyright © 2012 by Michael L Trinham

Cover and internal design © by Michael L Trinham

This book may be copied intact and distributed free of charge.

Table Of Contents

Table of Contents

Copyright	2
Table Of Contents	3
Introduction	4
Chapter 1 What Jesus Taught	5
Chapter 2 Election In The Old Testament	7
Chapter 3 Election In The New Testament	10
Chapter 4 Election Is Not Arbitrary	12
Chapter 5 The Elect And The Timing Of The Second Coming	14
Chapter 6 The Dangerous Heresy Of The Secret Rapture	16
Chapter 7 Count Your Way Through End Time Prophecy to the rapture of the Elect	19
Chapter 8 How Can I Be Rapture Ready? Whatever the timing!	21
About the Author	21

Introduction

No information included in God's holy, perfect book is insignificant. Words Phrases and themes that are repeated are not redundant but are repeated for emphasis and special note.

Thus it is with the phrase "the Elect" referring to the "chosen" of God whether it refers to a person a nation or a special group for example:

Isa 42:1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; *mine elect*, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. [the Person of the Messiah]

Isa 45:4 For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel **mine elect**, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me. [the Person of Jacob and the Nation of Israel]

Tit 1:1 Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of **God's elect**, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; [the Church of the N.T.]

2Jo 1:1 The elder unto the **elect lady** and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth; [an individual who is born again - cf Col 3:11 and Ga 3:28]

In our present day we use the verb "election" to describe the process in a democracy by which the voters choose a government. There is no great mystery in the word itself rather it is the significance of the repeated use of it in the Bible that draws attention to those to whom it refers. It also causes us to note the times that the word "chosen" refers to the people with the same characteristics both in the Old and New Testaments.

In the case of God's elect (Titus 1:1 cited above), because the Creator God is eternal, outside of the time space continuum that He maintains for His creation, He is able to view and interact with space-time dwellers at any time during their own time line, by evaluating and choosing their concerns, even before they come into existence. While this is a concept that is difficult for a finite mind to grasp it is nevertheless taught as fact in scripture.

It is the significance of this mystery I plan to explore, with the help of the Holy Spirit in the following pages, I leave it to my readers to judge whether the resultant conclusions are accurate in light of the written word of God.

[Table Of Contents](#)

Chapter 1 What Jesus Taught

Jesus' teaching in John 3 was unequivocally, that *any* believer must be born again of the Holy spirit to qualify for membership in God's kingdom. This fact He said should be evident to any "master" or teacher in Israel. That is this fact was known before the New Testament day.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again...

9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?

10 Jesus answered and said unto him, *Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?*

11 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.

Jesus expected that Nicodemus as a teacher in Israel would have known this from his study of the Old Testament Scriptures.

This core doctrine is seen in Genesis 15:6, the teaching of the example of Father Abraham *And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.*

All the promises of God for Israel hinge on this vital doctrine; when a man believes God a supernatural transformation takes place. The believer has the righteousness of God freely imputed to him.

In the New Testament Paul brings this principle into sharp focus;

Romans 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law [Strong's 5056 τέλος telos tel'-os - completion of the law] for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Chapter 1 What Jesus Taught

5 For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.

6 But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)

7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10 ***For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness;*** and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

12 ¶ For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

The heart of a person is where the mind the emotions and the will reside and when we submit them all to God He performs the work of regeneration which the Bible calls the New Birth in the New Testament and a ***New Heart*** in the Old Testament. see Eze 36:26; Ps 51:10 in the beginning of Saul's ministry albeit temporarily 1Sa 10:9 ***And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day.***

[Table Of Contents](#)

Chapter 2 Election In The Old Testament

The coming Saviour and King, Jesus. Chosen of God, not only to be the sacrifice for all sin but to overcome sin and death and to reign as Lord and king.

Israel the Nation is God's chosen as far back in the Bible record as Genesis 12:1-4 God
Isaiah 41:8 But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend.

The Messiah foretold and foreshadowed as the Saviour of the world (Gentiles).

Isaiah 42:1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

Jacob is elected and surnamed by God, *Israel*.

Isaiah 45:4 For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.

This is a grace gift of God, especially when we study the history of Israel and their incessant returning to idolatry see for example Jeremiah's complaint against Israel

Jer 2:27 Saying to a stock [stump], Thou art my father; and to a stone, Thou hast brought me forth: for they have turned their back unto me, and not their face: but in the time of their trouble they will say, Arise, and save us.

This study gives us an insight into Jesus' explanation of the parable of the householder's vineyard labourers. This parable is a metaphor for the Kingdom of Heaven Matthew 20:1- 16. All agreed to work for a penny a day and all is well until the time for payment and the good Householder pays the late starters whom he chose to call at twelve and three o'clock receive a full day's pay the same as those who were working from the beginning of the day. The parable illustrates the generosity of the Householder

Mt 20:16 So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.

The divine Plan of God is wrought before the world was created Eph 1:4; 1Pe 1:20 and God's persistence, long suffering and diligence will bring it to a final conclusion.

Isaiah 65:9 And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains: and mine elect shall inherit it, and my servants shall dwell there.

In chapter 1 we saw that there must be a spiritual re-birth of the believer before he or she can even see (John 3:3) or enter the kingdom of God (John 3:5) and Jesus gives details showing that this is a spiritual re-birth that takes place in the faithful believer, a total transformation:

2Co 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away;

Chapter 2 Election In The Old Testament

behold, all things are become new.

A miracle birth effected by the Holy Spirit appropriated by faith alone in the finished work of Jesus on the cross (Joh 19:30).

Although the Old Testament saints had not see the event they appropriated its salvation by faith trusting God's word that the Redeemer would come in due time. God seeing their faith outside of earthly time chose them at the point of their decision and imputed His righteousness to them. This idea is reflected in the case of Saul:

1Sa 10:9 And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, ***God gave him another heart:*** and all those signs came to pass that day.

What happened to that anointing is another story, it suffices here to note that Old Testament believers who put their faith and trust in God were transformed in the same way as outlined in 2Cor 5 17 in the New Testament.

The story of King Saul, his regeneration or "birth from above" gives a strong indication that this new birth or regenerate condition must be maintained by the deliberate choice or will of the believer as we are encouraged in the New Testament:

2Pe 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5 ¶ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Saul in the end failed the test

1Sa 16:1 And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel?

Saul lost his connection with God and as a result the heavens were void to him when he prayed

1Sa 28:3 Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him, and buried him in Ramah, even in his own city. ***And Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land.***

4 And the Philistines gathered themselves together, and came and pitched in Shunem: and Saul gathered all Israel together, and they pitched in Gilboa.

5 And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled.6 And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.

7 ¶ ***Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her.*** And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor.

So Saul abandoned his God-given "new heart" of 1Sa 10:9, and turned away from God with the result that God turned away from Him. God never abandons his chosen but because God has given every believer free will He will not overrule the believers will if that individual chooses to abandon God. Saul soon found that when he abandoned God he also abandoned his rights and privileges at the same time. God has never promised to maintain rebels, rather the reverse.

Isa 30:1 Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:

[Table Of Contents](#)

Chapter 3 Election In The New Testament

GOD'S ELECTION IS ON THE BASIS OF HIS FOREKNOWLEDGE

Foreknowledge first i.e. knowing your choice and "foreordained" second on the basis of your freewill choice. I realize I am laboring this point but intentionally because this is doctrinal "fork in the road" for many who follow the Calvinistic idea that God arbitrarily chooses whomever He will without any agreement from them.

Romans 8:29 ¶ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

If this were not so it makes a nonsense of the "whosoever" of John 3:16 and also of the emphatic statement:

2 Peter 3:9 The 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.*

The only thing that stands between man and God ever since the determination of the cross of Calvary in the mind of God from before the foundation of the world Re 13:8, is the free will of man himself. Since Eden man has been given choices and depending on the wisdom of those choices he has been accepted or rejected by God

Jesus promises that He will build His Church:

Mt 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

And that is what the Scriptures record Him doing in Acts 2:47:

47b And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

The Greek text says *literally those who were being saved* giving emphasis to the word "*should*" in verse 47 that they were chosen by the Lord on the basis of their conversion experience as the result of their free-will choice. They chose to believe on Him and He chose them to be added to His ecclesia - Church.

As we have all witnessed since this great influx of souls into the church of Acts 2 there have come to be, churches built by man, whose members are added, not by the Lord,

but by conforming to the religious formulas concocted by religious teachers. The most widely held spurious belief is that baptism administered from the baptismal font by sprinkling admits the soul to the Church. The added church members by this means are not by God's choosing but by the choices and devices of men.

All of the teaching of Scripture clearly shows that Election is of God who reads the heart of man and makes His choice according the condition of the thoughts and intents of man's heart. God knows what our choices will be before we make them and because He is not willing that any should perish He gives every man every opportunity to choose Him.

Because God has access to the heart of every man to read our heart's intents and purposes means that God knows at all times who are really His. While we cannot tell the difference, He can! When we survey a vast sea of faces in a modern congregation we assume that a percentage of these are included in the genuine Church of the Lord Jesus. Because of the lack of real spiritual fruit as described in Ga 5:22 we can estimate that this percentage is small. Fortunately it is not our task to separate the sheep from the goats, when the King decides Matthew 25:34 He will inevitably be right.

We have a say in this process only for ourselves Paul warns us:

2 Cor 6:1 ¶ We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

Make the decision to join the sheep of His pasture now, today and avoid being excluded then.

[Table Of Contents](#)

Chapter 4 Election Is Not Arbitrary

Those of Israel who are born of the Spirit are one with the Gentiles who are born of the Spirit see:

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Election is not arbitrary but Election Must Be Maintained

The Significance The Doctrine Of Election Has For Believers Works. remember we said in Chapter 3: *Predestination - God' choosing - comes as a result of His foreseeing the future of man's free-will choices.* 2Pet 1 makes it clear that God does not take away the believers free-will He continues to give us a choice to believe and obey see verse10: *if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

So we see that while salvation is not of works the believer must be committed to trust and obey God's word by faith to maintain his election.

2Pet 1:1 ¶ Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5 ¶ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

12 ¶ Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

13 Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle [body], to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;

This is Peter's exhortation to overcome by the Spirit and is not a reversion to salvation

Chapter 4 Election Is Not Arbitrary

by works but an exhortation to resist sin and submit to the will of God. As James says:

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

We overcome by faith and resting, in the knowledge that the battle is won by Jesus on the Cross. We must however work at remembering that victory won at so great a cost:

Heb 2:1 ¶ Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

2 For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward;

3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

God holds us accountable to apply ourselves diligently to hold fast this treasure given to us in our earthen vessels (bodies)

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

DOES THAT MEAN THAT OUR SALVATION IS INSECURE? NO!!

Romans 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

So rest in the assurance that no one can take your salvation from you by trickery or force even the mark of the beast requires an act of surrender or worship (Re 16:2) and 1Co 10:13...

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

So don't be fearful, and unbelieving, (Rev 21:8) but simply go on trusting and living by faith

23 ¶ And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24 *Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it*

[Table Of Contents](#)

Chapter 5 The Elect And The Timing Of The Second Coming

The doctrine of election has significance in clarifying the events of the approach to and the second coming of Jesus Christ

Matthew 24:9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:

18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.

27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

28 For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

Note that this happens ***immediately after*** the great tribulation the days of which were shortened, compare v22. The Elect here clearly go through the Great Tribulation at the end of which the Lord returns in the clouds (heaven) and directs his angels to collect His faithful Elect from the four winds, the four points of the compass to meet the Lord in

Chapter 5 The Elect And The Timing Of The Second Coming

the air compare 1Th 4:17 *Then 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.*

Matthew 24:30 (cont.) And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

We have already seen from Scripture in Romans 8:29 that the Elect are born again Christians and Matthew tells us that for the sake of born again Christians the days of the great tribulation will be shortened and, also, for the sake of all flesh on the earth. The term "all flesh" includes also animals. What ever will transpire to bring this Great Tribulation will be so horrific as to have the potential to wipe out every living thing from the earth, so God in His mercy will abrogate it for our sakes. Teachers who are offering believers an escape from persecution in the last days are deluding us.

Don't fall for it prepare now for the fact the it could mean we will have to literally lay down our lives for our faith in Jesus Christ as the many martyrs who have gone before us and who are so doing even now in our own day.

[Table Of Contents](#)

Chapter 6 The Dangerous Heresy Of The Secret Rapture.

The theory of the Secret Pre Tribulation Rapture is and has been promulgated for most of my seventy nine years. I grew up hearing the frightening idea that Jesus may return at any moment without warning to snatch believers away (1Th 4:17 Strong's 726 ἁρπάζω harpazo har-pad'-zo) to be with the Lord. I say frightening because when I was first taught this as a child I had the pretty certain idea that I would be hauled up before the Judge of heaven and earth to answer for my sins or worse I would be left behind without my family of whom I was pretty sure they were "good to go."

I still remember the time that I arrived back from school to find the house empty and my family gone. My heart sank as the thought crossed my mind; "I've been left behind!" When my folks finally turned up I told them I was worried not knowing where they were, they told me I was a "goose." I did not enlighten them as to the reason for my fear and we just left it at that.

The up-side if this pre trib scenario is that the saints would be thus caught up before the rigors of the worst tribulation to come on the earth of all ages. An therein lies the danger. If we believe that the Lord will return before the Great Tribulation and snatch us all away before the torture starts this idea leads to disillusionment and doubt in the event that we, like many of our present day brethren should suffer persecution for instance at the hands of radical Islam which is a rising threat today.

Be prepared to suffer if the Lord should call us to it:

Lu 9:23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

Mt 10:39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

THE REAL RAPTURE SCENARIO

Of course the Bible is clear that there will be a rapture of all believers at the time of Jesus' return but that this event will be secret is unscriptural. Jesus taught that the "model" for His return should follow the pattern of God's judgement in the days of Noah's flood and the destruction of Sodom these are the signs we faithful are looking for:

26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, *until the day that Noe entered into the ark*, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.

28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;

29 *But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom* it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.

Chapter 6 The Dangerous Heresy Of The Secret Rapture.

30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

31 In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back.

32 Remember Lot's wife.

33 Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.

34 I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.

35 Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

36 Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

37 *And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.*

The return of Christ is secret only from the wicked unbelievers. The secret or unexpected return of Christ applies only to unbelievers. We believers have had the plan laid out in detail:

Mt 24:23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

25 *Behold, I have told you before.*

26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.

27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

28 For wheresoever the carcase is, ***there will the eagles be gathered together.***

There is that eagles thing again Strongs posits two possible connections to this word 105 ἀετός aetos ah-et-os' the first is "vultures" who could be seen as the carrion attending the slaughter at the battle of Armageddon the second is the gathering if the Roman army standard depicting the eagle, either way it points to the destructive forces gathered around Jerusalem that will be destroyed by the coming King Jesus.

Notice that the writer says in verse 25 ***Behold, I have told you before.***

Again this is a sign that believers are to watch for that will tip them off that the Lord is about to appear, a crucial part of our looking for His appearing the second time unto salvation:

Heb 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; ***and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.***

Hence the exhortation in Lu 18:1 *And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;*

Whether we believe that the rapture of the Church is pre., post or mid tribulation it is important - no crucial- for every believer to be "RAPTURE READY"

<http://www.askelm.com/essentials/ess025.htm>

See the book by Ernest L. Martin, Ph. D.

Table Of Contents

Chapter 7 Count Your Way Through End Time Prophecy to the rapture of the Elect

God can count I know everyone knew that! But sometimes we forget the obvious, especially if one of our precious pet doctrines are in jeopardy. And just for that reason I am going to count you through the the references the Bible makes to the timing of the rapture of the elect.

The first Recurrection

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. ***This is the first resurrection.***

6 ***Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection:*** on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

A precursor to the first resurrection:

1Co 15:23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

The Resurrection of Jesus, is the prime factor of the believer's faith, and was a foreshadowing of the resurrection of all believers at the end of the great tribulation when all the dead in Christ since the cross shall arise in the **First Resurrection**.

The first resurrection detailed in Matthew 24

Matt 24:25 Behold, I have told you before.

26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.

27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

28 For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

29 ***Immediately after the tribulation of those days*** shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, ***and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and***

great glory.

31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall **gather together his elect** from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

1Co 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the **dead shall be raised incorruptible**, and we shall be changed.

The second resurrection.

This name "The Second Resurrection" is not specifically given in scripture but it is taught that it is a resurrection to judgment and the second death see:

Re 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

The first death.

The very fact that the Bible describes the second death (Re 2:11; Re 20:6; Re 20:14 ; Re 21:8) indicates that there is a first death even though It might not be enumerated that way. This is the death of all mankind that precedes the judgment:

Heb 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: [the first death reserves men to the judgment]

The second death.

It is at the second death, after the judgment that the guilty are consigned to the lake of fire:

Re 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

The significance of the First Resurrection.

The first resurrection is an infallible marker as to the timing of the rapture and the second coming of Christ. if you keep this sequence in mind the timing of all the other references to Christs second coming become clear and the Bible interprets the Bible.

There are no precursors to the second coming that are not specifically named as such as we have shown in 1Co 15:23. So forget teachers who hop from pre tribulation to mid tribulation stretching the interpretation of Scripture as they go. The devil uses any wrongful interpretation of scripture to "set the believer up" for disappointment and unbelief and ultimately faithless death. He is out to get you, don't let him

Jas 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Table Of Contents

Chapter 8 How Can I Be Rapture Ready? Whatever the timing!

Step 1 - ADMIT that you are a sinner in need of forgiveness from God.

Romans 3:23. We deserve to die. Romans 6:23.

Ro 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

One day we will all be judged by the Lord.

Hebrews 9:27. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

We cannot save ourselves by good works.

Titus 3:5. Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Step 2 - BELIEVE God's word The Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died for our sins on the cross, and He rose again from the dead. He is the Savior of those who believe in Him.

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

John 3:16, For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Step 3 - CALL upon the Lord and repent (turn away from sin)

Ac 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Ask Jesus to become the Lord of your life

Joh 20:28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

Joh 20:29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Chapter 8 How Can I Be Rapture Ready? Whatever the timing!

Psalm 145:18 The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

19 He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.

If you sincerely pray through these steps you have God's promise that He will receive you to Himself and cause you to be born again:

2Cor 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Table Of Contents

About the Author



Michael Trinham

Michael has spent over thirty years in church ministries across Australia.

He graduated from the Alliance College of Theology Canberra A.C.T. with a Licentiate of Theology Degree and a Scholar of Theology Degree.

He was ordained to the Gospel Ministry by the Christian and Missionary Alliance of Australia and spent sixteen years as a credentialed Alliance Pastor. After completing post graduate studies with Trinity Theological Seminary (U.S.) He earned a Master of Divinity Degree in 1988.

In latter years he spent some time in various Pentecostal churches taking several minor teaching positions there without real unanimity with some of their doctrines.

Observing the slide away from truth by most of the Denominational Churches, Fundamental, Charismatic and Pentecostal alike, he believed God was opening the way for him to investigate the causes and characteristics of this phenomenon Resulting in his authorship of the following books:

God's Wake Up Call!

That's Your Interpretation!!

The Battle Between Calvinism And Armenianism.

Pentecostalism Revival or End Time Delusion?

What is Church? From Pentecost To Laodicea

and now his short volume The Overcomer's Manual.