

Doctrine



*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path...
The entrance of Your words gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple. Psalm 119:105,130*

Eschatology

Pre -Tribulation Rapture

Thus says the Lord: "Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls." Jeremiah 6:16

THEOLOGY

Calvary Old Path believes that every human who has ever lived will stand before God as judge. The Bible is God's perfect and inerrant Word and is the final authority on all matters of faith and belief including prophecy. *2 Corinthians 5:10, Romans 14:10, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 4:12*

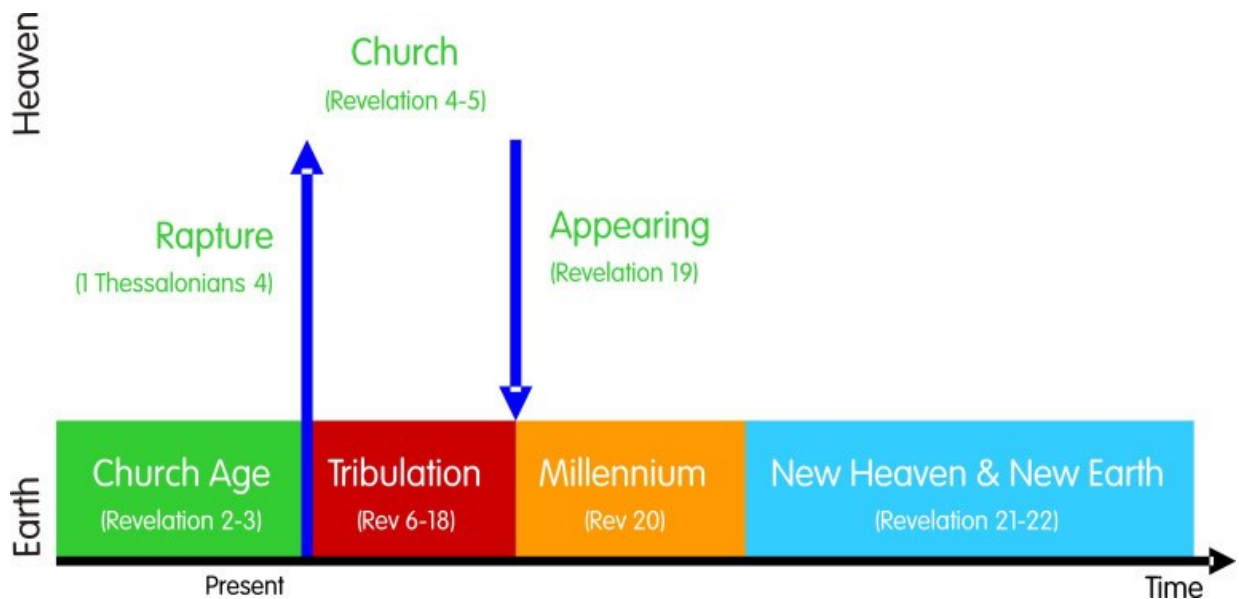
DOCTRINE

Calvary Old Path believes in the Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the church where all believers will meet the Lord in the air and be taken out of this world prior to the Tribulation that will come upon the earth.

What does all this mean? When exactly will we meet the Lord in the air? What are the signs? How can I make sure that I will go in the Rapture? What do other churches teach about the tribulation? You are about to find out what the scriptures say regarding the Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the church as you read on.

These are the areas we will cover to help you understand our beliefs regarding the Pre – Tribulation Rapture.

1. What Exactly is the Great Tribulation?
2. What Does the Rapture mean?
3. When Will This Happen?
4. What Are the Signs?
5. How Can I Make Sure That I go in the Rapture?
6. What Do Other Churches Teach About the Tribulation?



What Exactly is the Great Tribulation?

The Great Tribulation is the seven-year time period after the rapture when depravity will reach its fullness, with God judging accordingly. It will be a living hell with a degree of violence that is unparalleled in all of history. (*See Matthew 24:21*). The people who have not placed their trust in Jesus and are not born again will be left behind for the Great Tribulation. Even though the Great Tribulation will be horrible, it is still possible for people to be saved by believing on Jesus Christ for their eternal salvation.

What Does the Rapture Mean?

The Rapture refers to an event where Jesus Christ snatches His church out of this world. The phrase “caught up” in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 is the Greek word harpazo, which actually means “to be snatched away violently”. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. **Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.** And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words” (*1 Thessalonians 4: 16 -18*).

When Will This Happen?

Jesus said, “No man know the day or hour” (*Matthew 24:36*). In *1 Thessalonians 5:1-4* Paul said, “*But concerning the times and the season, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say ‘Peace and safety!’ then sudden destruction comes...But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.*”

The Bible says that the rapture should not come to us as a surprise. In *1 Thessalonians 5:9* Paul wrote, “*For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ*”. Paul said the same in *Romans 5:9* – we’ve not been appointed to wrath. Jesus, in the whole context of the tribulation said, “*Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man*” (*Luke 21:36*). Here, we see very clearly in scripture that we will **NOT** be here for the Great Tribulation! This is our blessed hope! (*Titus 2:13*).

(What is the rapture? By Chuck Smith)

What Are the Signs?

Jesus said that society will become increasingly lawless and immoral as the time approaches for His return. He said it would become as evil as in the days of Noah (*Matthew 24:12, 37-39*). In *2 Timothy 2-3*, it tells us men will be boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. Are we not seeing this today? We are told to watch for earthquakes, famine, pestilence and signs in the heavens (*Matthew 24:7 and Luke 21:11*). These things will increase before Jesus returns. We are also warned to watch out for false Christs and their cults (*Matthew 24:5, 11, 24*). All these things are true and happening in the world right now. This is why it is vitally important to be ready and share the “**good news**” of the gospel with all of our family and friends so they will not be left behind to have to endure the Great Tribulation.

*God has given to us the signs and warnings that precede the coming of Jesus Christ. One of the greatest signs to the world today is the reestablishment of the nation Israel. For years Bible scholars had looked forward to the regathering of the nation Israel based on many Scriptures (including **Matthew 24:32**), and applying expositional constancy (fig tree or figs in parables symbolize the nation Israel). Although skeptics ridiculed this prophecy, never in history had a nation been born out of the past. A miracle has taken place and a nation has been reborn. God has reestablished Israel among the family of nations on the earth, fulfilling His promise even as He said He would.*

The re-birth of Israel should be a sign to every born-again believer that Jesus is coming soon! We believe we are this generation! Are you ready?

How Can I make Sure that I go in the Rapture?

Understand that you are a sinner and need a savior. (**Romans 3:23**) Repent and turn away from your sins. (**Mark 1:15**)

If you believe that Jesus died for your sins and rose again and receive Him as your Lord and Savior, you are **born again** and will start to see your new life in Christ! (**2 Corinthians 5:17**). All born again believers will be going in the Rapture! This is great news!

We believe that the Rapture can happen at any moment. As Christians we need to:

Watch. *Even Jesus said, “Watch” (Matthew 24:42).*

Be ready. *Jesus said, “Therefore you also be ready, for the son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect” (Matthew 24:44).*

Prepare. *The prophet cried out, “Prepare to meet your God” (Amos 4:12).*

Wait. *James said, “Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits...You also be patient. Establish your hearts (James 5:7-8).*

*The rapture of the church and the second coming of Jesus are completely **different** events. At the **rapture**, Jesus is coming **for** His church, and at the **Second Coming** Jesus is coming **with** His church! Keep looking up.... your redemption is drawing near!*

What Do Other Churches Teach About the Tribulation?

Mid – Tribulation: This view point places the Rapture in the middle of the Tribulation which means the Church will suffer through half of the Tribulation.

Post – Tribulation: According to this view, the Rapture and the Second Coming are all one event that takes place at the end of the Tribulation. Here, the Church suffers through the entire Tribulation.

Pre-Wrath: This view says that the first three-fourths of the Tribulation is the wrath of Man and the wrath of Satan, and not the wrath of God. Therefore, the proponents of this view argue that the Church will suffer through the first three quarters of the Tribulation since the Church is promised protection only from the wrath of God.

(What is the rapture? By Chuck Smith)

(Dr. David Reagan, Lamb and Lion Ministries)

In the Mid Tribulation, Post - and Pre-Wrath views ...where is the blessed hope that the scriptures promise?

The Great Tribulation is going to be terrible...

The Bible shows that God rescues the righteous from His wrath. Being a Christian, we still have to endure some suffering and trials at the hand of man (*John. 16:33, Phil 1:27*) but that will be nothing compared to the Great Tribulation. However, the Bible has many examples showing that those who put their faith in God were exempt from God's wrath. Examples of this are seen when read of Noah and Lot. Noah and his family were removed from the flood. God's wrath was used to judge and cleanse the earth. Lot and his family were told to leave Sodom and Gomorrah before God burned the towns up.

That is why here at Calvary Old Path we believe what the Bible says that every genuine born-again believer will **not** suffer through any of the Great Tribulation! We will be protected from it and forever be with our Lord!

Biblical references: *Isaiah 26:20, Matthew 24: 29-31, Luke 21:36, Romans 1:18, 5:9, 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 4: 13-16, 2 Peter 2: 7-9, Revelation 3:10, 5:7-10 and 7:13-14*

Resources: [What is the rapture? By Chuck Smith \(written in blue\)](#) and [Dr. David Reagan, Lamb and Lion Ministries \(written in green\)](#) and the NKJV



On the Path Discernment Ministry

Discernment is always mentioned in scripture in a favorable light. Discernment was promoted as a way to avoid error and cause the believer to continually be seeking and watching with vigilance. Accordingly, these materials are provided for you in order to assist you in growing in your knowledge and understanding of God's Word. We have taken great care to give a thorough and expansive explanation of the positions of the church.

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These booklets are provided to explain Old Path's teachings on topics of theology and doctrine. Should you have questions on doctrinal matters or would like further clarity on these positions, you can email us and we will assist you by researching the needed matters. However, we do not provide these booklets with the intention of debating.