

PERFECT ENDING

**WHY YOUR ETERNAL FUTURE
MATTERS TODAY**

by Dr. Robert Jeffress

NOT LEFT BEHIND Part 1

September 29, 2013 | 10:50am

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

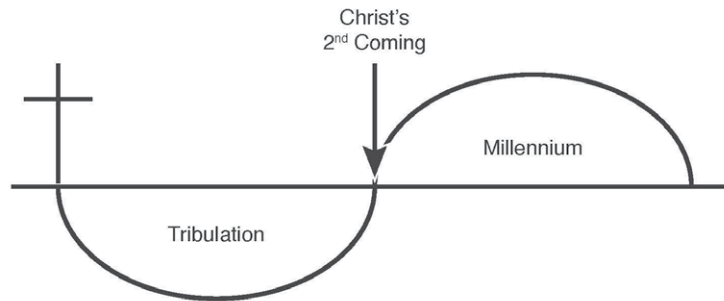
Introduction: Is there going to be a sudden disappearance of all living Christians, resulting in catastrophic chaos, or is such an event simply a Christian myth? Today we are going to discover what the Bible says about the next event on God's prophetic timetable.

I. The Rapture In Perspective

A. The Mystery of the Church Age

Ephesians 3:3, 5-6 ³ "that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. ⁵ which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; ⁶ to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,"

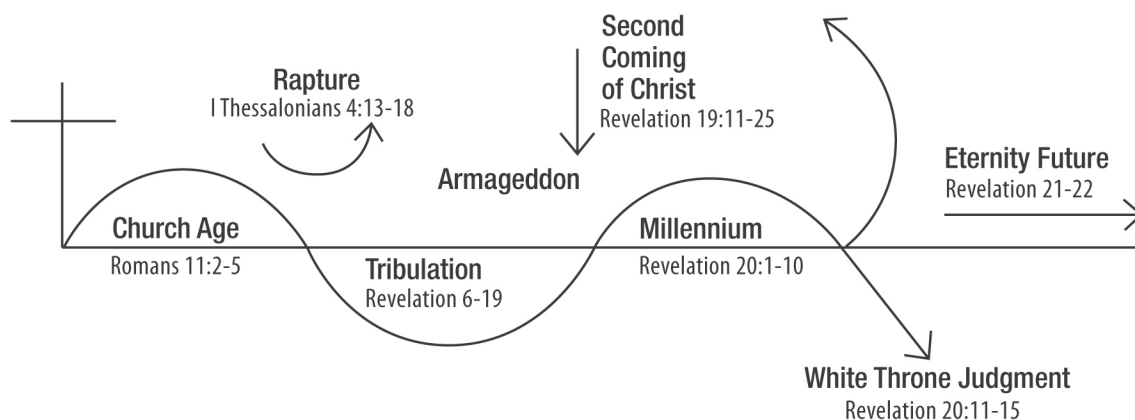
The diagram below details the events explained by Jesus in Matthew 24-25:



Romans 11:25 "For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation, that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;"

B. An Illustration of the Church Age

C. The End of the Church Age: The Rapture



II. The Details Of The Rapture

A. The Thessalonians' Concern

B. Paul's Reassurance

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 ¹³ "But we do not want you to be uniformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus."

C. Paul's Description of the Rapture

1. The Descent of Christ

1 Thessalonians 4:15-16 ¹⁵ "For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive; and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first."

Matthew 24:27 “For just as the lightning comes from the east, and flashes even to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be.”

1 Thessalonians 4:17-18 ¹⁷ “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.
¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

Zechariah 14:4 “And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south.”

2. The Resurrection of the Dead in Christ

1 Thessalonians 4:16 “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. ”

3. The Removal of All Living Christians

1 Thessalonians 4:17 “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.”

4. The Transformation of Our Bodies

1 Corinthians 15:50 “Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.”

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 ⁵¹ “Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.”

Conclusion