

Does Christ Come Secretly to Rapture His Church before The Tribulation? (For Acts 17:11 Christians)

A: Yes There Is! (Pre-Tribulation-Rapture)

First Some Common Expectations

- a. The great public Advent of Jesus Christ: Visible, Universal, Personal, Social, Glorious
- b. The Terminal Scenario (Emergence of Personalities Revelation 12 and 2 Thess 2 and the Wrath of God in the Trumpets and Bowls). Many see this distinct period as the 7th and Final Week of Daniel 9.

Distinct Expectations:

- a. Prior to the events of the Terminal Scenario is the Blessed Hope of the Church
- b. The Invisible and Secret Coming of Christ *for his Church*.
- c. The Removal ('Rapture') of the Church from Earth to Meet Christ's Invisible Coming
- d. Christ returns to heaven with the Church (U-Turn). He returns to earth 7 years later *with his Church*.
- e. There are no signs to take place prior to the Rapture, therefore the Rapture can be 'Any-Moment'.
- f. History continues for a while longer without the Church.
- g. The stage of history occupied by ethnic Israel, Antichrist and the False Prophet.
- h. The Church is not on earth, or even mentioned, between Revelation 4-19:21.
- i. The Church is not on earth when it experiences God's wrath.
- j. The Terminal Tribulation Period is related to OT Prophecies about Israel not the Church.

B: The Scriptures Used

- a. The call for 'Any-Moment' (Mthw 24:42-44; would not be true if after Tribulation)
- b. Going to the Father's House (John 14:1-3)
- c. The 'Restrainer' as the Church (2 Thessalonians 2:6-7)
- d. Jesus will keep his own (Revelation 3:10)
- e. The '24 Elders' are the Raptured Church (Revelation 4)
- f. The 144000 Jews and the Seed of the Woman Israel (Revelation 7:4-8; 12:17)

C: No There Isn't! (Post-Tribulation-Rapture)

- a. There is One Second & Public Coming, not a Second Secret & Third Public Coming.
- b. The Rapture of the Church happens at the Public Advent of Christ after the Tribulation.
- c. There is not 'secret' Coming mentioned in the Bible.
- d. The Church is shielded from the wrath of God poured out on earth but not from the wrath of Antichrist (as Israel was during the plagues of Egypt)
- e. There are signs prior to the Advent and Rapture, particularly the Man-of-Sin and False Prophet.
- f. Once the signs take place, his Advent happens 'Any-Moment' yet is exactly know.

D: The Scriptural Basis

- a. Jesus' teaching is against it: Luke 17: 22-37 (Noah and Lot as type of Rapture at his Revealing); Matthew 24:30-31; 36-44 (the Rapture synced with his visible and public Advent)
- b. Antichrist is revealed first, only after this does the Church gather to meet Christ mid-air (2 Thess 2:1-12)
- c. The Rapture happens during the loudest event in history (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18: Exodus 19:16-20)
- d. The Church's sufferings end with a public not secret Advent of Christ (2 Thessalonians 1:5-10)
- e. Jesus keeps his Church 'from within trials' not 'from out of them' (see John 17:15)

E: **My Conclusion:** On the scale, the weight of Scriptures in D above outweigh those of B.
