

“After The Rapture” by Jon Ikin

The rapture will be a crisis not a process. It will happen, *“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet...”* (1 Cor.15:52). And what a moment it will be! The Great Church Snatcher Himself will come and take His people home, making a detour around death to get to heaven. *“And thus we shall always be with the Lord,”* (1 Thess.4:17) – Hallelujah! For those who know the Saviour, this is an uplifting hope in every sense of the phrase. But what will it be like for those who are left behind?

Shock

“It’ll happen in the flash of a moment,” says Dr David Jeremiah. *“An unearthly trumpet will reverberate around the globe. A polarising magnetism will snatch some people skyward while pushing others back. Reports of paranormal phenomena will come from graveyards and mortuaries around the world. Funerals will be interrupted in mid-eulogy, and burials will become instant resurrections. A billion people will vanish from factories, schools, and offices. Pilots will disappear from airliners, and children will seemingly evaporate from their blankets and beds. Those left behind will always remember where they were and what they were doing when the news broke. Global pandemonium will ensue. The world will be transfixed by television and radio sets, horrified by the unexplained anomalies coming from every quadrant of the globe. Missing people. Empty graves. Scrambled jets. Martial law. Blown circuits. Disrupted communications...”* Talk about global impact. The unsaved will not know what hit them. Or, what left them. It will be a moment of tremendous shock for them all. The sleep of routine will be broken as the world suddenly realises that tomorrow will not be like yesterday...ever again. Millions of people all over the planet have suddenly disappeared. Like the exit of the Lord from Emmaus, where *“He vanished from their sight,”* (Luke 24:31) or the catching away of Philip from the desert baptistery (Acts 8:39) so friends, family, colleagues, room-mates, class-mates, and even prison cell-mates will suddenly be removed without warning. *“What just happened? Where did they go? Are we dreaming or is this real?”* We can only imagine their thoughts.

Confusion

Following the rapture explanations will have to be given as reporters and politicians alike are forced to step up to the microphone. What will the blind guides of humanity say on this occasion? We can only guess how they will respond, but U.F.O.’s are expected to be a suggested explanation. For years Hollywood has fantasised about alien space craft removing people from earth in their thousands. For instance, the advertising poster for the film *Skyline* (2010) showed multitudes being sucked up into huge spaceships hovering low over an urban metropolis. The movie poster warned people *“Don’t look up,”* (for fear of

being taken), the very opposite of what Jesus told His disciples (Luke 21:28). Suddenly science fiction will become Scripture fact as millions goes missing. 'Perhaps it was aliens.' Or was it an act of war? Perhaps it was a top secret weapon used by Israel on the rest of the world? (Sounds like a good pretext for uniting against her, doesn't it?) Or maybe Earth passed through some strange phenomena in space, causing certain people to be removed in a way that only 'science' can explain... One thing is certain, the U.N. will have to sit in emergency session (not too many of them will be missing), and a response will have to be considered. All will agree that, 'A global crisis requires a global solution...' Actually, the only explanation that will be officially rejected is the true one. As someone has said, people will believe anything these days as long as it isn't in the Bible. However, those who have been under prophetic ministry will be all too aware of what has just happened. Their worst nightmare has now come true: Jesus has come like a thief in the night and taken His people home....without them.

Loss

For many, the shock and confusion will give way to a tremendous sense of loss as they realise they are not going to see their loved ones again. Bereavement will suddenly go global. Listen to these words of DL Moody: *"There is going to be a separation one day. The man who has been persecuting his godly wife will some day find her missing. The drunkard who beats his children because they have been taught the way into the kingdom of God will miss them some day. They will be taken up out of the darkness and away from the persecution, up into the presence of God. When the voice of God saying, 'Come up hither,' is heard, calling His children home, there will be a grand jubilee. That glorious day will soon dawn. 'Lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.'"*² Suddenly, rapture mockers will become rapture mourners. The very opposite experience of those who are taken. Even wider than the personal sense of loss will be a corporate one when all true believers are taken. Can you imagine living in a world that isn't sweetened anywhere by the presence of real, born again Christians? No Christian teachers to make a difference in a school; no Christian nurses to be angels of mercy in a hospital; no Christian conscience in the courtroom or on the board of an organisation; no Christian friends at the school gate or in the community. Suddenly the light of the world (Matt.5:14) has been removed and the world is a much darker place. Many will feel an unexpected sense of loss when the true church is removed in the rapture.

Deception, Danger, and Decisions

When all vegetation is removed from a mountain there can be a risk of landslides. So it will be when believers are removed. Evil will come thundering down on this churchless world with avalanche speed. First the Antichrist with his seven year treaty (Rev.6:1-2 & Dan.9:27) will rise to take control of this rapture shaken world. Then war, famine, plagues, and

natural disasters will strike the Earth in their revealed order (Rev.6). To make matters worse a rash of false prophets will appear to mislead the hurting (Matt.24:24), and soon a global church will offer the ultimate religious substitute for true Christianity (Rev.17). The world will become a dangerous place, despite promises to the contrary by world leaders. Under such pressure, the world will fall for the greatest deception that Satan has ever planned: the mark of the Beast (Rev.13:18). This Hitler of the last days will con the world into his total control. Three world leaders will fall when they resist him, and the rest will learn by watching that such behaviour is futile (Dan.7:24). Soon the whole world will be turned into a concentration camp with each inmate being branded with the same number: 666. The three digits of hell will be on the right hand or forehead of those who want to survive, but at what immeasurable cost. Like Esau before them, they will trade their souls for food. It hardly sounds like fair trade. From here-on things will only get worse. Who in their right mind would ever choose this over the rapture and heaven? Yet that is exactly what those who reject the gospel today are doing: saying 'no' to the rapture-rescue of our Lord Jesus Christ and the eternal joy of His presence (Ps.16:11).

A Better Scene

There will, however, be a far happier scene post-rapture for those who are ready for their long expected Saviour. In a split-second of time they will be translated and transformed by the Lord of Glory. Before they even have time to shout a full, "Hallelujah", they will hear the sound of the trumpet and receive the upward call of God to Jesus' pierced side. For them, sudden rapture will be sudden glory. Our loved ones will be there; our heroes in the faith will be there; the angels will be there; and above all, our Saviour will be there. Finally His promise to come and take us to be with Him will be fulfilled (John 14:3). What a future to look forward to. What a hope for these dark days of evil. Heaven will be our new home as each of its citizens are drawn up and away to be with their Lord. Like the Shulamite in the *Song of Songs*, we anticipate His voice: "*Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away!*" (Songs 2:10-13). Let us dare to ask ourselves, *where will I be after the rapture?* On the threshold of hell's greatest unleasings or heavens greatest blessings? Face to face with the Lord, or face to face with fear and the antichrist himself? Which prospect do I most desire? Sad to say, some reading this may wait just a day too long to seek Christ as their Saviour and Lord. What a tragedy. The joy that could be theirs will be taken from them, along with their believing friends and loved ones. Let's make sure that isn't us. The believing will soon be leaving. Let us make sure that we repent of our sins and trust in the crucified Saviour, that we may be ready for whenever Jesus comes or calls.

² D.L.Moody, "God's Abundant Grace," p106 (Moody publications)

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