

BIBLE STUDY REFERENCE LIST - CHAPTER 12  
The Mystery of the Rapture

## INTRODUCTION

Quick reference Bible studies for the 12 Mysteries are essential for two purposes: defending the gospel against skeptics, and teaching Christians reasons they should hope in the Word of God. This book's length naturally begs for a quick reference guide for Biblical proof "*the mystery of God*"<sup>1</sup> has been finished, or revealed.

Below you'll find Bible study references for **Chapter 12** only. References for remaining chapters are available for free at [www.pastorjessesmith.com/12mysteriesbook](http://www.pastorjessesmith.com/12mysteriesbook). You can also reach me via email, [jesse.smith11@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jesse.smith11@sbcglobal.net), or text 330-929-2037.

As Christians, we must verbally defend our faith. Twice Paul says he was set for the defense of the gospel in Philippians 1:7 and 17. In Greek, "defence" means "verbal defence, speech in defence, a reasoned statement or argument." The same Greek word for "defence" is also translated as "answer" in Peter's first epistle: "*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.*"<sup>2</sup> You can be ready to share the truth with any inquirer.

Ministers especially must faithfully test all beliefs. Paul commands us to "*Prove all things*" in 1 Thessalonians 5:21. Prove means "to test, examine, prove, scrutinize (to see whether a thing is genuine or not), as metals" in the Greek. Since the Bible is our Absolute, all revelations are proven true by the pure words of Scripture alone.

Paul's message to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:15 is: "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*" Acts 17:11 labels the Bereans as a noble group because they searched the Scriptures daily to verify Paul's preaching.

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## 12TH MYSTERY: THE RAPTURE

**Revelation:** Jesus uses a shout, voice, and trump to secretly and suddenly snatch away His Holy Spirit-filled bride off the earth as the last, climatic, culminating event of the Times of the Gentiles before the wrathful Tribulation.

### Basic truths about the Gentile rapture:

1 Cor. 15:51-52 Paul calls the rapture *a mystery*

1 Thes. 4:17, Rev. 20:5 two Bible names for the rapture are the *caught up* meeting and the *first resurrection*; the word "rapture" is not in the KJV but its definition is in Scripture

2 Tim. 2:17-18 saying the rapture is already past overthrows the faith of some; the rapture is a future event

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<sup>1</sup> Revelation 10:7

<sup>2</sup> 1 Peter 3:15

1 Cor. 15:51-54, 1 Thes. 4:15-18 Paul defines and describes the rapture in these two texts

**Two groups of Christians will have their bodies changed for the Gentile rapture:**

- (1) *dead in Christ* are raised first (1 Cor. 15:52, 1 Thes. 4:16)
- (2) living Christians experience a body change (1 Cor. 15:52, 1 Thes. 4:17)

**All who miss the Gentile rapture also miss the Millennial reign of Christ and await judgment:**

Rev. 20:5 the rest of the dead not in the *first resurrection*, or rapture, don't live until the Millennial is over

John 5:28-29 the second resurrection to the White Throne Judgment, calls all men to judgment who missed the first resurrection, or Gentile rapture

Mat. 12:40, 1 Pet. 3:19, Heb. 9:27 sinners go to the heart of the earth, or prison, to await judgment at the White Throne, or second resurrection

**The Holy Spirit performs six raptures (four already occurred, two in future):**

Gen. 5:24 Enoch

2 Kings 2:11 Elijah

John 20:17 Jesus ascending to the Father alone

Mark 16:19, Eph. 4:8 Jesus ascending to heaven with Old Testament saints

1 Thes. 4:15-17 Gentile bride rapture (future)

Rev. 11:11-12 rapture of two witnesses (future)

**Reason #1 the rapture is Pre-Tribulation—The Tribulation is described as “trouble” for Israel, the foolish virgins, and sinners, but not for Holy Ghost-filled Christians:**

Dan. 12:1, Jer. 30:7 Jews experience *time of trouble* or *Jacob's trouble*

Mat. 25:10-12, Rev. 19:7 Jesus says foolish virgins are locked out (trouble) of the marriage supper, meaning they miss the rapture

Mat. 22:10-13 those (foolish virgins) without the wedding garment (baptism of the Holy Ghost) are cast into outer darkness, or Tribulation

Jude 1:15 sinners face the worst trouble, suffering God's judgment

**Reason #2 the rapture is Pre-Tribulation—There is no mention of Christ's bride in the Tribulation texts in Revelation:**

Rev. 3:22, 22:16 the word “church” is absent between these two Scriptures, showing Jesus' bride misses the Tribulation; she is at her marriage supper with her Husband, the Lamb (Rev. 19:1-10)

Rev. chps. 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 Jesus' bride, or church, is not mentioned in any Tribulation text

Rev. 14:6-10, 16:15, 18:4 these Scriptures are warnings for Jesus' bride members to be rapture-ready as they read through Revelation before the rapture; they don't prove Jesus' bride go through the great Tribulation period

**Reason #3 the rapture is Pre-Tribulation—the bride or true church is promised a pardon from God’s divine wrath:**

1 Thes. 5:4, 9 that day should not overtake you as a thief; God has not appointed us to wrath

1 Thes. 1:10 His Son delivered us from the wrath to come

Rom. 5:9 we shall be saved from wrath through him

Rev. 3:10 I will keep thee from the world-wide temptation

Luke 21:36 pray always that you’ll be worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass

Ps. 27:5 in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion

Eph. 5:27 Jesus’ wife is a *glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing*; she has Jesus’ favor, not His wrath

Phil. 2:15 Jesus’ wife is *blameless and harmless...without rebuke*

Col. 2:13 Jesus’ blood has forgiven His bride all her trespasses

Rom. 8:1, 33 Jesus’ wife has no condemnation; no man can lay anything to her charge, for Jesus has justified her

**Reason #4 the rapture is Pre-Tribulation—the bride or true church is foreshadowed to receive a pardon from God’s divine wrath:**

Gen. 5:24, Jude 1:14 Enoch, the seventh generation from Adam, was raptured, or taken off the earth before death; Enoch symbolizes the believers of the current seventh Church Age, Laodicea, being raptured and escaping the wrathful Tribulation and death

Mat. 22:1-14 Jesus’ The King’s Son Parable teaches those with the wedding garment, or baptism of the Holy Ghost, enjoy the marriage supper, while those without it are cast into outer darkness, or the Tribulation

Mat. 25:1-13 Jesus’ Parable of the 10 Virgins says those with extra oil, or the baptism of the Holy Ghost, attend the wedding; those without extra oil are shut out of the wedding, showing they will endure the Great Tribulation

**Reason #5 the rapture is Pre-Tribulation—Jesus and Paul taught the rapture was imminent at an unknown day as an approaching thief while other views can number or count to the day:**

Mat. 24:36, 43-44 twice in the same chapter Jesus only the Heavenly Father knows the day and hour of His coming

Mat. 25:13 Jesus says no one knows the day and hour of His coming

Rev. 3:3 Jesus says He will come like a thief upon those who don’t watch for His coming

1 Thes. 5:2-4 Paul twice describes Jesus’ coming as a thief, saying believers will escape the Tribulation’s sudden destruction

Dan. 9:27 the Antichrist’s covenant lasts one week, or seven years, during the Tribulation; if you believe the rapture takes place in the middle or at the end of the Tribulation, you can calculate the number of days; either 1,260 or 2,520 days

**Reason #6 the rapture is Pre-Tribulation—The rapture is the removal of the grace of God for Gentiles in preparation for the Antichrist’s public revelation and God’s return to the Jewish people:**

Rom. 11:11, 25 Gentiles are now receiving salvation by God’s grace and retain this privilege *until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in*; God has blinded Israel to the gospel

Luke 21:24 Jesus defines this time period as *the times of the Gentiles*

Rom. 11:22-24 once the last Gentile Christians has *come in*, or been sealed by the Holy Ghost, the rest of the unbelieving Gentiles will be *cut off* from the mercy of God; Israel will then be grafted back into fellowship with God, *their own olive tree*

2 Thes. 2:2-13 the Antichrist is revealed after God takes His Holy Spirit-filled believers *out of the way*; the Antichrist is on his way to sit on throne in Israel’s soon to be rebuilt temple during the Tribulation

**The conditions or ‘times and seasons’ of the rapture:**

1 Thes. 5:1-10 right after teaching about the rapture (1 Thes. 4:15-18), Paul assures Christians will know the *times and the seasons* of it; sinners will be unaware of the rapture like a drunken man being robbed at night; the world’s mantra will be *Peace and safety* but sudden destruction comes upon them

Mat. 24:38-39 Jesus likens the day of the Lord as the days of Noah in which the lost kept eating, drinking, and marrying right up until the flood took them all way

2 Pet. 3:3-4 scoffers will be mocking Jesus’ second coming

Luke 17:26-30, Gen. 6:1-13 the conditions of Noah’s time will be repeated: violence, lust-based marriages, continually evil thoughts

Luke 17:28-30 the sodomite conditions of Lot’s time will be repeated

2 Tim. 3:13 evil men and deceivers will grow more evil with greater deceptions

2 Thes. 2:3 many churches will commit a great falling away from God’s truth

Luke 18:1-8 few will have genuine faith expressed through regular prayer

Mat. 24:7-8 pestilences (swine flu, coronavirus, etc.) and earthquakes will increase as sorrows before the Tribulation

2 Tim. 3:1-7 men will love themselves more than God and be covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, and having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof

Mat. 24:14 the New Testament gospel will have been preached to all the world

Ps. 27:5, Rev. 3:10, 13:16 through united efforts of false churches and politicians, new laws will stop true churches from preaching and pressure them to join the evil ecumenical move but Jesus anoints believers with the latter rain and rescues them in the rapture

Luke 21:24, Rev. 11:1-2 Israel will be ready to return to God and seek control of the Temple Mount in preparation for rebuilding a temple for worship

Rev. 3:15-19 nominal churches are in a Laodicean, lukewarm condition, concerned with riches and goods, having no need of more truth, and unwilling to repent

**Having on the full armor of God in the rapture season:**

1 Thes. 5:6-9 a Christian's only hope for being spiritually awake and sober watching for Christ's return is by putting on the full armor of God; Paul describes two of the six pieces of God's armor  
Eph. 6:10-18 Paul identifies the six pieces of God's armor for Christians

1 Thes. 5:8, Eph. 6:14 [Piece #1—breastplate of faith, love, and righteousness] a physical breastplate protects the heart and other vital organs from the chest down to the waist, just as a righteous, obedient Christian life of integrity protects our heart from Satan's attacks on our character; Christians trust in Christ's righteousness imputed to us and not our own (Phil. 3:9)

1 Thes. 5:8, Eph. 6:17 [Piece #2—helmet of salvation] a physical helmet protects the head, the command center and most complex organ in the human body, just as the *hope of salvation*, the assurance that we are saved and forgiven by Jesus' sacrifice, protects us from Satan's attempts to make us doubt our salvation; Jesus' helmet makes us victorious in the battlefield of the mind, the greatest battle ever fought, as we cast down every imagination that exalts itself against the Word of God (2 Cor. 10:5)

Eph. 6:14 [Piece #3—lions girt about with truth] girded loins meant a man could tuck his long, flowing robe into his belt, enabling him to travel, run, or work; in the same way, a Christian's mind is girt up in Bible-truth (1 Pet. 1:13), calmly prepared to be victorious in spiritual mind battles and successful in his ministry's work

Eph. 6:15 [Piece #4—feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace] Soldier's feet and lower legs were protected by sandals and *greaves* (1 Sam. 17:6), to ensure their protection in traveling or war; in the same way, the Christian's daily travels and decisions are made only after prayerful preparation produces God's peace in his heart

Eph. 6:16 [Piece #5—shield of faith] just as the soldier's shield protected all the aforementioned pieces of armor from fiery arrows, faith in Christ completely protects a Christian's armor by extinguishing or stifling every falsehood Satan shoots from the bow of his lying tongue (Jer. 9:13, John 8:44)

Eph. 6:17 [Piece #6—sword of the Spirit] just as a soldier's sword was his main offensive and lethal weapon, the Word of God spoken through a Christian's mouth will resist (James 4:7), wound, and bruise the devil (Rom. 16:20), eventually putting to flight his evil forces; Jesus used the spoken Word-sword three times during Satan's temptation in the wilderness, causing the devil to flee Him *for a season* (Luke 4:1-13); at Christ's physical return to the earth after the Great Tribulation, a sword of judgment comes from His mouth, smiting all His enemies (Rev. 19:15-21)

Mat. 11:12 Jesus says you must take the kingdom by force, using purpose and strength to snatch away spiritual victories from Satan's forces

2 Cor. 4:4, 1 Tim. 3:7, Mat. 12:43-44 Satan is the god of this world; he's laid many traps and snares around us; Satan's angels are sent to war against us

Rom. 8:37, 1 Tim. 6:12, 2 Tim. 4:7 Christians, equipped with the full armor of God, are more than conquerors fighting the good fight of faith