

SESSION 2 - Handout 2

THE GATHERING OF THE SAVED (cont'd from Handout 1)

The end-time parables of Noah and Lot in Matt 24 and Luke 21:

Jesus emphasises with these parables that believers will be raptured before the wrath of God is poured out on the wicked. This is paralleled in Matthew 24:38-41, a parable describing Noah's rescue from the global flood.

Because of the extreme wickedness of the world, God destroyed all except Noah and his family. His escape on the ark is paralleled with the rapture, just as 'God's wrath' is poured out:

Peter (2 Pet 2) also describes the Flood and Sodom as an example to the wicked ('the day of judgment') ...and of God's deliverance of the righteous.

The days of Noah & The days of Lot.

2 Pet 2:5-9

⁵ And spared not the old world, but **saved Noah** the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; ⁶ And turning **the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes** condemned them with an overthrow, making them **AN EXAMPLE** unto those that after should live ungodly;

⁷ And **delivered just Lot**, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: ⁸ (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;); ⁹ The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and

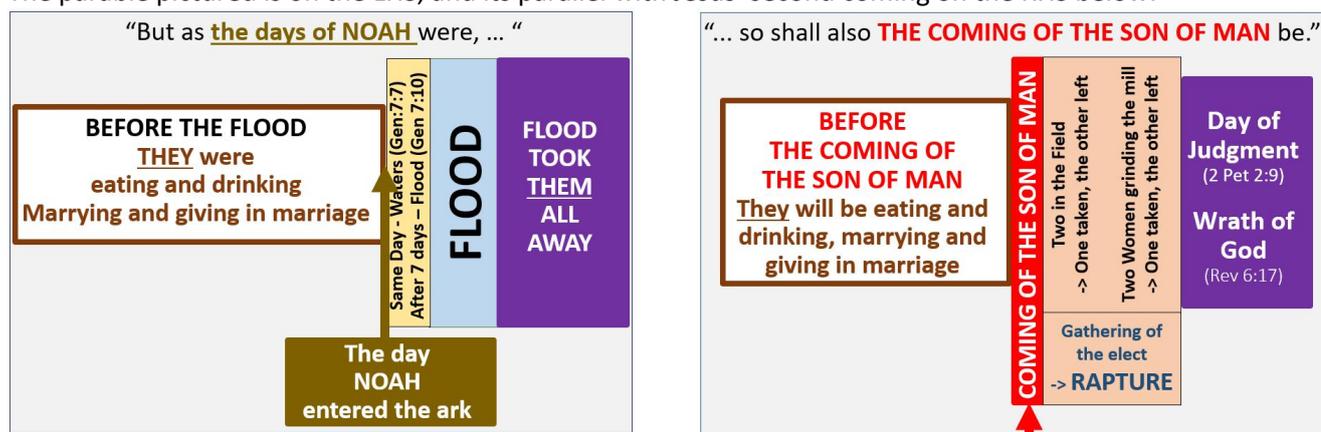
to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

Gen 6:5 'And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.'

Gen 6:9-12 '9 Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. 11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.'

The parable of Noah: v38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, 39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also **the coming of the Son of man be**.

The parable pictured is on the LHS, and its parallel with Jesus' second coming on the RHS below:



The application is clear:

The wicked are unaware of their impending doom, the day that God removed Noah (a picture of the rapture), the judgement of God on the wicked is poured out.

Note the additional wording, emphasising and confirming the rapture, added immediately after this parable....

40 **Then** shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

A clear picture of the rapture ...‘one taken and the other left’

From the above we conclude that the ‘gathering of the elect’ (rapture) occurs at the coming of the Son of Man (Jesus).

The parable of Lot:

Luke 17: 28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;²⁹ But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.³⁰ Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed

And the parable is followed with these verses:

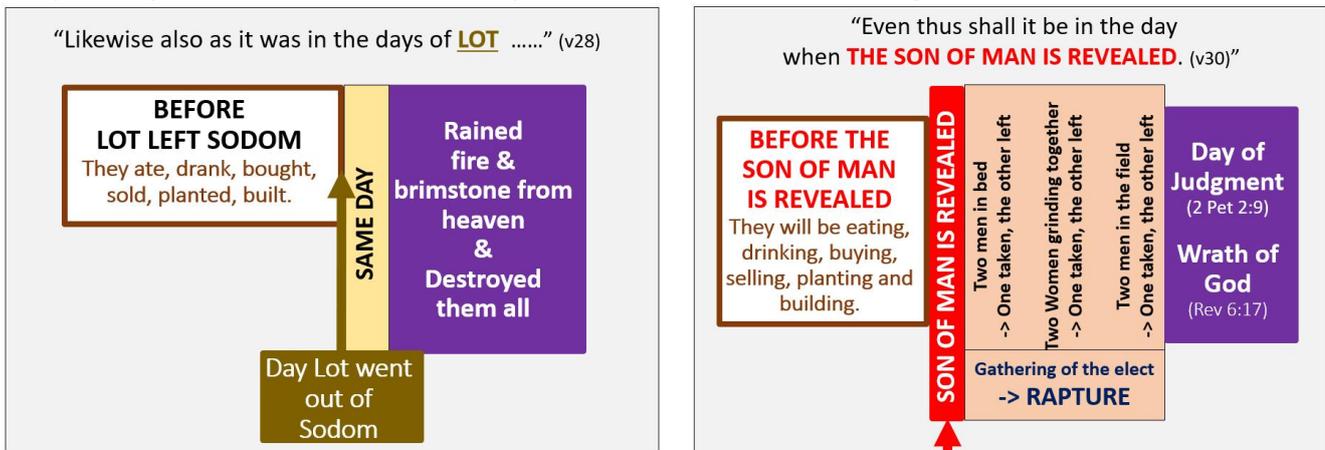
v34 I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.

35 Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

36 Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left

Verse 34 to 36 are clearly three descriptions of the rapture, and when added to the parable:

The parable pictured is on the LHS, and its parallel with Jesus’ second coming on the RHS below:



Similar to Noah’s days, the wickedness of Sodom was extreme:

Gen 18:20 ‘²⁰ And the Lord said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;

2 Pet 2:7-8 ‘⁷ And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: ⁸ (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;

Gen 19:5 ‘⁵ And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.’

Jesus adds a warning to those too attached to their possessions and/or lifestyle and unwilling to leave it behind: “Remember Lot’s wife” (Luke 17:32). She perished with the Sodomites.

Luke adds a warning and some encouragement:

- It will come as a snare – unexpectedly for those too involved in the world.
- But: we may pray to escape (flee- stay out of reach) of these tribulations.

Luke 21:27, 34-35

See the Son of man coming in **the cloud** with power and great glory

↑

TAKE HEED that **this day** come upon you unawares.....

Because of:

Surfeiting – Drunkenness (indulging)
Drunkenness – Intoxication
The cares of this life

As a snare shall it come on
ALL them that dwell on the WHOLE EARTH!

Luke 21:36

Watch ye therefore, and pray always:

That ye may be accounted worthy to escape [G1628 - to flee out: - escape, flee.] all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Therefore:

Pray that we may be accounted worthy to:

- Escape persecution
- Escape being killed
- Escape being beaten
- Escape betrayal
- Escape offence
- Escape deception
- Escape wars
- Escape famines
- Escape pestilences
- Escape earthquakes

Summary of Signs Before Jesus’ second coming:

TRIBULATION	Deception False prophets Persecution	<u>BEFORE JESUS’ COMING:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deception False Christs & false prophets ‘I am Christ’ -> Antichrist Persecution ‘Wars’ Famines Pestilences Death
	Antichrist ‘Wars’ Famines Death	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEE the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION (Matt 24:15) SEE JERUSALEM SURROUNDED BY ARMIES (Luke 21:20)
	MARTYRS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GREAT TRIBULATION (Matt 24:21) Persecution / Martyrs Days will be shortened for the elect’s sake

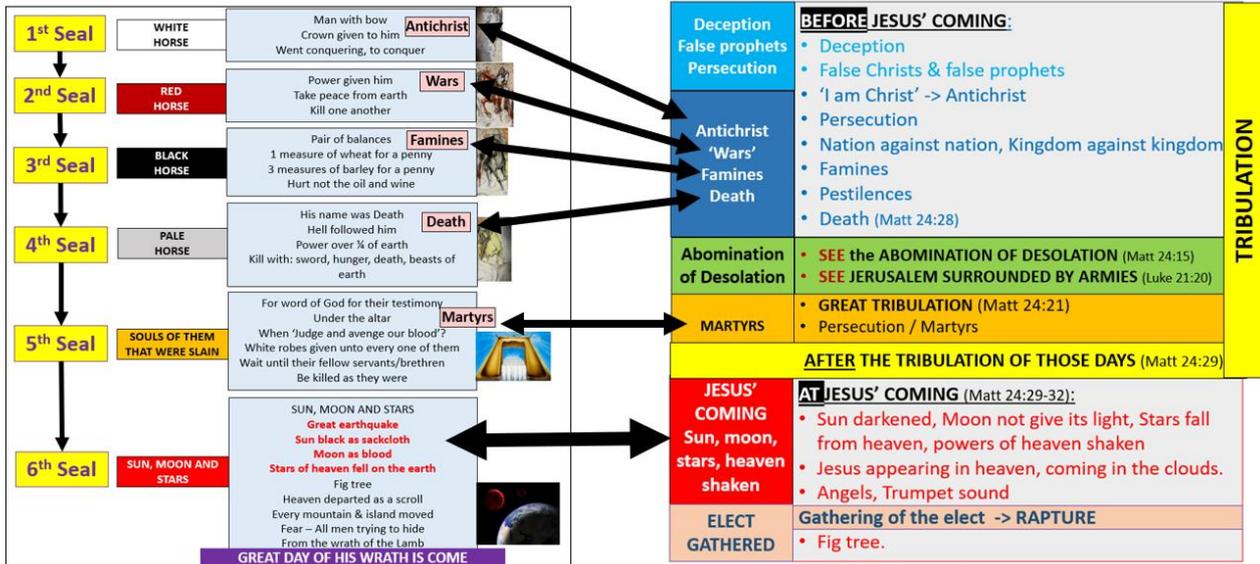
Summary of signs ‘AFTER THE TRIBULATION’: (v29-33)

AFTER THE TRIBULATION OF THOSE DAYS (Matt 24:29, Mark 13:24)	
JESUS’ COMING Sun, moon, stars, heaven shaken	<u>AT JESUS’ COMING</u> (Matt 24:29-32): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sun darkened, Moon not give its light, Stars fall from heaven, powers of heaven shaken Jesus appearing in heaven, coming in the clouds. Angels, Trumpet sound
ELECT GATHERED	Gathering of the elect -> RAPTURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fig tree.

Comparing Matthew 24 with Revelation 6 (as per session 1) we note that the sequence of events match:

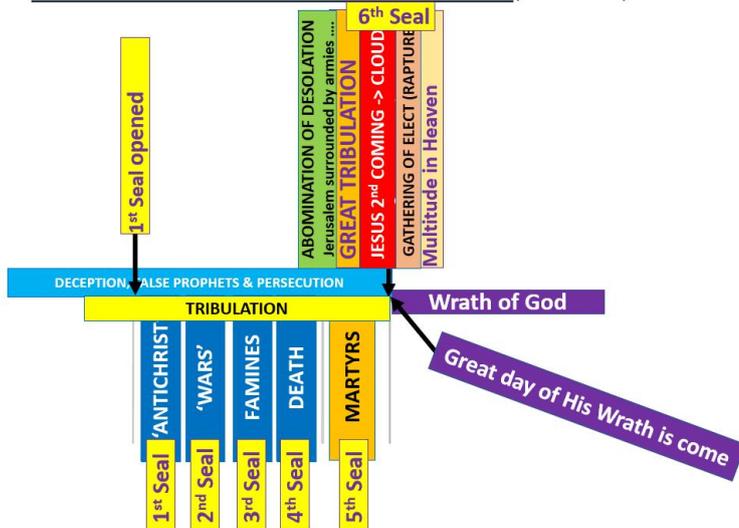
REVELATION 6

MATTHEW 24



Projecting the summary in a Timeline sequence:

Rev 6 & 7 & Matt 24: End-Time events (not to scale)



All believers are the elect.

The elect are raptured at Jesus' 2nd coming which is at the 6th Seal.

AFTER the tribulation of those days
But BEFORE the Wrath of God judgements.

Therefore:

The Rapture is PRE-WRATH

TWO QUESTIONS:

- 1) Where does Jesus' coming on the White Horse (Rev 19) fit on the timeline?
- 2) Are there any other confirmations of the Pre-Wrath rapture in revelation?

Jesus comes on a WHITE HORSE: (Session 6 & 7)

Jesus' second coming is on the clouds, when every eye will see him. (Rev 1:7)

His second coming is on the clouds **before** the Wrath of God judgements and is not on a white horse at Armageddon. (Refer to session 1 for the Pre-Wrath rapture presentation)

When Jesus comes on a white horse it is to engage in the Battle of Armageddon (Rev 19:11-21) and to establish

his kingdom (Rev 20:1-6), which is chronologically **after** the ‘wrath of God’ judgements.

There is no mention in Revelation 19, when he is coming on the White Horse, that ‘every eye will see him’. Neither is there a trumpet, nor the resurrection of the saints. Hence Rev 19 can’t be seen as Jesus’ second coming.

When studying the Old Testament prophets, it seems that Jesus (on the white horse) reveals himself locally to the repenting Jewish remnant, and supernaturally empowers them (the restored and believing Jews) with great strength to go to battle with him. (Zech 12:8-10)

8 In that day shall the Lord defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the Lord before them.

*9 And it shall come to pass **in that day**, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.*

*10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and **they shall look upon me whom they have pierced**, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.*

REV 19:11-16 (summary)
JESUS COMES ON A WHITE HORSE

Heaven opened - A WHITE HORSE
Called Faithful and True
In righteousness he does judge and make war (v11)
His eyes as flame of fire
On his head many crowns
A name written only himself knew (v12)
Clothed with a vesture dipped in blood
His name The Word of God (v13)
Armies in heaven, clothed in white, white horses (v14)
Out of his mouth goes a sharp sword
With it he will smite the nations
He shall rule them with a rod of iron
Treads the winepress of the fierceness
and wrath of Almighty God (v15)
On his vesture, on his thigh:
KING OF KINGS, LORD OF LORDS (v16)

JESUS ESTABLISHES HIS KINGDOM ON EARTH

Matt 19:28 ‘....

when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.’

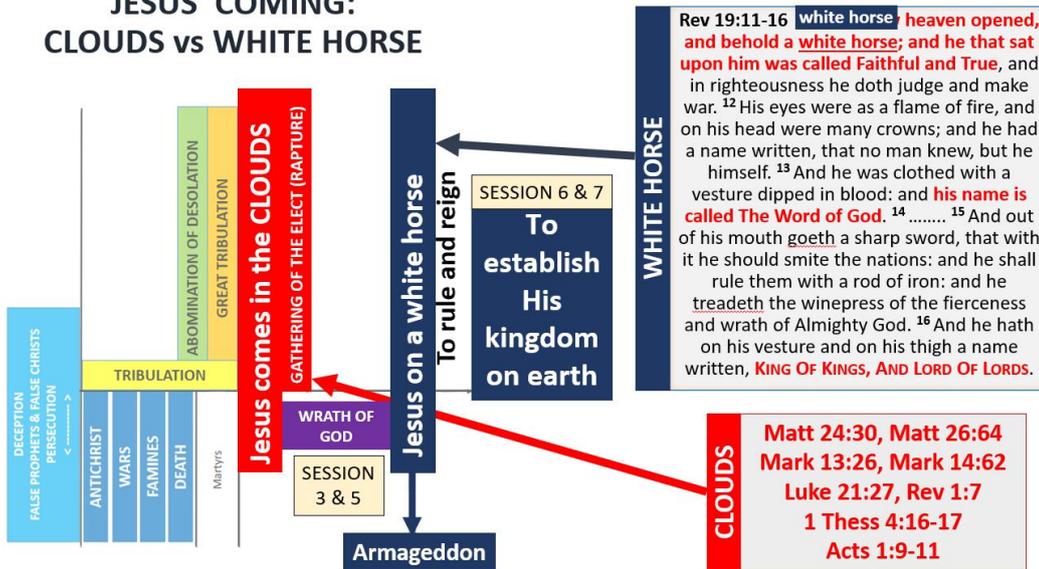
Dan 7:13-14 ⁴³ *I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. ¹⁴ **And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.’***

JESUS ESTABLISHES HIS KINGDOM ON EARTH:

Matt 19:28-29 ²⁸ *And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration **when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory**, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.*

Adding the white horse onto the timeline:

JESUS' COMING: CLOUDS vs WHITE HORSE



Believers will serve and rule with Christ during the millennium, which is when he establishes his kingdom:

Dan 7:27 ²⁷ And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.'

Luke 19:12-19

Certain nobleman went into a far country. To receive for himself a kingdom and then to return. He called his 10 servants, and said to them: 'Occupy till I come'.

It came to pass: He returned after having received the kingdom. He called his servants unto him. (to whom he had given the money)

The first servant gained 10 pounds.
Good servant - faithful in very little - **Authority over 10 cities**

The second servant gained 5 pounds.
Good servant - faithful in very little - **Authority over 5 cities**

Rev 20:4-6 ⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; **and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.** ⁵ But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, **but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.'**

Why can we say that the Pre-wrath Rapture = Jesus' Second Coming, in accordance with scripture: (and why the 2nd coming is not Rev 19 or Zech 14)

- 1) The disciples asked Jesus about the sign of His coming (Matt 24v3). Jesus answered in v27-31 (note the last three verses are each linked by the word 'And'): ...so shall also **the coming** of the Son of man be [i.e. his 2nd coming]" (v27), ...and they shall see the **Son of man coming** [his 2nd coming] in the clouds(v30)... and in v31: ... they shall **gather together his elect** from the four winds. Jesus clearly links his second coming to the rapture. (the gathering of the elect).
- 2) John 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will **come again** [his 2nd coming], and **receive you** unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. His coming is when Jesus receives us (gathers us). i.e. the rapture
- 3) 1 Cor 15:22-23 confirms our resurrection (or change to our eternal state) is at his coming: 22 For as in Adam all die, even so **in Christ shall all be made alive.** 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's **at his coming** [his 2nd coming] ...V52band the

dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

- 4) 1 Thess 4:15 .. “we which are alive and remain unto the **coming of the Lord** [his 2nd coming] ... For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven ... Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord”.
- 5) All the ‘appearing’ verses in the table above show that it his appearing is at the manifestation or Revelation of Jesus...i.e. when he appears in the clouds at the rapture.

Hence the second coming is not at the Rev 19 appearing on a White Horse or Zech 14:4 appearing on the Mount of Olives.

These are later events after the wrath of God is poured out and is at the timing of Armageddon. At these events there is nothing in scripture to indicate that ‘every eye will see him’.

Question: Is what Jesus said to his disciples in Mark 13:37 (see alongside) a valid statement applying to all believers, even though not repeated in all gospels?

Answer: ‘YES’, Jesus’ instruction to ‘watch!’ applies across all gospels, and applies to all people, because of the parallel and sequential nature of the gospels.

Who does Jesus’ teaching apply to?

A key verse: **Mark 13:37**
37 And what I say to you, I say to **ALL**: Watch!

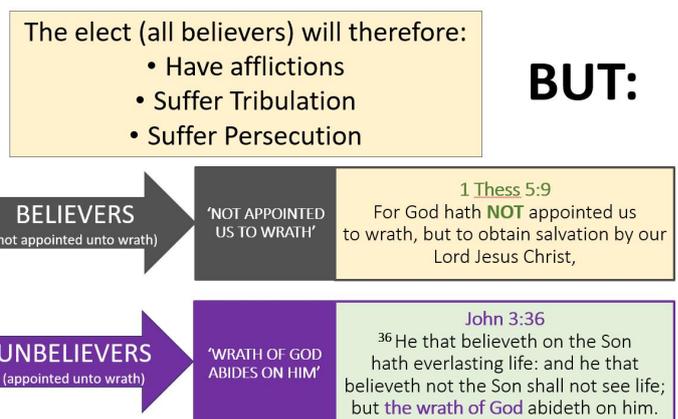
Therefore:
Matt 24, Mark 13 & Luke 21 is written
TO ALL PEOPLE

Matthew 24 applies to all believers.

All believers will experience trouble (tribulation) and persecution:

John 16:33 ⁴³ *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.’*

1 Thess 3:2-4 ² *And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellow-labourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith: ³ That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto. ⁴ For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.’*



2 Tim 3:12 ¹² Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.'

The gathering of the elect is at Jesus’ 2nd coming ->therefore: The rapture is at Jesus’ 2nd coming: (more verses)

- ‘... I will come again, and receive you unto myself ...’ (John 14:3)
- ‘... in Christ shall all be made alive they that are Christ’s at his coming.’ (1 Cor 15:20-23)
- ‘... by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him...’ (2 Thess 2:1)
- ‘.... in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming.’ (1 Thess 2:19)

- ‘... the coming of the Lord ... shall be caught up together with them in the clouds ...’ (1 Thess 4:17)
- ‘... the Son of man coming in the cloud ... shall gather together his elect ...’ (Mark 13:26-27)
- ‘... the Son of man coming in a cloud ... your redemption [G629] draws near.’ (Luke 21:27-28)
- ‘... waiting for the adoption ... the redemption [G629] of our body ...’ (Rom 8:23)
- ‘you are sealed with the holy Spirit ... until the redemption [G629] of the purchased possession.’ (Eph 1:12-14)
- ‘... the holy Spirit of God, whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption [G629].’ (Eph 4:30)

ENCOURAGEMENT for us until Jesus comes/appears:

- ‘... your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.’ (1 Thess 5:23)
- ‘Fight the good fight of faith lay hold on eternal life until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.’ (1 Tim 6:12,14)
- ‘Eat this bread ... this is my body’, ‘Drink this cup ... this is my blood’, ‘Do this in remembrance of me’. Paul says: ‘You show the Lord’s death till he come’ (1 Cor 11:24-26)
- ‘... be patient ... steadfastly set, ... strengthen’ your hearts ... unto the coming of the Lord.’ (James 5:7-8)
- ‘That the testing of your faith ... might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.’ (1 Pet 1:7)

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