God’s Great Rescue Plan

September 13, 2015
God’s Great Rescue Plan

- (2 Pet 2:1-9 NIV) But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves. (2) Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. (3) In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.
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• (4) For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; (5) if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; (6) if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; (7) and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men (8) (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)---
(9) if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.
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Last Days False Teachers:

• Deceive & Deny

• Driven By Lust And Greed

• (2 Pet 2:3b NIV) Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.
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3 Examples God’s Judgment:

• The Fallen Angels:

• The World Of Noah Before The Flood

• Sodom And Gomorrah
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• (9) if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.

• This Is God’s Rescue Plan:

• God Knows How To Bless The Righteous And Judge The Unrighteous -- At The Same Time
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• **Example 1: Noah Was Spared**

• (2 Pet 2:5 NIV) if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others;
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• Noah Was *Blameless Among The People Of His Time*

• God Can Spare The Righteous -- Those Who Are *Blameless Among The People*

• (1 Thess 1:10 NIV) Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.
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• The Example Of Lot – He Was Rescued From Sodom

• God Does Not Treat The Righteous And The Wicked The Same Way

• He Separates Them And Gives Them Their Just Sentence
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• Parable Of The Wheat And The Weeds

• God Knows How To Separate
  – Good Fruit From Rotten Fruit
  – Wheat From Weeds
  – Righteous From Unrighteous
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• The Rescue Plan We Await:

• (1 Th 4:13 NIV) Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. (14) We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. (15) According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. (16) For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. (17) After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. (18) Therefore encourage each other with these words.
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• **When God’s Rescue Plan Will Take Place:**

• (Mat 24:3 NIV) As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"
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- **CHRIST’S COMING** = The 2nd Coming -- Happens At End Of 7 Year-Tribulation

- **END OF THE AGE** = End Of The Age We Are Presently In -- End Of The Church Age – Time Of The Rapture
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The Return Of Jesus In Two Stages:

1. The End Of The Age
   The Rapture Of The Church

2. The 2nd Coming Of Jesus Christ
   7 Years After The Rapture
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• The Rapture Of The Church

• (1 Th 4:16 NIV) For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. (17) After that, **we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord**

• Rapture = Caught Up With Great Force
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• Some Will Not Escape

• (1 Th 5:2 NIV) for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. (3) While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.
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• When Will The Rapture Occur?

• Three Main Teachings On When God’s Rescue Plan Will Take Place:
  – Pre-Tribulation (Before)
  – Mid-Tribulation (During)
  – Post-Tribulation (After)
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• Why A Pre-Tribulation Rapture ?

• (Luke 21:36 NIV) Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."
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• Why Would Jesus Ask Us To Watch And Pray That We Might Be Able To Escape All That Is About To Happen, If He Has No Rescue Planned For Us?

• In Luke 21:36, Why Would Jesus Link The Escape From All That Is Going To Happen And Us Standing Before Him, If It Wasn’t Going To Happen?

• The Rapture Is All About Jesus Calling His Bride Home Saying: “Church, I Want To See You”
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• (1 Th 1:10 NIV) and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

• Jesus Rescues Us From The Coming Wrath
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• (1 Th 5:4 NIV) *But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief.* (5) You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. (6) So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. (7) For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. (8) But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. (9) For *God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*
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• **In The Book Of Revelation:**

• Chapters 1-3 = About The Church

• After Chapter 4 = No References To The Church Being On Earth
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• The Pre-tribulation Rapture Is The Only Way That Christ’s Return Could Be Imminent
  – Like A Thief In The Night
  – At Any Moment

• (Rev 3:10 NIV) Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.
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• (2 Pet 2:9 NIV) if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.
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• God’s Soon Coming Rescue Plan Is:
  – *For Those Who Live For Jesus*
  – *For Those Who Are Busy Doing His Work*
  – *For Those Who Are Ready For His Coming*

• The Lord Will Come And Catch Them Away In The Rapture
  – *Before The Great Tribulation*
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How To Be Ready:

• He Will Come When He Is Not Expected
• Prepare: He’s Coming As A Thief in the Night
• Get Your House In Order
• Make Sure That Your Life Is Ready For God To See And Judge
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Check Your Spiritual Temperature:

• Hot ----------- Lukewarm ----------- Cold

• Where Are You?

• Throw Off The Sin That Entangles
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• **There Is Hope**

• **God Is Saying To All:**
  – *Come Home To Me*
  – *I Didn’t Appoint You For Wrath*
  – *I Appointed You For Eternal Life*

• *(2 Peter 2:9 NIV) the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment*