

I. **Big Question: DO YOU BELIEVE THE BIBLE?** Important Review of **Genesis 5**

Adam = Man Seth = Appointed Enosh = Mortal Kenan = Sorrow
 Mahalalel = The blessed God Jared = He comes down Enoch To teach
 Methuselah = (When) he dies it shall be sent Lamech = To despair Noah = Rest

“Man is appointed mortal sorrow, but the blessed God shall come down teaching that His death shall bring the despairing rest.”

NOTE: Methuselah died in the very year the flood came... just as prophesied

I. **Let's get some quick perspective**

A. **Next event on prophetic calendar** Rapture **1Ths 4:13-18** Trump God / Voice Archangel / **“WE” includes Paul**
Rm 11:25 Then Israel's eyes w/b opened / Only Jews and Gentiles left – both unsaved

B. **Great world leader (antichrist) w/b revealed after rapture** **2Ths 2:6-8** Don't bother trying to figure out who he is.
 He'll confirm covenant with Israel for 7 years **Dan 9:27a** Temple will be rebuilt / Then short, relative peace **Rev 6**

C. **After 3½ years, he'll declare himself to be God** **Dn 9:27b** **2 Ths 2:3,4**
 Enters tmp / declares himself to be God / demands to be wshpd **Begins the “Time of Jacob's Trouble”** **Jer 30:7**
Mt 24:21 “Great Tribulation – unequaled from the beginning of earth until now / NEVER to be equaled again.”

II. **But Israel will be preserved** **Mk 13:14-31; or Mt 24:15-35** Not written to church (we'll be gone) / Very Jewish
 Israel preserved in PETRA (AKA, Sela or Bozrah) **Zech 12:10** **Israel will accept Messiah**

III. **People ask: “Where's word ‘rapture’ in Bible?** **It's not in English Bible**
 English wd is *Caught up* / Greek wd is *Harpazo* / Latin is *Raptus – rapturo*

IV. **Seven HARPAZOs in the Bible** (Wd *harpazo* used in of them **)
 Enoch–Gen5 Elijah–2Kgs2 Philip–Acts8** Paul–2Cor12** John–Rev 4 Church–1Thes4** Jesus–Rev12**
 Rapture is a concept God has used at least 7 times in Scripture, and also promised many times more

V. **Enoch 1st man raptured** **Jude 14,15** Enoch gave 1st recorded prophecy @ the coming judgment
 Prophesied @ coming flood / Also @ final jgmt (1000's His holy ones)

Purpose of the Judgment: **1** To judge everyone **2** To convict the ungodly

VI. **2 Peter 3** **Scoffers in the Last Days**

1. Nonbelievers who reject it all as fantasy
2. “Christians” who deny the truth of the Word

PRINCIPLE: Scripture says God *has judged* and also that He *will judge*.

v5,6 “By God's Word... earth was destroyed...”

v7 “By God's Word... earth is reserved for fire....”

CONCLUSION: God's Word demands the coming judgment... “of ungodly men” NOT THE RIGHTEOUS!

VII. Noah's Flood 3 Classes of People

Those destroyed in the flood Wicked, completely obliterated
Those preserved thru the flood Protected... God provided for them
Those taken out before the flood Removed entirely from the earth – alive

VIII. "Pattern is Prologue" Hosea 12:10 "I've spoken to my prophets in similitudes (figures of speech)..."

Let's get back to Enoch for a minute...

Some people says "He's only one person!" So is the Church, aren't we?

TALMUD: Enoch born 6th Sivan Translated same day / Church born on Pentecost **Rapture?**

Pattern is prologue Daniel & friends

Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego **Type of Israel in Tribulation**

Nebuchadnezzar **Type of Antichrist**

Fiery furnace **Type of Tribulation**

Makes for great preaching... Question: Where's Daniel? **Type of the church?**

Ruth & Boaz Gentile bride of Boaz, her kinsman redeemer

Where is she during the threshing floor scene? @ feet of her redeemer, Boaz

Lot's family Gen 19 Angels couldn't do work until Lot & family were removed from Sodom

IX. Promises of the Rapture in the Old Testament:

Isaiah 26:20,21 Cp to Jn 14:1-3 *Believers only – Judas was gone*

Zeph 2:3 Psalms 27:5

X. The Great Tribulation Much more than the wrath of the world or wrath of satan (persecution)

It's the wrath of God! 1 Thes 5:9 **God has not appointed us to suffer wrath...**

Rom 5:9 **We shall be saved from wrath through Him**

XI. Let's define our terms... At rapture, believers will be "caught up" to clouds... to meet the Lord in the air.

When Lord comes for His church, there will be a generation alive at that time: 1 Corinthians 15:51-55

We stand on brink of eternity We are the generation that will experience the rapture of the church

The return of Jesus Christ

We stand on brink of the Kingdom of God