The Great catching Away

The greatest promise Jesus gave us before He left was that one day He would come again to get us and that then we would be with Him forever. That event is known as the "Rapture" or the Great catching away. One day Jesus will appear in the Eastern sky the Archangel will blow a trumpet and all he believers will be caught up in the air to meet the Lord. While we are in Heaven enjoying a great celebration known as the marriage supper of the Lamb were Christ and His Church are married, the Earth will be experiencing horrific and unspeakable turmoil and suffering as the Anti-Christ reigns on Earth and God's wrath is poured out upon those who were left in the Rapture, those who chose to reject Christ and live in defiance against God.

There are some in the Church who do not believe in the rapture they say the word is not even in the Bible. That is true a priest name Jerome coined the phrase rapture around 400 A.D. It is derived from the Latin word *rapimur* meaning to be caught up.

Others say that the Doctrine of the rapture is a new fad. While the return of Christ was spoken of often by Paul and the early church the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th centuries the topic was rarely ever talked about. Until John Darby begin teaching Rapture in 1828. There is a very good reason for this, while some use this fact to say the rapture message is new and attempt to diminish it, the fact is that it was not preached because Jesus could not come back unit Israel became a Nation again as prophesied in the Bible. That did not happen until 1947. The rapture was rarely preached because until 1947 it was impossible for the rapture to take place.

Finally I have heard some say how will we be caught up in the rapture are we all going to sprout wings and fly. There are many examples in the Bible of people being caught up into Heave. So when Jesus comes back for His church it will not be the first time God brought some one up to Heaven.

The first “Catching away” is seen in the book of Genesis it happens to a man by the name of Enoch.

22And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: 23And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:24And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him. Genesis 5:22-24
By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. Hebrews 11:5

The man Enoch walked so closely with God that He decided to just take him. And so Enoch was “Caught Up” Into Paradise and never saw death. This is the first instance of a Rapture seen in the Bible.

The second involves a Man, A prophet Named Elijah, and can be found in the book of 2 Kings

And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so. 11 And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. 12And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces. 2 Kings 2:9-12

Again we see a “Catching away” of a person, who does not die but is brought up into the Heavens as Enoch before him. Finally we see the Man Phillip and while Phillip was not “Caught away” into Heaven he was translated. While Enoch and Elijah were “Caught up” into Heaven Phillip was Translated vertically if you will within the Earth. This example is found in the Book of Acts.

Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. 36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? 37And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 38And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. 39And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea. Acts 8:35-40
Here we see Phillip being “Caught away” by the Spirit of the Lord. Phillip was instantly translated from the Gaza desert and was moved to Azotus. So once again we see someone being Caught Up but this time it was a Lateral translation, rather than a vertical one. The point I am making is that Raptures or being Caught Up is nothing new for God, It has been happening for quite some time and is still possible for God. And as we shall see the Rapture of the Church will take place sometime in the near future and before the great tribulation.

One of the theory’s out there today is that Christ will not come back literally but rather be seen coming through us. That we are somehow to be transformed into His exact image and likeness. And while it is true we are made in Christ’s image, and we, through the Holy Ghost, have been filled with power to do the works of Christ, We are still be but mere mortals.

51Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 1 Corinthians 15:51-53

3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter 1:3-5

Notice that the two groups of people who are given an incorruptible body, first the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and then we shall be changed, who is the we, those who aren’t dead at the time of Christ’s return to Earth.

Also notice we have inherited inscrutableness because of the Lord Jesus Christ’s bodily resurrection from the dead. And importantly, that inheritance of being uncorruptible is being reserved for us IN HEAVEN! And in the mean time, the period of time before we get to Heaven, before we receive our uncorruptible bodies, we are being kept, or given strength to carry on through faith, until our inheritance of incorruptibility is revealed to us in the last time.
The point here is that as long as we are living in these mortal bodies we will eventually die. But when Christ returns and we put on our incorruptible bodies we shall never die!

8But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth. 9And when He had said this, even as they were looking [at Him], He was caught up, and a cloud received and carried Him away out of their sight. 10And while they were gazing intently into heaven as He went, behold, two men [dressed] in white robes suddenly stood beside them, 11Who said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing into heaven? This same Jesus, Who was caught away and lifted up from among you into heaven, will return in [just] the same way in which you saw Him go into heaven. Acts 1:8-11 (Amplified Bible)

Please notice here that when Jesus comes it will not be through us as some believe, but rather, this SAME JESUS will come the SAME WAY in which He left, In the Clouds coming from Heaven to this Earth. To get His Church.

14And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, Jude 1:14

Enoch prophesied of a Day when the Lord would come with ten thousands of His Saints, The Saints must be received before they can come back with Him. That takes us to the next argument concerning the Rapture, That some believe we the Church will go through the great tribulation before Christ will come again.

We shall see through the Scriptures that this theory is simply not true and un- Biblical. If we, as God’s children, were to be left during the tribulation we too would then have to endure the great outpouring of God’s wrath upon this Earth. But Scripture clearly says God’s wrath is not for His Children. The second point is that God’s wrath can’t be poured out until the Anti-Christ is first revealed, And that revealing can’t take place until the Church is taken out of the way, according to 2 Thessalonians this is true.
For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who
now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.
And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will
overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of
his coming. 2 Thessalonians 2:7-8 (New International Version)

The Anti-Christ will not be revealed to the Earth until the Church is first
taken out of the way. Why? Because Light always overcomes darkness,
Holiness overcomes evil, and as long as we the church, the light of this world
are here that darkness and that evil and the evil one can not be manifest and
fully revealed because we are holding them back and stopping them from
coming forth in fullness. That is just one reason the church will be taken
before the tribulation, there are also other Scriptures that give us this
promise.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the
voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in
Christ shall rise first: 17Then we which are alive and remain shall be
c caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air:
and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18Wherefore comfort one another
with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

We shall be Caught up to meet the Lord in the Air. There are some who claim
that the word clouds and Air here don’t mean what they say that some how
God was saying something different than what he was saying, this is simply
not true not true lets look at the Original Greek for these two words.

Clouds (Nephele) A small or thin cloud

AIR (Anp aer) Atmosphere

While looking at the Original Greek we can clearly see that the word clouds is
talking of literal clouds even revealing them to be small and thin, and the
word Air literally means Atmosphere. So there is no secretly encoded meaning
behind these two words they mean what God said. The Bible is clear, that we
will be Caught up into the Atmosphere and into the clouds of this Earth and
meet the Lord Jesus Christ in the Air. Just like Enoch was caught up , and
Elijah was Caught up, we too will be Caught up.
There have always been scoffers and doubters of the Rapture. Peter addressed this back in his day and we are still addressing it in our day.

3Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. 5For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water.....17Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. 2 Peter 3:3-5,17

Peter warned them and we would do well to take heed to his warning today, that we ought not fall into the snare of deception concerning the falsities and ignorance of those who do not believe in the coming of our King. Jesus said He would return for us and I choose to believe Him, rather than the theories of misguided and uninformed men.

33Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it. 34I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. 35Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 36Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 37And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together. Luke 17:33-38

1Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2In 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. 3And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. John 14:1-3

Mansion (mone) Abode in the Original Greek

Jesus went to Heaven to prepare our Abode, and He has promised us that He will come again in the same way He left to gather us up into the air to meet Him, where we will be transformed and live with Him forever.
The Bible says that no one knows when Jesus will return, only the Father, God Knows.

36But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. Matthew 24:36

If we were not “Raptured” Pre-Tribulation, and left instead to face the great tribulation then everybody would know exactly when Jesus would return.

27And he shall enter into a strong and firm covenant with the many for one week [seven years]. And in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and offering to cease [for the remaining three and one-half years]; and upon the wing or pinnacle of abominations [shall come] one who makes desolate, until the full determined end is poured out on the desolator. Daniel 9:27 (Amplified Bible)

If we were left during the tribulation we could pinpoint the day down to the very hour minute and second of Christ return based on this scripture. It would be 3 ½ years from the moment the Anti-Christ is revealed in the temple and commits that great abomination.

36But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. Matthew 24:36

NO! If we were left during the tribulation we all would know exactly when Christ’s return would be. It is ONLY in a pre-tribulation scenario that God would be the only one who knew. According to God’s word. This is another great yet simple way to realize we are going to be “caught Up” before the Tribulation happens.

1And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 5And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new...... Revelation 21:1-5
The time is short, the signs are evident, the hour is upon us.

Jesus Foretells Destruction of the Temple

24 Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. 2 But he answered them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”

Signs of the End of the Age

3 As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” 4 And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. 5 For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

9 “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake. 10 And then many will fall away[a] and betray one another and hate one another. 11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. 12 And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

The Abomination of Desolation

15 “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, 18 and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. 19 And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! 20 Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. 21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. 22 And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. 23 Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. 24 For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even
the elect. 25 See, I have told you beforehand. 26 So, if they say to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. 27 For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 28 Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

The Coming of the Son of Man
29 “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree
32 “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. 33 So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 34 Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. 35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

No One Knows That Day and Hour
36 “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son,[b] but the Father only. 37 For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, 39 and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. 42 Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

45 “Who then is the faithful and wise servant,[c] whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? 46 Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. 47 Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. 48 But if that wicked
servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’ 49 and begins to beat his fellow servants[d] and eats and drinks with drunkards, 50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know 51 and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**The signs**

Wars and rumors of wars.

Nation against Nation.

Hearts of men will grow cold.

Christian persecution.

Earthquakes and severe weather patterns.

Famine and pestilence.

Finally the fig tree is in bloom... Israel Returns.

**As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be at the coming of the Lord.**