

Rapture?

by Daniel J Waddick

Let's talk about the "Rapture" as found in the Bible. To start with, this doctrine is believed by many in the Church to be a true doctrine and has been called "The blessed hope." All who believe in this doctrine are told it comes from the Word of GOD; the Bible. Yet I find it strange that there are three different beliefs within this supposed Holy Spirit inspired rapture doctrine that teach it will take place either "pre," "mid," or "post great tribulation." I suppose the majority are believing for the pre tribulation rapture scenario. That use to be my favorite too.

Now what's troubling is that so many Christians can believe in something that they can't even agree on its process or purpose, which needs to be something that is clearly revealed in the Word, that is if it's truly from GOD. Can you imagine if Christians had alternative views when it came to salvation? I mean we know the lost have all sorts of ways they imagine they're going to gain eternal life, but it still doesn't make them true; it doesn't make them inspired.

So where does the real problem come from when a biblical doctrine ends up with a multitude of doctrinal stances? It comes from the interpretation. Ahh, and where did the Church get much of its present-day interpretation of 1-Thess 4:17 from? From a *vision** had by 13-year-old Margaret McDonald in 1830.

* <http://www.theseventhmillennium.org/downloads/Rapture%20Vision.pdf>

If you've already read that vision, you should have realized the LORD was emphasizing a *spiritual reality* vs. a physical one, as in being *spiritually* caught up to meet the LORD just like Paul was. Again, one verse or one *vision* should not establish Biblical truth brethren. The whole of the Bible or at the bear minimum 2 or 3 passages need to be found saying the same thing. Yet for now let's examine this *one verse* since so much has been built upon it within the rapture dogma.

"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." 1-Thessalonians 4:17

There are two key words we will need to study in this verse that are crucial for its proper interpretation. The first one is "clouds," and the second is "air." The *Strong's* Greek dictionary interprets both of these words in 1-Thessalonians 4:17 as such:

G3507: (clouds) nephele

From G3509; properly **cloudiness**, that is, (concretely) a *cloud*: - cloud.

G109: (air) aēr

From ἄημι aēmi (to **breathe** unconsciously, that is, **respire**; by analogy to **blow**); "air" (as naturally circumambient): - air. Compare G5594

Brethren, we should all know the LORD speaks to us much of the time using parables and through symbolic language. In the Bible they're called "similitudes," "dark sayings," "hidden manna," "hidden riches," figures," and "shadows." Nowadays Christians usually just call these figures of speech, "types & shadows."**

** http://www.theseventhmillennium.org/types_intro.html

It is of vital importance that every Bible student understands that *types & shadows* are a very integral part of understanding the Bible when it comes to interpretations. Here again, I must mention that the NIV has destroyed many of the biblical typologies by purposely having to change the original language of the manuscripts because of copyright laws, and *Rupert Murdoch's* uninspired attempt to make the Bible *easier to read*. So instead of saying "thirty cubits...", the NIV converts this into so many feet, thus destroying the symbology of "thirty." This happens constantly in the NIV*. I use the KJV and will not use the NIV or any other altered Bible to do studies. You would do well to do likewise.

* https://shop.avpublications.com/product_info.php?products_id=77

Now the Greek says *clouds* mean "cloudiness" and *air* means "to breathe," yet we must still apply the *types* to see the revelatory message within this verse; the message that has been hid from before the world began. Christians are not to use carnal logic and natural understanding like the lost, especially when it comes to establishing doctrine. Yes, there are many times where the words mean just what they say in the Bible, but there are also times where "clouds" mean *departed overcomer saints* and "air" means *Spirit*. Knowing what's what **initially** becomes the job of the Holy Spirit who must first *lead us and guide us into the truth* of GOD'S Word.

"That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the **hidden wisdom**, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:" 1 Corinthians 2:5-7

Brethren, there is an important fact that must never be forgotten when it comes to interpreting the Bible. We are not to read or understand the written Word as the world would understand it; we are to have divine understanding and *gain* or amass revelation and glory through the "hidden wisdom" as we search out the mysteries of GOD'S Word.

"And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you **to know** the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given." Matthew 13:10-11

"All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world."
Matthew 13:34-35

What's all that mean to us? That means when we read about such things as "clouds" or "air" in the Bible, we understand there can be hidden meanings attached to those words. To see this one must first have a good understanding of correct biblical *types* and the principles they were established with in the Bible. Again, the previous link to the [types & shadow intro](#) pg. should help greatly in this matter. One very important principle we all need to know before we go any further is that ***the Bible must interpret the Bible***. We are not to add our own carnal understanding to GOD'S Word.

One way *types* are established in the Bible is when you read that "such and such is as a...", like when it says "Satan is as a roaring lion..." So this, "**is as a...**" prompt, is God's way of letting us know a spiritual reality that is hid from our natural senses, is being established as a *type*.

"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.": 2-Peter 1:20

Now let's look at 1-Thess 4:17 according to established *types* to gain the revelation of what's really being said. The two key words in that verse are "clouds" and "air." GOD is able to hide things in His Word, and yet the written *logos* makes sense to even the sinners or carnal Christians who read it. Still, another message is hiding within the text. With that being said, the word *clouds* in the Bible can mean a few different things symbolically. In the context of 1-Thess 4:17 it is talking about "the great cloud of witnesses."

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so **great a cloud of witnesses**, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us," Hebrews 12:1

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." Daniel 7:13

"Behold, he cometh with **clouds**; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen." Revelation 1:7

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, **clothed in fine linen, white** and clean."
Revelation 19:11-14

Now let's look at some backslidden and apostate believers that the Bible still refers to as clouds.

"These are wells without water, **clouds** that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever." 2-Peter 2:17

"These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: **clouds** they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead [turned apostate], plucked up by the roots;" Jude 1:12

OK, now look at the "air" these end-time surviving Christians are said to be "caught up" into once the LORD openly returns, which is at the beginning of Armageddon, which is after the "great tribulation."

"Immediately after the ["great" v. 21] tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And THEN shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the **clouds of heaven** with power and great glory." Matthew 24:29-30

Paul was "caught up" to the third Heaven in Acts 14:19 after he was stoned and left for dead, yet his body was still under the pile of rocks. He, his soul, was caught up spiritually brethren, just like the brethren in 1-Thess 4:17 will be. Paul's account is a case study for being "caught up" in the Bible.

The Bible equates "air," "wind," "breath(e)," "blow," and "blast" with the Holy Spirit. This is first established in Genesis 2:7. I did a video that expounds on this matter which you can view at: <https://youtu.be/W-2d3qK613s>

"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the **breath** of life; and man became a living soul." Genesis 2:7

For now, you will just have to believe me when I say that air in the Bible can be and is typed out often as Spirit.

"And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty **wind**, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the **Holy Ghost**, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Acts 2:2-4

To conclude, the Rapture as taught in the Church is in error both in process and purpose. I cannot properly expound in this short pamphlet on all doctrinal issues pertaining to the rapture, so I have included some links below to further this teaching. Brethren, 1-Thess 4:17 is saying that certain Christians will be *caught up* with the retuning overcomer saints in a spiritual realm that they have not experienced heretofore. My other teachings show how there is in fact, *three* catching up experiences the Bible talks about that will take place in the end times. The first one is a *secret spiritual* catching up of the "two witnesses"/"man child" group of overcomer saints (Rev 12:5). The second is when these same saints are physically "called up" after they've been martyred and resurrected (Rev 11:12), and the third is what 1-Thess 4:17 talks about as Yeshua physically returns at Armageddon. I believe the Rapture as taught in Christendom, is nothing more than a "doctrine of devils," and will ultimately cause many to fall away. Once Christians who've been told they will not experience the "great tribulation," find themselves in the midst of Mat 24:9-12, many may very well "fall away" (2-Thess 2:3). May the LORD bless you in seeking out this truth.

<http://www.theseventhmillennium.org/downloads/The%20Seventh%20Millennium%20pdf.pdf>

http://www.theseventhmillennium.org/rapture_vs_overcoming.html

https://youtu.be/dc_SVX58I74