

RAPTURE THEOLOGY	WHAT SCRIPTURE ACTUALLY SAYS
"Rapture" is a concept grounded in the Bible	The word "rapture" does not appear anywhere in the Bible. The concept is a creation by a British evangelist named John Nelson Darby just 170 years ago.
<u>Revelation</u> points toward the end-times of our generation	<u>Revelation</u> recounts the suffering and persecution encountered by the first-century Christians at the hands of the Roman empire (Rev. 1:4, 9-11)
The message of <u>Revelation</u> is about despair, war and destruction	The message of <u>Revelation</u> is about justice, transformation and hope (Rev. 21: 1-5)
<u>Revelation</u> says that the Antichrist will come and rule the world in chaos, before being ultimately defeated by God.	The word "antichrist" is never found in <u>Revelation</u> . It's a term used in 1 and 2 John by the author to describe some renegade teachers who are preaching a false gospel and leading astray the Christian communities he's writing to.
Scriptures lay out a timetable of the end-times	There is no time-table in scripture; in fact, scripture says there is no way we can know the time and manner of Jesus' second coming (1 Thess. 5: 1-3)
God will judge evil by <i>destroying</i> the world	God will judge evil by <i>restoring</i> the world (Rev. 21:1 – Gk. word for "new" means "renewed," not "different")
God will transport the faithful to a different world after this one is gone	There is no other planet; God will restore/renew the one we currently have (same citation as above)
Rapture theology implies that we can do what we want with the earth, since it'll be destroyed anyway	God loves the world (John 3:16a) and will never destroy it (Gen. 8:21). God wants us to treasure the earth as much as God does.
God saves us by "coming down" to take us away from our suffering on this earth	God save us by "coming down" to <u> dwell with us </u> in the midst of our suffering on earth, sustaining us and giving us hope while in the process of transforming it (Exodus 29:45-46, Rev. 21:3,)
God's rule over the earth is in the future; Satan rules the earth now	God rules the earth now; Satan has no dominion over the earth (Rev. 1:5, 11:15; Psalm 24:1)
The world cannot be saved – it's too late.	God can and will save the world
Jesus is coming again, to save the faithful and destroy the wicked.	Jesus is coming again, to put an end to injustice and suffering and renew the world to its original created intent.
Our response to living in the end-times is to pray for the destruction of the world and prepare for warfare against the enemy.	Our response to living in the end-times is to live in community with one another, love our neighbor and show hospitality to strangers (1 Thess. 4: 9-12; 5: 12-24, a letter written to a Christian community who thought the "end times" were imminent).

<p>In Rev. 13:18b, “666” is the number of Satan</p>	<p>In Rev. 13:18b, “666” is a secretive Hebrew numerical code called <i>gematria</i> that spells out the name “Nero Caesar,” the Roman emperor at the time Revelation was written who was severely persecuting first-century Christians.</p>
<p>In Rev. 18, the city “Babylon” refers to some modern-day city, probably in the Middle East, perhaps Iraq.</p>	<p>In Rev. 18, “Babylon” is used as code to represent Rome, who was persecuting the Christians (a thousand years before, Babylon was the home for the Israelites in exile).</p>
<p>Daniel 9: 25-27 is the overarching timetable for the second coming and end times that was later fleshed out in <u>Revelation</u>.</p>	<p>Neither Jesus, any of his followers, or Paul ever referred to these <u>Daniel</u> verses in such manner.</p>
<p>Christ will return again twice, separated by a seven-year period</p>	<p>Christ will return again, but there is no scriptural basis for a “double return” separated by seven years. In fact, there is no basis for a seven-year period either.</p>
<p>Rev. 4:1 is the moment of the rapture – God says “Come <i>up here</i> and let me show you...”; then the church/faithful watch the horrible “trials” unfold. This is supported by the fact that the word “church” does not appear after Rev. 4, as it did in prior chapters.</p>	<p>The term “saints” is found at least 15 times following Rev. 4 – the equivalent of the church. The faithful have not been “taken up;” they are still present during the time of trial – like the one the early church suffered at the hand of Roman persecution. It is the writer John, the one witnessing these events, who is invited to “come up here” for a literary birds-eye view.</p>
<p><u>Revelation</u> is prophecy that scripts out the end-times; God has forecasted the future.</p>	<p><u>Revelation</u> is prophecy that acts as a timely warning and a call for repentance. No prophecy in the Bible is about “forecasting the future” or forcing God to work on a script.</p>