

10-5-09

Paul, John and the Rapture

Did the Lord show a confirmatory correlation of the timing of the “rapture” (those who are alive and remaining) to both the apostles Paul and John? I believe that He did, and here’s why.

Now the apostle Paul was shown or given the “mystery” of the rapture itself! That being of those who are alive and remaining at the time of the resurrection of the saints who are already dead in Christ! And the apostle John was typed in the Revelation of Jesus Christ of this event happening.

However, as I have explained in and at www.godstimeline.net That the Lord Himself did tell the church age(s) through the Church of Smyrna just how long they were to have tribulation and even being put to death for the faith in Jesus Christ!

Rev. 2: 10 **Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.**

As I have tried to explain before, that these 10 days could not be referring to Christians enduring this tribulation for just 10 literal/ 24hr. days. That makes no sense historically or now. Christians have been and are now suffering this persecution/ tribulation unto the death for far longer than just ten 24 hr days.

These 10 days could not therefore be that of 10 years during the Church age of Smyrna. Because that period of time for the corporate Church to be under such persecution/ tribulation lasted far longer than just 10 years. Therefore, let’s take what the Lord has given us with simple reasoning by His Word!

John is “IN THE SPIRIT ON THE LORD’S DAY” (Rev.1: 10 “I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,”)! Remember this, because Paul will reference this later. Yes, John is on Patmos and the Lord is going to be showing him through multiple “visions” of what is going to transpire on the Lord’s Day, the 7th day, the LAST DAY!

Yes, in the KJV of the scriptures, the phrase “last day” is used 8 times! Once in Neh.8: 18 and the other 7 times all in the Gospel of John 9 (some

coincidence?). The preponderance of the TEXT in John deals directly with the “Resurrection of the dead”! Those being in John 6:39, 40, 44, 54, and 11:24 (here is your 11’s in regard to the 24 elders, or just a HUGE coincidence)! Now don’t ever forget that the “rapture” of those who are alive and remaining ARE DEPENDANT upon the resurrection of the DEAD IN CHRIST!! “For the dead in Christ shall rise FIRST...etc.

The 6th use of the phrase “last day” that can be clearly understood through the scriptures is that of JUDGEMENT! This is found in John 12:48! However, even though the Lord is going to be judging the world in this LAST DAY, the 7th use of this phrase is that of the Lord’s call to SALVATION IN HIM (John 7:37)!

But then we still have the 8th use in total in Neh.8. And the context is that of the Feast of Tabernacles (booths). Now when the 7th Day is concluded, we will have a New Heaven and New Earth! We will have entered into eternity, THE 8TH DAY to DWELL WITH THE LORD! Why, did I leave the 1st reference to the last? That should be obvious... the Lord said that He will declare the END from the Beginning...etc.

Yes, I firmly believe with the preponderance of the scriptures stating that the “resurrection” of the dead MUST take place in the LAST DAY! Now here is where we come to the correlation to John and Paul as to the timing of the “rapture”! During the Last Day/ the Lord’s Day, John was seeing the Lord Jesus Christ as our High Priest with eyes of FIRE and Feet of fine BRASS as burned in a furnace! Yes, even though Jesus is our High priest, at this time He is going to be executing His Judgment not only upon the world but also upon the Believers in Him (the judgment Seat of Christ).

Now during this depiction of Christ to John, Jesus is giving the historical time frame of the Church ages to John, BUT still in the Lord’s Day! Why? Because even though we are IN the Laodicean age or period of the Church, ALL 7 Churches can be found as being represented in the world! Therefore, here is where the 10 days as being years to Smyrna applies. And if Christ’s Church/ Believers are told that THEY WILL HAVE TRIBULATION TEN DAYS, then when those ten days are over they can expect their redemption. Because Jesus said of our time on this earth, in this world you shall have tribulation! Well, the reasoning follows that if after 10 days we will no longer be having Tribulation, then we must NO LONGER BE IN THIS WORLD!!! NOW this applies only to the living! Because the dead in Christ are NOT suffering tribulation are they?

Now since John was given the timeframe to the church once the day of the Lord begins (the 10 days to Smyrna), did the Lord corroborate or affirm this to Paul BEFORE the Revelation was given to John?

Yes, and here it is. Paul was given the “mystery” of the “rapture”, NOT of the Resurrection! The resurrection of the dead was of common knowledge, as Martha affirms to Jesus in John 11:24! And Jesus DID NOT CONTRADICT or correct her in her understanding! But in 2nd Corinthians, we find Paul expounding of a man who (being a type of the rapture) was caught up to the 3rd heaven. And this is written right after the revealing of the “mystery” in 1st Corinthians. BUT was this the first time that Paul referenced the “rapture”? NO! It was told of by Paul to the Thessalonians some 4 years prior.

Now here is this correlation to John’s Days to Smyrna and that of the type reported by Paul as to years. 2nd Corinthians was written by Paul in 55 A.D. (source, Grant Jeffery’s prophecy study bible, also John Hagee’s study bible lists as 55-56 A.D) Now look at the scripture itself concerning this man.

2nd Corinth. 12: 2 I knew a man in Christ **above fourteen years ago**, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.
3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)
4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and **heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.**

Now take notice that Paul wrote of this account of a man being (type of rapture) caught up to the 3rd heaven just above 14 years ago! That would put the event happening at 55-56 minus 14 equals 41-42 A.D. Now when did Paul FIRST write of the “rapture” in 1st Thessalonians? BOTH John Hagee and Grant Jeffery in their study bibles list the writing of 1st Thess. As being in A.D. 51!!!

Yes, it was exactly 10 years from the event happening to when Paul was finally able to write about it to the Thessalonians! Notice also that this man heard things that was not lawful or permissible for a man to speak! The very same thing happened to John in his vision in heaven when the 7 Thunders uttered their voice! John was told NOT TO WRITE this either! As to the identity of the man that Paul was referring to who was taken up to the third heaven, I will have to agree with Grant Jeffries who writes the following in the margin of his study bible on 2nd Corinth.12: 2-4.

“Fourteen years previous to this point, Paul was given a profound vision in which he was taken up to “the third heaven” (12:2), “paradise” (12:4), the abode of God. Unsure whether he was physically taken to the third heaven to see these remarkable things or whether only his spirit was taken in vision to that place, Paul heard things in his vision that he was forbidden to reveal to the church.

The Bible reveals that there are three heavens. The atmospheric heavens include the high clouds and sky of our atmosphere (see Gen. 1:8; Ps. 77:17-18). The second heaven involves outer space beyond our atmosphere that is the abode of the galaxies visible to great telescopes (see Gen. 15:5). The third heaven is the heaven where the throne of God exists (see Isa.14:12-14; Eph. 4:10; Rev. 4:1-11)”

Just what was it that Paul (and John) was NOT permitted to write about of what he HEARD? In Paul’s case, I believe that it was the confrontation and accusing of the “brethren/ church” that Satan was doing. And it was not until 10 years/ (days) latter was Paul able to write of what he SAW to the Thessalonians (and still not permitted to “name names”).

2nd Thess. 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,
2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.
3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;
4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.
5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?
6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.
7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.
8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:
9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,
10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.
11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:
12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:
14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now Paul has to write AGAIN to the Thessalonians about the same subject only a few months from having told them...

1st Thess. 4: 13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 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:

17 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.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

You see, some months prior to 2nd Thess. and having to write again on the subject of the "rapture", Paul has already made it CLEAR that it will be THE LORD HIMSELF who shall be coming for them! But it is clear that they just did not get it! And thus the need to expound further in 2nd Thess. as to who is restraining or preventing the Lord from coming at all! You see, I believe that Paul KNEW just who it was that was withholding (Satan accusing the brethren) and just who it was who was LETTING it happen (permissive will of God/ Christ) UNTIL "he", the mystery of iniquity (Satan) be taken out of the way! (How? By that call or alarm to war in heaven, see Rev. 12). And when he is taken out of the way

(From accusing the brethren- because Jesus PROMISED as our high priest and Advocate, see 1st John, that He would never leave us nor forsake us! Heb.13: 5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.)

then and ONLY THEN can the Lord Himself, descend from heaven for the resurrection/ rapture! Because if Jesus Christ left heaven with the accuser/ Satan still before the throne of God accusing the brethren of their sins, Then God is a LIAR and Jesus would have left us without an advocate/ defense from Satan's accusations and would have FORSAKEN US!!!

So what we are therefore looking at for the confirmation of the timing of the "rapture" is that of Paul experiencing the type of it 1st and then being able to write about it 10 years/ days later! In John's case, in the Revelation, he was told to write about those 10 days/ years for the corporate church (Through Smyrna) and then in type experience it!

Let me interject something of an observation concerning the "year" of Paul first being able to write on the "rapture"! And that year to the Thessalonians was A.D.51!!! Look at the year carefully...51!

Now look at the following scripture:

Luke 13: 20 And again he said, **Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God? 21 It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.**

Look, the kingdom of God is going to require 3 PARTS to make the WHOLE! What or who are those parts that have leaven (see Pentecost also) that will make up the kingdom of God coming with Christ? There the saints before the cross,/ the saints after the cross/ and those saints which come out of Great Tribulation!!

What is the 51 for? It is only 1/3 of the whole that will comprise the kingdom of God that will be coming to the Earth with the Lord Jesus Christ! What then is the whole? Simply, $3 \times 51 = 153$!!! The Resurrection # of Christ found again in the gospel of John!!! And the only time this number is given in the entire Bible as a complete and singular number! But don't forget, that even though Paul was talking about the "rapture", he was also talking of the RESURRECTION to which the "rapture" is dependant.

So then, the bottom line (for those who don't like scriptural reasoning) is that it looks very confirming to me that there will be 10 years/ days to transpire from the start of the Lord's day/ the day of the Lord/ the LAST DAY before the "Resurrection/ Rapture" can take place! Because I must stand on the entirety of the Word of God and not just on the scriptures that I would like to pick and choose from. They MUST ALL reconcile one with another!

Now a very big question is... "When does, OR did, the 7th Day/ the Sabbath Day/ The Lord's Day/ the LAST DAY, begin"???

Again, for scriptural and historical answers to this question and others, go to, www.godstimeline.net

In looking for Christ's Coming and His Kingdom;

Phil Rogers