



## Millennial Mistakes: The Rapture by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

And consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation — as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen. (**2 Peter 3:15-18**)

***The Bible warns us about people who "twist to their own destruction" any, or all, Scripture.*** These are not spiritually superior, but "untaught and unstable" people in Bible knowledge! And the only way to minimize, or overcome, their influence on our faith is to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." This means continual Bible study, and constant vigilance "for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (**Jude 3**).

### The Heart of the Message

***If There Was No "Millennialism," There Would Be No "Rapture" Doctrine.***

Millennialists (whether they're pre-, a-, or post- matters not) have twisted the Scriptures as if through a blender. **There is no Scriptural (Old or New Testament) teaching that, in the future, Jesus Christ will:**

1. come again and set foot on earth;
2. establish a kingdom;
3. fight a war with the Devil;
4. re-institute Moses' Law;
5. rule over the wicked;
6. "rapture" away the saints.

Let God speak:

1. ***There is no Scripture plainly teaching that Jesus will set foot on earth again,*** for:

The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. (2 Peter 3:10)

2. **Jesus established His kingdom**, for Paul wrote, "He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love" (**Colossians 1:13**). At His Second Coming, "He delivers the kingdom to God the Father" (**1 Corinthians 15:24**), not establish it!
3. **Jesus' war with the Devil has already been fought**, for Jesus "was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin" (**Hebrews 4:15**). While "casting out demons" (**Mark 1:39**), Jesus concluded, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven" (**Luke 10:18**). John said, "the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil" (**1 John 3:8**).
4. **Moses' Law saves no one today or tomorrow**, "for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain" (**Galatians 2:21**).
5. **Jesus will never rule over the wicked**: "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be" (**Romans 8:7**), and He saves "all who obey Him" (**Hebrews 5:9**).

### **Messages for Today**

- **Millennialism has absolutely no Scriptural support, but is "antichrist" throughout!**
- **Let us deal with the "rapture" portion of this thoroughly false doctrine.**
- **Jesus spoke of a one-time, universal Judgment.**

**Millennialism has absolutely no Scriptural support, but is "antichrist" throughout!** Millennialism teaches: Jesus failed in His First Coming to establish a kingdom; Moses' Law can still save; and the wicked will get a second chance to be saved! "Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son" (**1 John 2:22**). David prophesied "that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ" (**Acts 2:30-31**). Millennialism denies that Jesus is presently on David's throne in Heaven, therefore it denies Jesus was raised from the dead! If not, why not?

**Let us deal with the "rapture" portion of this thoroughly false doctrine.** The Second Coming is said to be preceded by a Great Tribulation, out of which saints would be "snatched away" (or "raptured"), that is, "delivered from" tribulation.

**First, Jesus gave signs predicting the destruction of Jerusalem**, which occurred in A.D 70, in the lifetime of "this generation" to whom He spoke (**Matthew 24:1-35**). *Jesus clearly stated about His Second Coming:*

"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only." (**Matthew 24:36**)

He then proceeded to give five illustrations showing "no one knows" the date or time of His coming (**Matthew 24:37-42, 43-44, 45-51; 25:1-13, 14-30**). The "tribulation" sign occurred before Jerusalem was destroyed, not before the end of time! The **"great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be"** (**Matthew 24:21**) **would occur prior to and during the siege of Jerusalem.** Jesus said nothing about "the elect" being "raptured," but warned "let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains" (**Matthew 24:16**). Paul wrote that Christians should "glory in tribulations,

knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope" (**Romans 5:3-4**). Scriptures give Christians forewarnings, but not a miraculous escape from tribulation (**Matthew 24:25**; **Galatians 5:21**; **2 Peter 3:17**).

***Secondly, Jesus will come unexpectedly.***

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. (**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**)

Those who will be "caught up" are those living "in Christ" who will be "seized, carried off" to meet the "dead in Christ" who rose "first," and both will "meet the Lord in the air," not on earth! At exactly the same time, Jesus Christ had predicted,

"The hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth — those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation." (**John 5:28-29**)

This is not two resurrections separated by a thousand years, but one resurrection of two elements of mankind: "those who have done good," and "those who have done evil." Since "the Scripture cannot be broken" (**John 10:35**), these passages are impervious to the Millennial "blender."

***Jesus only spoke of a one-time, universal Judgment.  
"Days of Judgment" are never in Scripture!***

1. "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment" (**Matthew 12:36**), not "days!"
2. Jesus said,

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" (**Matthew 7:21-23**).

"In that day," not "days," that is, a day for the righteous and another day for the wicked separated by a thousand years; "then" He will pronounce condemnation on those who have not entered "the kingdom of heaven."

3. Jesus described Judgment Day:

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world,'" and to those on His left, "Depart

from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels" (**Matthew 25:31-34, 41**).

This "everlasting" judgment (**Matthew 25:46**), is given to all at the same time! Paul wrote:

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. (**2 Corinthians 5:10**)

Abraham rightly asked: "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (**Genesis 18:25**).

### **A Message of Hope for You**

*Obey Jesus now and "watch." All will be "snatched up" for The Day of Judgment.*

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. From what other tribulation(s) has God "snatched" His people?
2. What is the difference between the words "snatched" and "deliverance?"
3. If Jesus now has no kingdom nor throne, what will be different with a second try?
4. If the Devil has not been overcome then: Jesus has failed His purpose (**1 John 3:8**), and the Gospel cannot now be voluntarily obeyed (**Romans 6:17-18**)!
5. If the "Rapture" Doctrine is clearly taught in Scripture, why is there so much confusion over its projected fulfillment? (refer to **Matthew 16:13-17**; **Acts 14:21-22**; **Hebrews 10:32-34**; **1 Peter 2:19-24**)

—-- John T. Polk II, 2018

Lecture Delivered at Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies, Knoxville, TN  
Some of his Bible studies are found at: [www.johntpolkll.com](http://www.johntpolkll.com).