

Church age and the Rapture is soon to be a realised event.

### 3. CAN WE KNOW THE DATE JESUS WILL RETURN TO RAPTURE THE CHURCH?

**NO**, the Bible is very clear on this. The timing of Jesus' return and the end of the age is not for us to know. Scripture nowhere encourages us to try to determine dates. When Jesus was here, he said no one can know the day or hour he returns (Matthew 13: 32-33, 24:36, Mark 13:22).

In these verses, Jesus was talking about his coming to earth as King. The Bible does not tell us the day, or the hour, or the year, Jesus will return to the sky to Rapture the Church.

So, **will Jesus return this year** to Rapture the Church. **No one knows but God himself.**

### 4. IS THERE A DANGER IN SETTING DATES?

Yes, there is a huge danger in setting dates. Not only are we projecting dates based on mere speculation, we are disobeying the words of Jesus in Matthew 13:32-33 and other Bible passages. When we set dates we are offering a false hope, causing discouragement and making Christ a laughing stock (cp. Matthew 24:34-36).

So, in light of these verses, **NO**, it is not possible for anyone to know the date that Jesus is coming for his church. So, don't set dates!!!

### 5. WHAT ABOUT DIFFERENT BIBLE INTERPRETATIONS OF PROPHECY?

There is no question that godly Bible teachers differ in their interpretation of prophetic material. Christians need to learn respect for their fellow members of the Body of Christ. We are admonished to do all we can to "keep the **unity**

of the faith in peace" (Ephesians 4:1), "to be of **one mind**" (Philippians 2:2) and to avoid schism and divisions.

We must accept the fact that many portions of God's word are difficult to understand. This is true of prophetic material. We must be respectful and accepting of one another, even when we hold differing views. Regardless of how we interpret what is written down in the Bible, God himself is the only one who knows the full story and what it is all about and how it will unfold in history. So don't be dogmatic! Leave the unknowns or the unclear with God.

### If we knew that Jesus was coming this year, what would we change?

Would we change our priorities and interests? Strive to be better Christians? Read our Bibles more? Be more involved in Church and Bible studies? Become more active helping others? Reduce our earthly possessions? Would we urgently tell others about Christ, so they will not miss His coming? What **would** you do? What **will** you do?

Now, if all this seems weird or strange to you, then maybe you need to know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour. Please be sure to contact us for more information.

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*So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*  
- John 8:36

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Return  
This Year?**

**Bible  
CORRESPONDENCE  
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# Will Jesus Return This Year?

1Thessalonians 4:3-18

For a very long time people have been asking if Jesus is going to return this year, today or tomorrow. The most popular Q&A among Christians is 'When will Christ return?' Or 'When will the Rapture take place?'

## 1. WHEN WILL THE RAPTURE TAKE PLACE? Do world events point to a soon return of Christ?

The Bible informs us that there must be certain preparations made worldwide before the Tribulation time will begin. Here are a couple of basics!!

1. The Rapture cannot take place until the Tribulation is near. I say 'near' because God may have a transition time between the Rapture and the first day of the Tribulation.

2. The Rapture must take place before the Tribulation age begins. Let me explain.

**The Rapture must happen in order for the Antichrist to be Revealed.** We believe the Church in the world, is the "WHAT" in 2Thessalonians 2:6, that is holding back the coming of the Antichrist. So before the Antichrist can be revealed - the Church must be Raptured out of this world. But this will not happen **UNTIL the last person is saved** into the Church the body of Christ (Romans 11:25).

**The Rapture cannot take place until that moment God decides to take the Holy Spirit off the earth.** This will take place corporately at the Rapture, so that the spirit of iniquity can have full sway or power (2Thessalonians 2:7). We believe the Holy Spirit is the **he** or the **one** in 2Thessalonians 2:7, who will 'restrain or hold back' the Antichrist until the Rapture of the Church. After the Rapture, Satan will be able to give full power to the Antichrist—his future world leader.

**The Rapture must precede the revelation of the Antichrist.** The Bible says that 'after' the Holy Spirit is taken up in the Church, 'THEN' the Antichrist will be made known (2Thessalonians 2:7-8). Note the word "then" in verse 8! What we do not know, is whether or not there will be a transition of days or years after the Rapture, till the Antichrist is revealed to the World. It sounds like it could happen soon after the Rapture. If that is true, then many of the signs of the end, spoken of by Jesus in Matthew 24 as being the 'beginning of sorrows', will be seen by the Church before the Rapture takes place.

## 2. CAN THE RAPTURE BE SOON? - YES!

Many of the worldwide conditions spoken of in Bible prophecy concerning Jesus Christ's return to earth seem to be happening before our very eyes. These **signs** are important for us because the Church must be Raptured to heaven before the 7 year Tribulation begins, which culminates in the Return of Jesus to earth. Jesus spoke of many things that must be in place **BEFORE** the Tribulation can come. Here are just a few:

### • The Jews must be in their land.

This surely began in our time.

a) **They gained their Land in 1948.** But have all the Jews arrived in Israel who are to be there at the beginning of the Tribulation? We do not know this!

b) **They gained their city in 1967,** but there is still great controversy over the temple site because of the Islamic Dome of the Rock.

c) **They must build the third Jewish Temple.** This is being discussed among Jewish leaders in our time. It must be rebuilt because the Antichrist will enter it and desecrate and destroy it – (Matthew 24:15; 2Thess. 2:8).

• The nations of the world must be able to destroy each other Mankind must have the capability to destroy all life on the planet (Matthew 24: 22). Unique to our generation, this

prophecy could not have been fulfilled prior to the invention of weapons of mass destruction, such as the nuclear bomb. Jesus Christ prophesied that human beings would have the ability to destroy all life on the earth. But He said He would intervene before that happened (Mark 13:20). Never have we seen or lived in a time such as this. So we are not far from the Tribulation and subsequently not far from the Rapture!!

### • There must be worldwide Technological Communication.

When Biblical events take place in Jerusalem, everyone around the world will see them on TV. People all over the world have the technology of TV, Internet, iPods, Laptops, Mobile Phones, etc, via satellite networks to be able see what will happen in Jerusalem when the two witnesses testify during the latter half of the tribulation (Revelation 11:3-12). And we also read that when Christ returns 'every eye will see him' (Revelation 1:7). There has never been a time like this in history.

### • There will be frequent Earthquakes.

Jesus said, "There will earthquakes in various places" (Matthew 24:7). I did a little research on the number of earthquakes recorded since 1900. I looked at those records specifically for deadly and destructive earthquakes (that is, those of a magnitude between 6 & 8 on the Richter scale), and here's what I found. Over the 100 year period from 1900 to 2000, there were on average only 4 of these destructive earthquakes per year. However, from 2000 to 2007, they jumped to an average of 28 deadly and destructive ones per year. In the past months, there were 400 earthquakes worldwide, of which 11 were over the magnitude 6.0. It seems to me that this massive increase in earthquakes is moving toward a fulfillment of Jesus prophecy.

These are just a few of the signs of the times - indicators that we are in the Last Days of the