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The background of the book cover is a painting of a vast, arid landscape with rolling hills and a bright, hazy sky, suggesting a desert or biblical setting.

Biblical Types of the Rapture of the Church

by: Pastor Bil Gallatin

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"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye...."

- 1 Corinthians 15:52a

Concerning the Scriptures, Augustine said, *"The new is in the old contained; the old is by the new explained."* One of the ways that God Almighty teaches and confirms the faith of His children is by the use of "Biblical types." This is some of the "hidden manna" that John speaks of in Revelation 2:17. A Biblical type is an event which foreshadows divine fulfillment and always prefigures something future with the requirement of bearing likeness to the antitype.

Abraham, offering his only son Isaac, was a Biblical type of God, offering up His only Son, Jesus. Another type is Abraham's servant who seeks a Gentile bride for his son, Isaac. The antitype of this is God the Father's servant, the Holy Spirit, calling Gentiles in this age to be the bride of His Son, Jesus. (*Genesis 22, 24*)

Another example of Biblical typology is Joseph, the favored son, who is rejected by his brethren and becomes famous in the Egyptian Gentile world. He hides himself from his brethren for many years and then reveals who he is for the second time. The antitype of Joseph is Jesus, the favored Son who is rejected by His brethren, the Jews, and then becomes famous in the present Gentile world. Jesus also will come a second time and reveal Himself to His brethren, Israel. (*Genesis 37-50*)

Another Biblical type is Noah and his family, who were sealed in the ark but went safely through the judgment of the flood. The antitype is the Jews, who are sealed in Revelation 7, and go through the Great Tribulation. (*Genesis 6-9*)

Jesus, Himself, spoke of Jonah as a type. *"For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."* (*Matthew 12:40*) Jesus, Himself, is the antitype of Jonah the Old Testament type. (*Jonah 2*)

David is a type of the shepherd who is king yet does not sit on the throne immediately because of Saul. The antitype is Jesus our shepherd King who is waiting to sit on His throne during the kingdom age. Like Saul, Satan, the god of this world, is still temporarily ruling the earth. (*1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles*)

A beautiful type in Genesis is where Adam is put into a deep sleep, his side is opened, and Eve, his wife, is formed. The great antitype is Jesus who was put into a deep sleep at His crucifixion; His side was pierced, and His bride was created, the Church. (*Genesis 2:21, 22*)

We could go on and on with these marvelous Biblical types, but we want to give some specific attention to the rapture of the Church. Search the Scriptures yourself and let the Holy Spirit show you some beautiful types to strengthen and encourage you in the faith.

The rapture of the Church is an event that we can all depend upon happening just as the Scriptures state. The Holy Spirit has given us types of this event in the Old Testament.

First, where does the rapture come from? Is it a legitimate Biblical term? Clearly, the answer is, yes! In *1 Thessalonians 4:16-17*, Paul encourages the saints by informing them that they will not even experience the Great Tribulation because they would escape it completely. *"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: 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."* Our King James Version of the Bible is taken from Greek manuscripts. The Greek term for being "caught up" is "*harpazo*," or "*snatched up quickly*." In the Latin Version of the Bible, the word that describes "caught up" in *1 Thessalonians 4:17* is "*rapturo*." This is where the English word rapture is derived.

There are many Scriptures in the New Testament telling us that the "*Church*," the "*Bride of Christ*," will not go through the Tribulation with those who reject Christ in the age. Paul tells us in *1 Thessalonians 5:9*, *"For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ."* Jesus tells us in *Luke 12:36*, that the Lord was returning to the earth from a wedding that had taken place in heaven while the 7-year Tribulation was occurring on the earth. The Scripture does not exhort the Jews to look for the Lord who was coming for a wedding. The Lord comes from heaven, a second time, from a wedding. Common sense tells us that a wedding requires both a bride and a bridegroom. In other words, before the Great Tribulation even starts, the Bride of Christ, (the Church) must be "raptured" or "caught up" to heaven to be united with Jesus.

Later, in *Luke 21:36*, Jesus warns true believers to pray that they are worthy to escape the Tribulation, not pray to survive it. If Jesus tells His own there is an escape, you can bank on the fact that there is an escape before the Tribulation. That escape is the rapture of the Church (Christ's Bride), who is not "*appointed unto wrath*." In *Revelation 3:10*, Scripture shows us that faithful believers will be kept from the hour of temptation that will come upon all the world. Notice Jesus did not say that Christians would be kept in the Tribulation. In God's Word, the Holy Spirit is showing us quite a significant difference between going through and being kept from the Tribulation.

Let's think hypothetically for a moment... you are on a helicopter just skipping over the downtown area of San Francisco. The buildings begin to sway, brick and concrete fall on people

in the streets as they scramble to safety. The destruction is considerable, and many lives are lost, but there are some survivors. You, as a reporter, are interviewing people after it is all over. Several people who survived thanked God for keeping them in and getting them through the catastrophe unharmed. You silently say to yourself, I thank God I was above it all in that helicopter; I was kept from it. This is exactly what *Revelation 3:10* means to the Christian. This is the blessed hope of the believer at the rapture of the Church.

To confirm this to our hearts, God has actually designed and controlled events that are reliable types of the rapture of the Church. In *Genesis 2:22* we find that after God made woman, Eve (type of the Church), that Adam did not go to or find her. As his bride, she was brought, or in the Hebrew “bow” to Adam. The word “bow” literally means to “lift up”, “to pull in”, or “to take away.” That is exactly what happens to the last Eve, the Church. She is lifted up, and taken away to Jesus, the last Adam, in heaven. *Genesis 5:24* has an interesting character named Enoch who “*walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.*” He was actually snatched up off the earth into heaven supernaturally before the flood judgment even came. The Hebrew word for took is “laqach” which means “to seize”, “to carry away”, “to take up.” Notice these types in *Genesis 5* and *6*: Enoch, a type of the Church that is snatched off the earth before the terrible flood, and later Noah and his family, a type of the Jews who go through the flood, sealed and protected.

Lot and his family in *Genesis 19*, are an additional example of the godly being delivered before judgment begins. God told Abraham that He was going to destroy Sodom for its sin. Abraham was concerned for his nephew, Lot, who lived in Sodom and was a justified believer. (*2 Peter 2:6-8*) Abraham asked God if He would destroy the righteous with the wicked. (*Genesis 18:25*) The Lord informed him that if there were ten righteous people in Sodom, He would not destroy it. But there was only one righteous man, Lot. God had to remove him and his family before He could send judgment. In *Genesis 19:12-13*, the angels inform Lot that they are sent to destroy. The Scripture reveals, in *Genesis 19:22*, that because of Lot’s presence the angels could not start the judgment of Sodom. Just think, one justified believer was hindering everything. This proves that the great 7-year Tribulation cannot begin until all justified believers in Christ are removed from the earth. Just like Lot, the Church is removed at the rapture and then judgment begins. Now let us look at *Genesis 19:16* and see what the angels did to Lot and his family before the local judgment of Sodom. The Scriptures tell us that Lot lingered and the angels grabbed him, physically picked him up, and carried him out of town. “*They brought him forth and set him without the city.*” The Hebrew word for “brought him forth” literally is to “pluck out”, “to escape”, or “get away”. This happens before the judgement of Sodom, not during or after.

Remember, the Church is the Gentile, heavenly Bride of Christ, God’s Son. Israel is the earthly Bride of God the Father, Jehovah. In *Joshua 2*, a citizen of Jericho named Rahab exercises faith in Jehovah by befriending the Jewish spies. Like the Church, made up of Gentile sinners that are redeemed by faith, this woman was a harlot and a Gentile. The spies informed

Rahab that she should put a scarlet thread (a symbol of Christ's blood) in her window. When Israel returns to destroy Jericho in *Joshua 6*, the troops see Rahab's scarlet thread and she and her whole family are delivered. This is very similar to the blood on the door posts and lintels that delivered the Jews from God's destroying angel in *Exodus 12*. The promise for deliverance parallels Paul's and Silas' statement to the Philippian jailer, "*thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*" (*Acts 16:31*) In *Joshua 6:22-25*, Jericho was burnt with fire and destroyed. Rahab and her family were brought completely out of Jericho before the holocaust, the Church is brought out of the earth's atmosphere to dwell in God's camp, heaven, before the fire of God's wrath begins.

We also have a parable by Jesus in *Matthew 25:1-13*. I believe this text pictures the removal of the five wise virgins (the Church), who truly had oil (the indwelling person of the Holy Spirit) and went forth to meet the Bridegroom (Jesus) away from their dwelling place (the earth), just as will happen at the rapture. Now when we compare this text with *1 Samuel 25:39-42*, we are shown that Abigail is informed that King David (foreshadowing King Jesus) wants her to be His bride. She immediately responds and "hasted and arose" with five of her damsels to depart and go to David for the marriage. (*1 Samuel 25:42*)

Before we go on, one more interesting text should be investigated. In *Song of Solomon 2:8-13*, the Bride hears the voice of her beloved coming for her, then in vs. 10, the Bridegroom speaks and calls his bride to "*Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.*" The Scripture indicates in verse 13 that God's fig tree (Israel) has blossomed prophetically, and also in *Matthew 24:32*, that it is time for the Church to depart. "*Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.*" If you do a word study on "come away", you will find that it literally means to "depart", "to leave undone", or "a quick disappearance." I do not believe that it is stretching the text in seeing a foreshadowing of the mysterious removal of the Church hidden in the Scripture.

Last, we have a curious event in Daniel concerning three Jewish men Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and a fiery furnace. As you read *Daniel 3*, you may miss the mysterious type that God has placed there for our faith and assurance. King Nebuchadnezzar is a type of the actual antichrist who will persecute the Jews during the great 7-year Tribulation. Nebuchadnezzar makes a great fiery furnace so hot that the men who cast the three Hebrew children into the fire were destroyed. As we read, we learn that he was shocked when he looked into the furnace and saw a fourth person, who I believe was Jesus Himself, walking and talking with the three Hebrew children who were unscathed by the fire. The question is, why was Daniel not thrown into the fire? The king's edict affected the whole population. Daniel was one of the most well known and highest officials in the government. He is simply out of the narrative. He just disappeared, to appear again after the terrible fire has ended. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are types of Jews, who, like Noah and his family, are sealed and go through the 70th week of Daniel, also known as the day of God's wrath, or the Great Tribulation. Daniel represents one who accepts Christ, becomes a member of the body of Christ, and will not go through the judgment but will disappear at the rapture.

The Apostle Paul said, *“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”* (1 Corinthians 15:51-53)

In the book of Revelation, after hearing those wonderful words, *“come up hither,”* John sees the risen Christ and the Church. (*Revelation 4:5*) Then in Chapter 6, he sees the judgement of God begin on earth. The antichrist rider on the white horse brings war, famine, and death. In *Revelation 6:15-17*, John sees the kings and multitudes hiding from the *“wrath of the Lord.”* Remember, the Church is not appointed to wrath. (1 Thessalonians 5:9, Nahum 1:2, Romans 5:9, Isaiah 57:1, Song of Solomon 2:13) Remember, God’s judgment could not start until Lot had escaped.

REMEMBER CHURCH, *“So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”* (Hebrews 9:28) For all who are *“looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing, ‘in the air at the rapture’ of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.”* (Titus 2:13)

“...and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

- **1 Thessalonians 4:17b**