

The Secret Rapture Theory

The secret rapture **theory**, much popularized by a **novel**, is relatively new to Christianity. None of the great Reformers embraced it. Yet many sincere Christians today believe this popular (but unbiblical) concept of the second coming. The eight points of the secret rapture theory are as follows:

1. The rapture is silent.
2. The rapture is invisible.
3. The rapture leaves the wicked alive.
4. God removes the righteous to protect them from the tribulation.
5. Christ's second coming will be in two stages: (1) the secret rapture, and (2) the actual coming, which will be glorious.
6. These two stages of the second coming will be seven years apart.
7. The rapture will take place before the revelation of the Antichrist, who then will bring about the tribulation.
8. The wicked will at this point have a second chance to be converted and to serve Christ.

These eight premises have been so widely embraced that most people accept them as fact without pausing to investigate the clear teachings of the Bible. Our only safety is to search the Scriptures daily to determine whether those things are so (like the Bereans in Acts 17:11). Prepare for some surprises.

Biblical Rapture:

1. The rapture is not silent, but rather, is extremely noisy (1 Thessalonians 4:16, Psalm 50:3, Jeremiah 25:30, 31, Mark 13:26).
2. The rapture is not invisible but will be seen by all (Revelation 1:7, Matthew 24:27).
3. The rapture does not leave the wicked alive. They are slain by the brightness of the Lord's coming (2 Thessalonians 2:8, Jeremiah 25:31).
4. God does not remove the righteous from the tribulation but rather protects them in it (Psalm 91:5-12).
5. Christ's second coming will not be in two stages-one secret and the other seen by all. There is **no** Scripture to support a two-phase second coming. The Bible only speaks of one second coming (Hebrews 9:28). The secret rapture system requires combining passages in a way that introduces gaps (like a seven-year separation) that aren't clearly stated in the text itself.
6. The secret rapture teachers claim that there is a seven-year period between Christ's two second comings. Again there is **no** Scriptural support for this conclusion.
7. Antichrist does not appear three and one-half years after the second coming of Jesus. He has been active for centuries (1 John 4:3) and is doing his nefarious work even now.
8. The wicked will not have a second opportunity to be saved. Jesus taught that His second coming will be like the days of Noah. No one was given a second chance once the flood came (Matthew 24:37-39).



Conclusion: The secret rapture is a “novel” idea but not one rooted in the sure Word of God. The return of Christ is consistently described as a single event, public, visible, loud and immediately tied to the resurrection and judgment.