

### Introduction

- The rapture is the belief that Christ will return to gather the church before the tribulation befalls the earth.
- The rapture may be in other passages, but it is not clearly present in Revelation.
- The rapture is not an essential belief, but the final return of Christ is.
- I do not personally hold to the rapture, but I want to give you the best argument for finding the rapture in Revelation.

### Primary Passage

- The primary reference to it can be found in Revelation 12:5, where the male child is caught up to God and His throne.
- The argument is that the child is both Jesus and His body, who are saved from the attacks of the Dragon.
- The dragon is not just Satan, but also symbolic of the satanic kingdoms and powers.
- The woman is not an individual, but the people of God or Israel (Genesis 37).
- If the dragon and woman both have corporate and not just individual identities, then the child may also have a corporate symbol.
- The union of Christ with the Church and being "In Christ" is a major Biblical theme.

### Allusion to Isaiah 66:7

- The phrase "male son" is unusual and unnecessary.
- Sons do not need to be specified to be male.
- Isaiah 66:7 mentions the land Zion giving birth to a male child.
- This child is the nation of Israel and the corporate people of God.
- The argument is that the individual child can represent a corporate people.

### Allusion to Daniel 7

- John uses the word "son" to tie Isaiah 66:7 with Daniel 7.
- Here, Jesus is referred to as "the Son of Man."
- Verse 18 "the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom," implies the Son of Man is not just an individual, but there is a corporate symbol present as well.
- This tries to argue Jesus is often tied together with church, even in symbolic ways.

### Allusion to Psalm 2:9

- The phrase "rod of iron" is unique to Psalm 2 and repeated 3 times in Revelation.
- Revelation 2:26 expands the promise of ruling with the rod to all those who conquer.
- Revelation 19 shows the Messiah ruling with the rod of iron.
- Revelation 12 states that the male child will rule the nations with the rod.
- The male son is both Christ and His body who rule over the nations.

## Allusion to Isaiah 26:16-27:1

- There are parallels between this passage and Revelation 12.
- Isaiah portrays a woman in labor and danger.
- She looks forward to the future resurrection and deliverance.
- She is hidden in a cellar until the fury and judgment of God has passed on the earth.
- After the judgment is done, the dragon will be slain.
- The words "Dragon" and "Serpent" are only used in Isaiah 27:1 and Rev 12:9.

## Snatching

- The "catching" up to heaven does not seem to refer to the ascension of Christ.
- The word is normally translated "to snatch" and is almost always negative or to describe the rescue from danger or peril.
- Revelation 12 does not appear to describe the death or resurrection of Christ.
- This must be used to describe the rescue of the church, at the rapture.

## Protected or Not?

- The woman is protected for 3 and a half years twice.
- The male child is "caught up to God."
- The other offspring of the woman are attacked and killed.
- There is not a clear distinction between Israel, the church, other believers who endure the tribulation.
- It is clear that some protection remains in the tribulation, while untold numbers of believers endure and are killed during the tribulation.

## Conclusion

- I do not personally find this persuasive, but it is the best exegetical argument for the pre-tribulational rapture of the church based on Revelation.
- This significant of an event would need to be more explicitly taught in Revelation.
- God both protects believers in the tribulation and allows many to endure it.
- The essential belief is that Jesus will return eventually and that this is our hope.