

How to distinguish between Rapture vs. Return

As prophesied, the Lord Jesus is coming again. First in the sky for Rapture, and again seven years later to defeat Satan and rule as King of the Earth from Jerusalem. The simplest way to distinguish between scriptures about the Rapture and the Second Coming of Christ, is to determine if the verse in question is referring to the Lord coming “for” His saints (I Thes 4:16), or “with” His saints (I Thes 3:13). Here is a list (not exhaustive) of the differences in the two events:

Rapture/ Translation

1. Translation of all believers.
2. Translated go to heaven.
3. Earth not judged.
4. Any moment, signless.
5. Not in the Old Testament.
6. Affects believers only.
7. Before the day of wrath.
8. No reference to Satan.
9. Comes “for” His own.
10. He comes in the air.
11. He claims His bride.
12. Only His own see Him.
13. Tribulation begins.
14. A mystery.

2nd Coming/ Established Kingdom

1. No translation.
2. Translated saints return to earth.
3. Earth judged/righteousness established.
4. Follows definite predicted signs.
5. Predicted often in the Old Testament.
6. Affects all men.
7. Concluding the day of wrath.
8. Satan bound.
9. Comes “with” His own.
10. He comes to the earth.
11. He comes with His bride.
12. Every eye will see Him.
13. Millennial kingdom begins.
14. Predicted.

Rapture Verses:

John 14:1-3; Receive you to Myself
 Rom 8:19; Revealing of God
 I Cor 1:7-8; Revelation of God
 I Cor 15:51-53; Mystery, twinkling of an eye
 I Cor 16:22; Come quickly Lord
 Phil 3:20,21; Receive body like Jesus’
 Phil 4:5; The Lord is near
 Col 3:4; Christ revealed
 I Thes 1:10; Rescued from wrath
 I Thes 2:19; In presence of Jesus
 I Thes 4:13-18; Meet the Lord in the air
 I Thes 5:9; Not destined for wrath
 I Thes 5:23; Without blame
 II Thes 2:1; Gather together to Him
 II Thes 2:3 Apostasy comes first
 I Tim 6:14; Appearing of Jesus
 II Tim 4:1; His appearing
 II Tim 4:8; Love His appearing
 Titus 2:13; He redeems us
 Heb 9:28; We eagerly await Him
 James 5:7-9; Coming of Lord is near
 I Pet 1:7,13; The revelation
 I Pet 5:4; Shepherd appears
 I John 2:28-3:2; When He appears
 Jude 21; We wait anxiously
 Rev 2:25; Until He comes
 Rev 3:10; Keep from the hour of testing

Second Coming verses:

Ezek 21:27; He comes Whose right it is
 Dan 2:44,45; Kingdom endures forever
 Dan 7:9-14; Kingdom never destroyed
 Dan 12:1-3; Time of distress
 Zech 2:10; Will dwell in our midst
 Zech 12:10; Him Whom they pierced
 Zech 13:9; Jews call on Jesus
 Zech 14:1-15; All nations against Jerusalem
 Zech 14:4; Stands on Mt. of Olives
 Zech 14:5; Holy Ones come with Him
 Zech 14:9; King over earth
 Mal 3:1; Comes to His temple
 Matt 13:41; Angels gather offenders
 Matt 24:15-31; Great tribulation
 Matt 26:64; Jesus comes in the clouds
 Mark 13:14-27; Time of Tribulation
 Mark 14:62; Right hand of power
 Luke 21:25-28; Signs in sun, moon, stars
 Acts 1:9-11; Jesus will come in the sky
 Acts 3:19-21; Time of refreshing
 I Thes 3:13; Comes with His saints
 II Thes 1:6-10; Revealed from heaven
 II Thes 2:8; Jesus defeats Satan
 I Pet 4:12,13; We rejoice at His coming
 II Pet 3:1-14; Day of God
 Jude 14,15; Lord comes with holy ones
 Rev 1:7; Every eye will see Him
 Rev 19:11-20; Heavenly armies with Him
 Rev 20:1-6; Binds Satan
 Rev 22:7,12,20; I Am coming

