

Robert Lightner Th.D

**I. Course Description:**

To go through the various arguments, passages of Scripture, and doctrines that surround and explain the Rapture of the Church. To see this doctrine in the total context of Biblical prophecy and also in the light of the Lord's work in the Church.

**II. Course Objectives**

1. To thoroughly understand all the implications of the Doctrine of the Rapture.
2. To study in detail the various doctrinal arguments and passages.

**III. Course Textbooks**

Required Texts:

- John Walvoord, *The Rapture Question*, Zondervan, 1979, ISBN: 9780310341512  
 Renald Showers, *Maranatha Our Lord Comes*, FOI, 2010, ISBN: 9780915540228  
 Mal Couch, *Exegesis of the Rapture Passages*, PDF in notes section

**IV. Evaluation of Student Performance**

1. **Class Attendance** – for **Campus** students, due to the concentrated nature of the lectures, one unexcused class absence will reduce final grade by a letter grade. A 2<sup>nd</sup> unexcused absence will result in an additional research assignment required for a passing grade. A 3<sup>rd</sup> unexcused absence will result in a failing grade. **Extension and Online** students must listen to the recorded lectures in their entirety and must fulfill all other format-specific requirements in order to receive a passing grade.
2. **Reading Assignments and Accountability** – Chapters from the required texts will be read weekly per Section V - Course outline & Assignments. A one page single spaced summary will be written in accordance with the schedule given in Section V.
3. **Research Assignments** –
  1. All students must answer the 60 questions in Section VII of the syllabus. The professor is expecting a minimum of ¼ single spaced page answer per question. Be complete. If a multiple question is given, the professor is looking at a ¼ page answer for each question number. For example question 36-40 will require 1 ¼ pages.
  2. Students must write a 15 page double spaced paper on the Doctrine of the Rapture.
4. **Course Exams** – There are no course exams.
5. **Online Interaction** – Online students will have three weekly online assignments: (1) email reading accountability to the Advising Professor; (2) email a brief (50-75 words) observation of a key point from that week's lecture; and (3) respond to Advising Professor observations and or questions.
6. **Campus students** will submit assignments as directed by the Professor.  
**Online Students** will submit assignments directly to the Online Professor.

7. **Scoring Rubric**

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Campus &amp; Extension</u>	<u>Online</u>
Attendance or Online Participation	Pass/Fail/Reduction	25
Reading Component (Reading & Accountability)	30 (40 if no exams)	25
Research Component (Papers & Projects)	40 (60 if no exams)	25 (50 if no exams)
Exam Component (if applicable)	30 (if applicable)	25 (if applicable)
<b>Total Points:</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

## **V. Course Outline & Assignments**

### **Class 1 – Introduction**

- a. **Importance**
- b. **Relation to other doctrines**
- c. **Relation to Hermeneutics**

---

### **Class 2 – The Comings of the Lord**

- a. **The First Coming**
- b. **The Rapture**
- c. **The Second Advent**
- d. **The Rapture and Millennial Systems**

Reading Component – Showers Part 1.

Research Component – Answer course questions 1-7.

---

### **Class 3 – The Revelation of Ecclesiology to Eschatology**

- a. **Two Peoples and Two Programs**
- b. **The Church as a mystery**
- c. **The Church age as a parenthesis**

Reading Component – Showers Part II.

Research Component – Answer questions 8-17.

---

### **Class 4 – The Nature of the Coming Tribulation**

- a. **The coming tribulation and Daniel's seventieth week.**
- b. **The tribulation in the Old Testament**
- c. **The tribulation in the New Testament**
- d. **The Seal, Trumpet, and Bowl Judgments**
- e. **The tribulation and the day of the Lord**

Reading Component – Couch Entire PDF.

Research Component – answer course questions 18-27.

---

### **Class 5 – Posttribulationism**

- a. **Varieties**
- b. **Arguments used in defense of posttribulationism**

Reading Component – Walvoord Chap 12-13.

Research Component – Answer course questions 28-35.

---

### **Class 6 – Midtribulationism**

- a. **Definition**
- b. **Arguments to defend Midtribulationism**

Reading Component – Walvoord Chap 11.

Research Component – Answer course questions 36-41.

---

### **Class 7 – Partial Rapturism**

- a. **Definition**
- b. **Arguments used to defend partial rapturism**

Reading Component – Walvoord Chap 10.

Research Component – answer course questions 42-52.

---

### **Class 8 – Pretribulationism**

- a. **Definition**
- b. **Arguments defending pretribulationism**
  1. **Primary Arguments**
  2. **Secondary Arguments**

Reading Component – Walvoord chap 20.  
Research Component – Answer course questions 53-60.

---

### **Class 9 – Last class – Papers due**

Reading Component – No reading assignment due.  
Research Component – Research paper is due.

---

## **VI. Tyndale General Policies and Procedures**

### **Assignment Format**

All assignments and coursework are to be turned in via email. Students are not required to turn in assignments in hard copy. Students must send any required notes, questions, papers, etc. via email as separate attachments in Works or Word format (Wordpad and Wordperfect are not to be used for Tyndale coursework).

The subject line for all submitted coursework should be formatted as follows to ensure receipt of the material:

*Campus Students:* C, Professor Name, Class # & Name, Student Name, Assignment Title  
(e.g.: C, Johnson, BIBL2301 Hermeneutics, Smith, Paper #1)

*Learning Center Students:* LC Location, Campus Prof. Name, Class # & Name, Student Name  
(e.g.: Mason, Johnson, BIBL2301 Hermeneutics, Smith)

*Online Students:* O, Online Prof. Name, Class # & Name, Student Name, Assignment Title  
(e.g.: O, Johnson, BIBL2301 Hermeneutics, Smith, Paper #1)

Electronically submitted coursework will be returned along with a grade sheet via email after the course has been graded.

### **Assignment Due Dates**

**Campus** students will submit all assignments according to the schedule as outlined in the syllabus. Final assignments are to be submitted no later than the last class period of the semester.

**Online** students will submit all assignments at their own pace as they are completed, but the course must be completed in 12 weeks. The course may be completed sooner if possible.

### **Writing Guidelines**

All research papers and theses are to follow Turabian guidelines as found in Kate L. Turabian *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations 7<sup>th</sup> Ed.* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007). All students are required to purchase a copy of *A Manual for Writers* to ensure the proper format. All work is to follow these guidelines:

1. Font & Font Size: Times New Roman, 12 point
2. Double space
3. 1-inch margins (File – Page Setup – Margins)
4. Indent paragraphs .5 inch (Format– Paragraph – Indent left)
5. Page numbers – lower center or upper right –beginning with the first page of text, but not on title page; Arabic numbers only (e.g., 1, 2; not Roman numerals); no other header or footer
6. Title page; then title again on page one (for formal papers)
7. In essay-type papers, ALWAYS write logically, persuasively, focused on the assigned topic; include a succinct introduction that informs the reader concerning the subject of your paper, and a succinct conclusion that summarizes your main points and expresses your resulting conclusion.
8. Use footnotes rather than endnotes, except in dissertation/thesis, where section endnotes are also acceptable.
9. All work should be proofread, as errors in spelling, grammar, and syntax will reduce assignment grade.

### **Plagiarism Policy**

Plagiarism is against Tyndale policy, and any act of plagiarism will result in disciplinary action up to student dismissal from further study at Tyndale. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to quoting materials without proper citing or reference. Cutting and pasting of online and other materials requires proper citing via quotation marks and footnote.

## Contact

If you anticipate difficulty in meeting any of these requirements, please contact your Professor (Campus & Online students) or the Registrar's office (Extension & Intensive students) as soon as possible. A complete review of all Tyndale policies and procedures can be found in the [Tyndale Theological Seminary and Biblical Institute Academic Catalog](#).

## VII. Course Questions

1. Where does the word "rapture" come from?
2. What does the word mean?
3. Why does the church NOT go through the Tribulation?
4. What is the Tribulation?
5. Describe and define Postmillennialism.
6. Describe and define Amillennialism
7. Describe and define Premillennialism.
- 8.-10. What is the attitude of all three to the rapture?
11. How is the rapture the "Blessed Hope"?
12. What is the Great Tribulation.?
- 13.-14. What is the hermeneutical argument?
15. Define the Partial Rapture theory.
16. Give at least two of the general reasons for rejecting a Partial Rapture.
17. Give the scriptural basis for the Partial Rapture theory.
- 18.-27. On these passages used to support the Partial Rapture theory, give ten reasons (on their ten major passages) of what is wrong with their arguments.
28. Define Midtribulationism.
- 29.-31. Give several strong arguments against it.
32. Define Posttribulationism.
- 33.-35. Give several strong arguments against it.
- 36.-40. What is the issue of the "Seventh Trumpet" and "Last Trumpet arguments"? How do you explain the difference?
41. Is the rapture in the Gospels? Explain your position.
- 42-52. Break down in detail 1st Thessalonians 4.
- 53-56. Break down in detail 1st Thessalonians 5.
57. What is the meaning of the Day of the Lord?
58. Why do you think some resist the doctrine of the Rapture?
59. Of Walvoord's 50 arguments for Pretribulationism, which ones are most compelling? (The top ten)
60. What has this course meant to you and done for you spiritually?