



The Secret Rapture

A TRUE STORY from the Arkansas City (EAP), September 2001

A Little Rock woman was killed yesterday after leaping through her moving car's sun-roof during an incident best described as "a mistaken rapture" by dozens of eye witnesses. Thirteen other people were injured after a twenty-car pile up resulted from people trying to avoid hitting the woman, who was apparently convinced that the rapture was occurring when she saw twelve people floating up into the air, and then passed a man on the side of the road whom she claimed was Jesus.

"She started screaming "He's back, He's back" and climbed right out of the sunroof and jumped off the roof of the car," said Everet Williams, husband of the woman, 28 year-old Georgann Williams, who was pronounced dead at the scene. "I was slowing down but she wouldn't wait till I stopped," Williams said. "She thought the rapture was happening and was convinced that Jesus was gonna lift her up into the sky," he went on to say.

"This is the strangest thing I've seen since I've been on the force," said Paul Madison, first officer on the scene. Madison questioned the man who looked like Jesus and discovered that he was dressed up as Jesus and was on his way to a toga costume party when the tarp covering the bed of his pickup truck came loose and released twelve adult-sized inflatable dolls filled with helium which floated up into the air.

Ernie Jenkins, 32, of Fort Smith (who's been told by several of his friends that he looks like Jesus) pulled over, lifting his arms into the air in frustration, yelling: "Come back here!" just as the Williams' car passed him.

Mrs. Williams was sure that it was Jesus lifting people up into the sky as they passed by him, according to her husband who says his

wife loved Jesus more than anything else.

When asked for comments about the twelve inflatable dolls, Jenkins replied “This is all just too weird for me. I never expected anything like this to happen.”

Since the early 1970s, Hal Lindsey’s *The Late Great Planet Earth* has sold more than fifteen million copies. In recent years, the *Left Behind™* series by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins (Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers) has sold millions, as well. These facts indicate that there is a general awareness among many Christians that we are living in the time of the end.

Yet, Scripture’s teaching on Second Coming is far different from that advocated in the *Left Behind™* series or by Hal Lindsey.

One of the most quoted passages used in support of the secret rapture teaching is Luke 17:34-37 and its parallel passage in Matthew 24:37-41.

Consider this quote from Matthew 24:37-41:

“But as in the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark. And knew not until the flood came and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then two shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.”

According to the rapturists, this passage indicates that when Jesus comes, one person will be snatched away in the rapture, while the other person will be left to continue life on this earth in the

tribulation period. The amazing thing is that neither Matthew 24 nor Luke 17 indicate that those who are left are engaged in any activity after the coming of Christ. As with so many other texts which are misused, we must examine carefully the context of each passage. once the context is clear, there will be absolutely harmony with the rest of the Biblical teaching on the second coming of Christ.

Matthew 24:37-39 draws a parallel between the end time and Noah's day. In fact, that is the context and the obvious impact of all that Jesus is saying here. The end time is going to be just like Noah's day. In Noah's day, eight people entered the ark; the rest did not. So it shall be in the end time. Some will be taken when Jesus comes, and the others left.

In both Noah's day and in the last days there are people left. In Noah's day, those left were destroyed by the flood (Matthew 24:39). In the last days, those who are left shall be cut asunder (Matthew 24:51). Luke 17:37 indicates that their bodies are left to the eagles to devour. In other words, in both cases, at the time of the flood and at the second coming, those who are left are left for destruction.

There is no indication whatsoever in these verses that those who are left have a second chance after the so-called rapture. The Bible is exceedingly clear that those who are left are destroyed by the coming of Christ. Revelation 19:15-18 describes the same scene when Christ comes and calls for the fowls to devour the mighty men of earth who have not accepted Him.

Here again is a picture not of a second chance, but of a total destruction at the second coming of Jesus Christ.

© Lionel Hartley, 1996, 2002, 2019
www.lrhartley.com
admin@lrhartley.com

Copies online at www.lrhartley.com/seminars/secret-rapture.pdf