

# God's Plan for the Ages Series

## Lesson #022

August 26, 2014

Dean Bible Ministries

[www.deanbibleministries.org](http://www.deanbibleministries.org)

Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.





**GOD'S PLAN**  
FOR THE **AGES**  
**DISPENSATIONS**

**WHY I BELIEVE IN THE RAPTURE**

# GENTILES

# ISRAEL

*Perfect Environment*

*Conscience*

*Human Government*

*Patriarchs*

*Mosaic Law*

*Messianic Age*

*Church Age*

*Tribulation*

**Creation Covenant**

Gen. 1:28-30;  
Hosea 6:7

**Adamic Covenant**

Gen. 3:14-19

**Noahic Covenant**

Gen. 9:1-17

**Abrahamic Covenant**

Gen. 12:1-3

**Mosaic Covenant**

Ex. 20-40

**Logos**

**New Covenant Applied**

## Responsibility

**Fulfill the Covenant:**  
Gen. 1:26-28;  
2:16-17

**Animal Sacrifice**  
Gen. 3:21

**Fill the earth**  
Gen. 9:7

**Stay distinct people**  
Gen. 7:14

**Obey the Law**  
Ex. 19:3-8

**Accept Messiah**

**Faith alone  
In Christ alone**

## Failure

**Ate fruit**  
Gen. 3:1-6

**Evil and Wickedness**  
Gen. 6:5-6

**Built Babel**  
Gen. 11:1-4

**Assimilated**  
Gen. 34

**Disobeyed**  
2 Chron. 36:14

**Reject Messiah**

**Most reject Christ**

## Divine Judgment

**Sp. Death**  
Gen. 3:7-19

**Flood**  
Gen. 6—9

**Confusion of Languages**  
Gen. 11:5-9

**Egyptian Bondage**  
Ex. 1:8-14

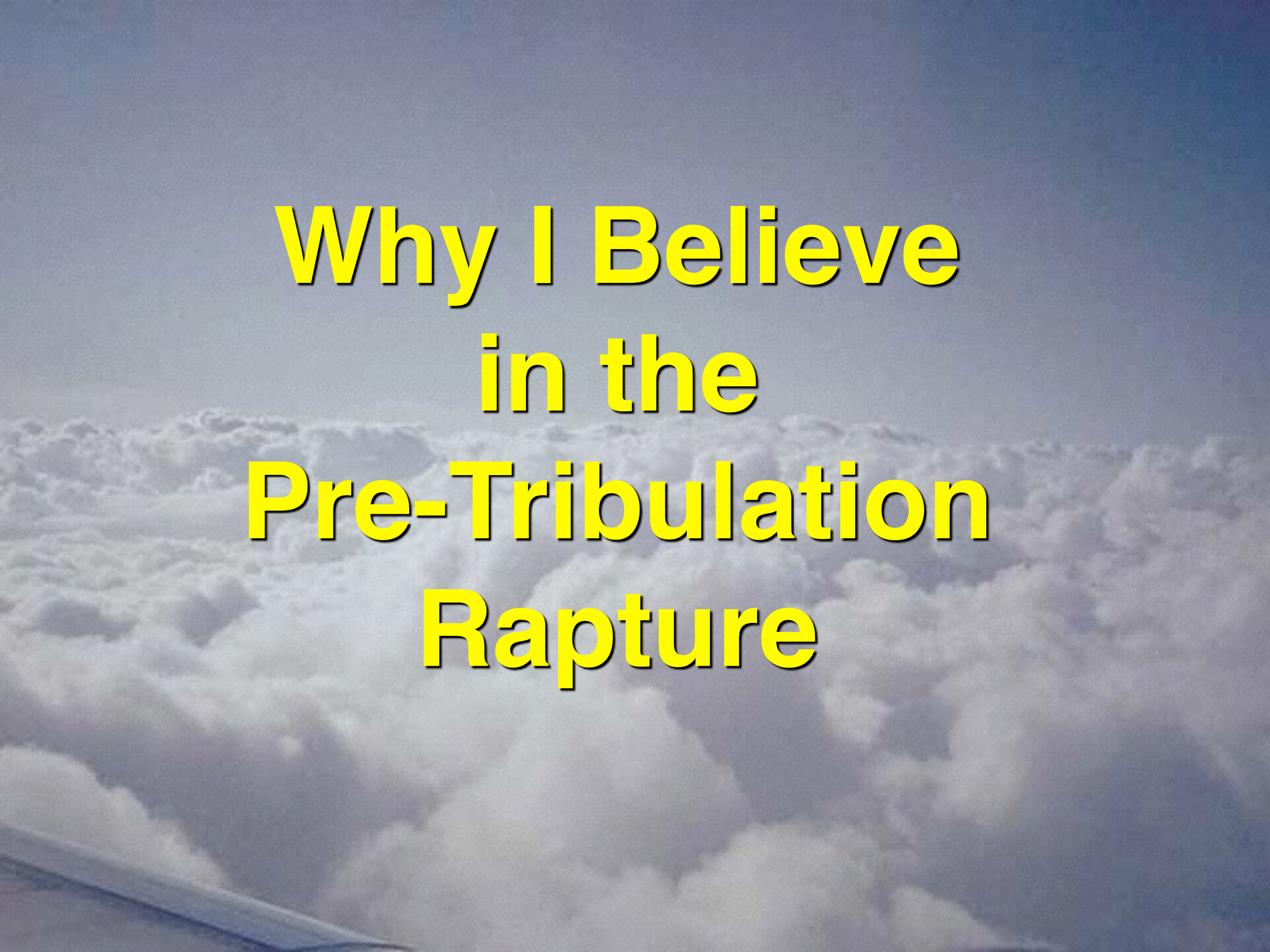
**Diaspora**  
Deut. 28:63-66

**Cross 5th Cycle**

**Tribulation**

# BIBLICAL DISPENSATIONS





**Why I Believe  
in the  
Pre-Tribulation  
Rapture**





**WHAT is the Rapture?**

**WHEN is the Rapture?**





**WHAT is  
the Rapture?**



# **The Rapture is . . .**

**The translation of all living believers from the earth at the end of the Church Age immediately following the resurrection of all dead Church Age believers; the Rapture occurs before the Tribulation begins.**

# RAPTURE VOCABULARY



*harpazó*—“caught up”

“to seize upon with force”

“to snatch up”

(1 Thessalonians 4:17)



**1 Thess. 4:13, “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope.**

**1 Thess. 4:14, “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.**

**1 Thess. 4:15, “For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep.”**



**1 Thess. 4:16, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first.**

**1 Thess. 4:17, “Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.**

**1 Thess. 4:18, “Therefore comfort one another with these words.”**



## **1 Thessalonians 4**

**The purpose: To encourage believers in relation to the death of Christian loved ones. (1 Thess. 4:13; 5:11).**

**He reminds them that he had already taught about future things (1 Thess. 5:1)**

**His use of “times and seasons” shows a change from Jesus’ use in Acts 1:6, 20 years earlier.**



**1 Thess. 4:13, “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope.”**



**1 Thess. 4:14, “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.”**



**1 Thess. 4:15, “For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep.**

**1 Thess. 4:16, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first.**

**1 Thess. 4:17, “Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.”**



**1 Thess. 4:15, “For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep.**

**1 Thess. 4:16, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first.**

**1 Thess. 4:17, “Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.”**



**1 Thess. 4:15, “For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep.”**



# 1 Thess. 4:16

1. The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout [*keleusma*–shout].



**1 Thess. 1:10, “and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”**

**John 13:3, “Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God,”**

**John 14:3, “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”**



**Psa. 110:1, “The LORD said to my Lord,  
‘Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your  
enemies Your footstool.’ ”**

**Acts 2:33, “Therefore being exalted to the  
right hand of God, and having received  
from the Father the promise of the Holy  
Spirit, He poured out this which you now  
see and hear.”**

**Acts 5:31; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 8:1,  
10:12, 12:2; Revelation 3:21**



**1 Thess. 4:16, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first.”**

**κέλευσμα**

*keleusma*

**dat neut sing**

**command,**

**shout**



**John 5:28, “Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice,**

**John 5:29, “and shall come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.”**



**Rev. 4:1, “After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, ‘Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.’ ”**



**1 Cor. 15:51, “Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,**

**1 Cor. 15:52, “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.**

**1 Cor. 15:53, “For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.”**



**1. The Lord descends from heaven**

**2. Three simultaneous audible events:**

**Shout**

**Voice of the archangel**

**Trumpet**

**3. Dead in Christ rise first (only Church Age believers are *in Christ*)**

**4. Living Church Age saints are raptured**



**1 Thess. 4:17, “Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”**



**John 14:1, “Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.**

**John 14:2, “In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.**

**John 14:3, “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”**



**Mennonite commentator on Revelation, J. B. Smith, noted eight striking parallels between John 14:1–3 and 1 Thess. 4:13–18.**

**He also compared John 14:1–3 with the Second Coming passage of Revelation 19:11–12 and found no significant similarities.**

**These eight similarities also occur in the same order in both John 14:1–3 and 1 Thess. 4:13–18.**



- 1. Both passages focus on providing comfort.**
- 2. Both emphasize belief in Christ as the key issue.**
- 3. Both passages focus on God the Father and Jesus the Son of God. (John 14:1; 1 Thess. 4:14).**
- 4. Both passages instruct their audience: “I told you” (John 14:2), “I say to you” (1 Thess. 4:15).**



- 5. The return of Jesus is mentioned next in both.**
- 6. In John, Jesus says He will receive them; Paul says believers will be caught up to Him.**
- 7. The destiny of believers is “to Myself” (John 14:3) and “to Him” (1 Thess. 4:17).**
- 8. In both passages, believers will continue to be with the Lord.**



**Acts 1:11, “and they also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.’ ”**