

Understanding the Three Raptures: A Study on Harvests, Churches, and Revelation

Today we're going to talk about how as many people believe that there is one rapture of the—and um—what I want to do is I want to be able to clarify and speak a little bit about there not actually being one, but being three. And I can show you that not only from the Bible, but I can also show you how that relates specifically to identify specific churches within Revelation that fit within those groups.

Let me start by saying first that when I talk about the rapture—or should I say when anybody mentions the rapture—there's lots of different things that will come up. Some people will just be so desperately against it. The word *rapture* is not in the Bible, they say, or, you know, "You're an escapist," or, "We're all gonna go through it," or—

There are various different flavors of people that talk about it.

The Three Views on the Rapture

- There's the **pre-tribulational camp**: They say that the rapture of the church is actually going to take place *before* this period of tribulation starts, a period that's normally identified as a seven-year period.
- Then you have those people that say, "**No, no, no**"—what's actually going to happen is that there is going to be a rapture, *yes*, but it's going to take place *in the middle* of this tribulation period.
- Then, of course, there's a huge group that are staunch in that "**Nope, you are not saying what the Bible says**"—the Bible says clearly that after the tribulation of those days, that's when the gathering is going to happen.

They are staunchly and firmly in Matthew, and that is the triestes that they go by.

Well yes—it's the Word of God, no doubt. And it is true. But what I'm here to tell you is that **all three positions are true**, and all three can be shown in the Bible.

Why Do People Only See One?

I think the problem is that people in general will be able to stick onto one, and they can't imagine—or maybe perhaps the Holy Spirit hasn't revealed it to them yet, or perhaps they have not been taught something in their particular church—or it's a denominational thing that they may have just picked up on or accepted.

But I think that at this particular time—especially—this is a time where we have to really identify what the Lord says, what the Lord is going to be doing, and to identify that **yes, Jesus is coming back**, and **He's coming back for people**.

He is going to have a **gathering—a harvest—of people** in **three different times**.

Three Harvests from the Old Testament

Where do I get that from?

If we look at the Old Testament—and we look at Leviticus, excuse me, **Leviticus chapter 23**—what we find is that there are **three times**—three different times of the year—in which **all Jewish men** are supposed to present themselves to the Lord.

There's a lot in that to unpack, but effectively, what I'm trying to say is that those three particular times are:

- **Passover**
- **Pentecost**
- **Tabernacles**

Each of these three feast periods coincide with a **specific harvest**:

- **Passover** → *Barley harvest* (Spring)
- **Pentecost** → *Wheat harvest* (Summer)
- **Tabernacles** → *Grape harvest* (Fall)

Now, each of these feast periods has sub-feasts—for example, during Tabernacles we see:

- Feast of Trumpets (*Yom Teruah*)
- Day of Atonement (*Yom Kippur*)
- Feast of Tabernacles

But they are all collectively referred to under the broader banner of **Tabernacles**.

Connecting the Harvests to the Church

I'm suggesting that as we look at a deeper level at what the Word says, we're going to find out that **all of these are true**. We can find the scriptures that point to every single one of these.

But I think what the problem is is that people will generally take their particular position and either just completely discount any of the other scriptures that tend to speak against their particularly held position—because there's almost like this feeling like:

"Well there can only be one, and it's only for one purpose, and therefore I have to find some argument against these others."

And I'm thinking: **Why?**

Why don't we just let the Word of God and His plan stand, and let's just read the Word? Let's be Bereans and let's look at this and see what the Word says.

Synoptic Gospels and the Three Harvests

If you will just allow me—and say, "Okay, Wayne, I will just go ahead and take you at face value," and I will say, "All right, there are three harvests"—

Well, I'm going to go a step further and say that the three harvests can actually correspond to a **group identified in the Synoptic Gospels**.

- **Matthew:** Written to the *Jews*
- **Luke:** Written to the *Gentile Church*
- **Mark:** Written for a *left-behind church*

So follow me here:

- **Barley Harvest** = *Bride of Christ* → **Luke**
 - **Wheat Harvest** = *Left-Behind Church* → **Mark**
 - **Grape Harvest** = *Unbelieving Jews* → **Matthew**
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First Fruits and the Full Harvest

Each harvest has a **first fruits** and a **full harvest**.

- Jesus was the **first fruits** of the *barley harvest*, but that's not all—**there's a full harvest** too.
- The same goes for the **wheat harvest** and the **grape harvest**.

Barley and wheat are both grains—connected but different. The **grape harvest**, however, is completely different. It happens in the fall and involves *fruit*, not grain.

The Three Churches in Revelation

Let's look at **Revelation chapter 3**. Here's where we see the parallel clearly.

1. Church of Sardis = *Dead Church* → Grape Harvest / Matthew

“Be watchful... I will come upon you as a thief...”

That “thief” language comes straight from **Matthew 24:43**.

But not everyone fits in this group. In **1 Thessalonians 5**, Paul says:

“But you, brothers, are not in the darkness so that this day should overtake you as a thief...”

So not every group will be surprised. The **church of Sardis** will be. But not the others.

Also, note: even in this dead church, there are **a few names** who have not defiled their garments. This shows that even in compromised churches, there are still true believers.

2. Church of Philadelphia = *Faithful Church* → Barley Harvest / Luke

“I have set before you an open door...”

Where do we see that open door again?

- **Revelation 4:1**: “A door was opened in heaven...”

This is the **barley harvest rapture**—before the tribulation. Jesus says:

“I will also keep you from the hour of temptation...”

The Greek word “**ek**” means “**out of**”, not “through.” This church is kept completely out of the tribulation.

3. Church of Laodicea = *Lukewarm Church* → Wheat Harvest / Mark

“Because you are lukewarm... I will spew you out of my mouth.”

This group isn’t raptured with the barley group. Jesus says:

“Buy from me gold tried in the fire...”

That’s the **tribulation**—fire that purifies them. They don’t have an open door—they have a **knock**:

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock...”

They have to go *through* tribulation, but they still have a chance to overcome.

Summary: Three Groups, Three Harvests

Here's what we've seen:

Gospel	Church	Harvest Type	Timing
Luke	Philadelphia	Barley	Pre-Tribulation
Mark	Laodicea	Wheat	Mid-Tribulation
Matthew	Sardis	Grape	Post-Tribulation

Final Thoughts

I pray that as you've read through this, you're able to identify which group you fit into. If the barley harvest happens and you've missed it—there's still hope. Be the one that **buys gold tried in the fire**. Be the one that receives **white raiment**.

And if you haven't yet given your heart to Jesus—**do it now**. Don't wait.

Call out to Him:

“Jesus, save me. I give myself to You. Forgive me of my sin. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit.
I want all of me to go for all of You.”

If you've done that, **tell someone**. Confess Him before others.

“If you confess Me before men, I will confess you before My Father.”

Welcome to the family of God. God bless you in Jesus' name. I give thanks for you all.

Amen.