THE STORY...

Athaliah, the ruthless queen of Judah, was even more wicked than her mother Jezebel. When her son Ahaziah died, she quickly seized control of the kingdom by executing all of her grandsons who might reign in her place. “But Jehosheba, ... sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, ... and hid him ... from Athaliah, so that he was not killed. So he was hidden ... in the house of the LoRD for six years, while Athaliah reigned over the land.” 2 Kings 11:1-2.

For six years only a handful of trusted people knew that the royal child was living and hidden in the temple of God. Jehoiada, the high priest, loved and trained young Joash as his own son. For six years Jehoiada planned and prayed for the best moment to present this rightful heir to the people. Finally the old priest secretly summoned trusted captains in the army and showed them that the youngest son of Ahaziah was still alive. They decided to wait until Friday evening, when all of the faithful people would come to the temple for Sabbath worship, to present the young king to them. With hundreds of armed soldiers on every side, Jehoiada brought the heir of David's throne before the crowd and introduced him. At first the people were astonished, armed soldiers on every side, Jehoiada brought the heir of David's throne before the crowd and introduced him. At first the people were astonished, but then they saw the royal crown placed upon his head, “they clapped their hands and said, ‘Long live the king!’” 2 Kings 11:12.

Now when wicked Athaliah heard the noise of trumpets and all the people rejoicing, she came running into the temple only to discover that her reign of terror was through. That day she and her followers were slain, and Joash was given the kingdom.

The Bible tells us that another son of David will soon emerge from the heavenly temple amidst the blowing of trumpets to receive His rightful kingdom and to destroy the wicked.
11. What will prevent the righteous from being deceived?

Isaiah 8:20 To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

NOTE: God's people will not be deceived, because they will know from a study of God's Word just how Jesus will come (Acts 17:11). Any appearing that is not in agreement with Scripture is a counterfeit and must be rejected. Jesus forewarned us.

Matthew 24:25 See, I have told you beforehand.

12. Would it be safe to go see a false Christ?

Matthew 24:26 Therefore if they say to you, "Look, He is in the desert!" do not go out.

Matthew 24:33 So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is nigh, and come... My Father only.

NOTE: Only God knows the exact time of the second coming. All date setting is out of harmony with the Bible. But Jesus made it clear that when we see the signs of His coming fulfilled (Matthew 24:4-53; Luke 21:8-33; and 2 Timothy 3:1-8), we can know that His coming is very near—even at the doors.

13. What can we know about the time of Jesus' return?

Matthew 24:36 But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

Matthew 24:33 So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is nigh, and come... My Father only.

NOTE: People will be saved by grace but rewarded based on their conduct, not illness forever. But rather, joy and peace unspeakable forever.

14. What will the angels do at Jesus' second coming?

Matthew 24:31 His angels ... will come in power and great glory and will bring before the Son of Man.

NOTE: Your guardian angel (Matthew 18:10) will probably be the first to greet you at Jesus' return. What a blessed thought! No wonder the Bible calls the rapture leav... faith. The rapture is silent.

15. Since we are living just before Jesus' second coming, how should we relate to this solemn, glorious event?

Matthew 24:44 Therefore you also be ready for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Matthew 24:12 And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one... his face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?!

NOTE: During this horrendous final earthquake, the wicked—perpetrated with fear—will prefer for the rocks and mountains to fall on them rather than to face King Jesus unprepared.

18. What will the righteous say when Jesus appears?

Isaiah 25:9 Behold, this is our God; We have waited for Him, and will rejoice in His salvation.

John 14:3 I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am, there you may also be.

NOTE: Jesus' most thrilling purpose in returning to earth is to take His children to the glorious home He has prepared for them. No more tears, woes, heartaches, or illness forever. But rather, joy and peace unspeakable forever.

19. What is the prime purpose of Jesus' second coming?

Matthew 24:33 Therefore if they say to you, "Look, He is in the desert!" do not go out.

Matthew 24:36 But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

ANSWER: The secret rapture theory is based on eight premises that have been so widely embraced that most people accept them as fact without pausing to investigate. However, our only safety is to search the Scriptures daily to determine whether those things are so (Acts 17:11).

The eight points of the secret rapture theory are as follows:

1. The rapture is silent.
2. The rapture is invisible.
3. The rapture leaves the wicked alive.
4. God removes the righteous to protect them from the tribulation.
5. Christ's second coming will be in two stages: (1) the secret rapture, and (2) the actual coming, which will be glorious.
6. These two stages of the Second Coming will be seven years apart.
7. The rapture will take place before the revelation of the Antichrist, who then will bring about the tribulation.

8. The wicked will at this point have a second chance to be converted and to serve Christ.

To examine these points fully is beyond the scope of this limited supplement, but we will briefly cover each point here. Points one and two were covered in this lesson, but they are mentioned again for emphasis. Prepare for some surprises!

1. The rapture is not silent, but rather is extremely noisy. The Scriptures say Jesus will descend "with a SHOUT, with the VOICE OF THE ARCHANGEL, and with the TRUMPET OF GOD." 1 Thessalonians 4:16, emphasis added. David says, "Our God shall come, and shall not keep silent... it shall be very tempestuous [violent, whirling] all around Him." Psalm 50:3. And Jeremiah says, "The Lord will roar from on high, ... He will mightily roar ...; He will give a shout. ... A noise will come to the ends of the earth." Jeremiah 25:30, 31. Nothing about it is quiet! Christ will come with a noise heard around the world. Mark this well. If you are living when Jesus returns, you will hear Him come. Your ears will ring with catastrophic noise.

2. The rapture is not invisible; it will be seen by all. All of the angels will come with clouds, and every eye will see Him. Revelation 1:7. Rest assured, if you are living at Jesus' second coming, you will see Him come!

3. The rapture does not leave the wicked alive. They are slain at the Lord's coming (Isaiah 11:4; Malachi 4:1; 2 Thessalonians 2:8).

4. God does not remove the righteous from the tribulation, but rather protects them through it (Psalm 91:5-12).

5. Christ's second coming will not be in two stages—one secret and the other seen by all. There is only one second coming, and it will be seen by every living person on earth. There is no Scripture to support a two-phase second coming.

6. The secret rapture teachers claim that there is a seven-year period after the second coming of Christ to be saved after the Second Coming. All sinners will be destroyed at the Second Coming. There is no second opportunity for anyone after Jesus' second coming.

YOUR RESPONSE

Jesus is coming in the clouds very soon. Will you plan now to be ready to meet Him?

ANSWER: Prepare for some surprises!

Supplement

This section provides additional information for further study.

The Secret Rapture Theory

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