“Rapture” as it relates to Daniel 2

Reading - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

***(2 Timothy 4:3-4) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; {4} And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.***

Webster defines rapture as: **Extreme joy, ecstasy, or bliss.** It is derived from a Latin word ***raptum***, which means to snatch away.

There are some places where the word Rapture has been substituted to explain the Passages. ***(Matthew 24:37-41) But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. {38} 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 into the ark, {39} And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. {40} Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. {41} Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)***

***(1 Corinthians15:51-52) Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, {52} In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.***

The same passage in Matthew 24, which refers to Daniel, then links this Rapture with a Tribulation. ***(Matthew 24:15-18) When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoever reads, let him understand:) {16} Then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains: {17} Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: {18} Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.***

**modern proponents of a rapture**

Many people have been influenced by the writings of Edgar Whisenant in relation to the course of events that will lead up to this proposed Rapture/Tribulation. ***(Deuteronomy18:20-22) But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. {21} And if thou say in your heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken? {22} When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken, but the prophet has spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.***

**main point of the lesson** - All of the testimonies and the prophecies of the Old Testament were fulfilled by and through Jesus in the establishment of His church.

***(Colossians2:14) Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;***

This stone made without hands can only be Jesus. ***(Mark 14:58) We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands***.

**the interpretation vs 36-45**

Vs 38 Nebuchadnezzar represented the head of Gold.

Vs 39 the silver kingdom represented the Medes & Persians.

Then came the Macedonian kingdom under Alexander the Great.

Vs 40 Details the iron, killing machine of the Roman Empire under Caesar.

The Roman Empire was so large that Rome could not rule it alone. Vassal kings were set up to rule in the Provinces. Men like the Herods were this “clay” that was mingled with the “iron” of the Romans. Look at vs 43 ***And whereas thou saw iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay***.

Edward Gibbons in his book **The Rise & Fall Of The Roman Empire** says these vassal kings over time grew in power. The people became a lazy & corrupt welfare state to where the Empire collapsed from within. The Book of Revelation tells us all about that fall in the same type of symbolic language. The reason for that is because they are describing the same event; not some future events into which we stick a Rapture. Verse 44 is the key to the entire Chapter: ***And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.***

***John 18:36*** Jesus said, ***My kingdom is not of this earth or else my servants would fight to keep me from being delivered to the Jews.***

***(Matthew 16:28) Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.***

This means that His kingdom was to be established in the Apostles’ lifetime. And that fits the time line established in Daniel 2 perfectly.

I would like to challenge you to find any verses that even **hint** of a Rapture in the book of Revelation. The only thing that I could find that was taken was a beast and a false prophet. ***(Revelation 19:19-20) And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. {20} And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him***, ... ***These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone***. [Not taken into heaven]