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Hello EVERYONE, I would like to explore the question of the Rapture with you. First off, I want you to understand I am not a Bible scholar, I'm just a normal Christian looking for God's truth. Ok, so what brought my interest to this particular topic? A brother gave me a booklet titled "What is meant by the Rapture"? The booklet is produced by Moments with the Book - and all scriptural references are out of the King James. Please keep in ~~my~~ mind, I am not trying to force my opinion on anyone and I suggest anyone who is interested in this topic to read the scriptures mentioned and pray for God to reveal his truth to you. Almost everyone has heard of the Rapture in which the Savior will take all believers to heaven before the great Tribulation foretold of in the book of Revelation. Most of us have heard of the popular book series "Left Behind" the first book of which tells of the Rapture. So let us begin. According to the pamphlet the 3 major bible scriptures that tell us of the Rapture - John 14:1-3 / 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 / 1 Corinthians 15:51-56. Ok, let us start with John 14:1-3, so what I just read says that Jesus is going to go to the Father and prepare a place for us and then come for us so that we can be where he is. Praise God. However, I did not read anything about when. A very wise man once told me that in order to fully understand scripture we should never take it out of context, doing so has a tendency to alter its true meaning. Proverbs 7:15 - Exodus 15:26 - Hebrews 11:6 all speak of being diligent in concern to life with God, diligent means hardworking or being careful. So let us be diligent and read all of John 14. Alright, after reading the entire chapter I see no reference to how or when Jesus will come for us. So let us move on 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17. Well this certainly talks of the Savior coming and those who are believers but it mentions the dead and the living being taken into the clouds. So, once again let us be diligent and read the whole chapter. Well it says Jesus will come with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel and the trump of God. So let us go to Revelation and see when Jesus will come so gloriously for the dead and living believers. Alright after reading Revelation the second coming of Christ is in chapter 19. Revelation 3:10, Jesus is speaking to the church of Philadelphia and talks about keeping them from the hour of temptation that will come upon all the world, to

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TRY those who dwell UPON the earth. This could be speaking of a RAPTURE but it is speaking directly to the church of Philadelphia. Also, Revelation 7:9 mentions a great multitude which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne and before the Lamb. Verse 14 says - These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. However, I do want to point out that this is after some of the seals have been opened and it says came out of great tribulation and it says nothing of the dead in Christ. Let us continue with 1 Corinthians 15:51-56. OK, this talks once again about the dead being raised and about the last trump - mortals becoming immortal and death losing its sting and the grave its victory. Shall we read all of 1 Corinthians 15. Alright, this talking about the resurrection of Christ only being the first, resurrection of believers is coming. It speaks of the end with Christ surrendering up the kingdom and his rule to God the Father and that Jesus will be subject to God and that God will be all in all. So let us search Revelation for the resurrection of the the dead, the last trumpet, death's defeat and God ruling all. OK, Revelation 20 talks of the resurrection of those dying during the reign of Satan for the witness of Jesus, this is called the first resurrection because the rest remained dead. After the 1,000 yr. reign of Christ the war with Satan takes place and God sends fire from heaven to devour the enemy. Then all of the dead come before the throne of God to be judged according to their works. Revelation 21 talks of heaven coming to earth, verse 4 tells about God himself wiping away ^{our} tears and there is no more death nor sorrow or crying or pain. Glory to God he is so awesome in his love. But this could in no way be speaking of a Rapture before the great tribulation, this is after God's victory over the enemy. So I once again recommend diligence and ask you to read all of Revelation. Revelation 6:11 is where the souls of the martyrs ask to be avenged and are told to wait (rest - opps) for a little while until their fellow servants and brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled. So after the seals have been opened there are believers who have not raptured, who are to be

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MARTYRED. Ch. 7 speaks of the 144,000 of the tribes of ISRAEL, who ARE SERVANTS of God to be sealed in their foreheads - these believers HAVE NOT BEEN RAPTURED. Revelation 11:12 tells of the 2 witnesses being killed AND AFTER 3 1/2 DAYS COMING BACK TO LIFE AND ASCENDING TO HEAVEN IN A CLOUD. Ch. 13:7 TALKS ABOUT THE BEAST WHICH WAS GIVEN POWER BY THE DRAGON TO MAKE WAR ON THE SAINTS AND OVERCOME THEM. Ch. 14:12-13 SAYS - BLESSED ARE THE DEAD WHICH DIE IN THE LORD HENCEFORTH. Will there be A RAPTURE before the GREAT TRIBULATION. I DON'T KNOW. HOWEVER I WILL SAY THIS, WITH ALL THE SIGNS AND WONDERS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION TO WARN US OF THE END TIME NO WHERE DOES IT SAY ONE DAY ALL OF THE TRUE BELIEVERS OF CHRIST WILL DISAPPEAR OFF OF THE FACE OF THE EARTH. ALSO, BEING DILIGENT I WANT TO POINT OUT REVELATION 22:18. IT SAYS - IF ANY MAN SHALL ADD UNTO THESE THINGS, GOD SHALL ADD UNTO HIM THE PLAGUES THAT ARE WRITTEN IN THIS BOOK, AND IF ANY MAN SHALL TAKE FROM THE WORDS OF THE BOOK OF THIS PROPHECY, GOD SHALL TAKE AWAY HIS PART OUT OF THE BOOK OF LIFE AND OUT OF THE HOLY CITY AND FROM THE THINGS WHICH ARE WRITTEN IN THIS BOOK. Amen. THAT IS A VERY SERIOUS WARNING. The booklet started out telling us that the word RAPTURE IS NOT FOUND ANYWHERE IN THE BIBLE. LOOK I HAVE SEEN ANYTHING IN MY READING OF REVELATION THAT CONFIRMS A MASS DISAPPEARANCE OF TRUE BELIEVERS BEFORE THE GREAT TRIBULATION. THERE IS NO WHERE IN THE BIBLE A PLACE WHERE GODS' CHILDREN GOT A FREE PASS FROM TRIALS. SO I ASK YOU, WHY WOULD IT HAPPEN WHEN WE ARE MOST NEEDED? WE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD SO WHAT CHANCE WOULD GODS' LOST CHILDREN HAVE IF WE DISAPPEARED DURING THE DARKEST DAYS THE EARTH WILL EVER KNOW. PRAY AND GOD TO SHOW YOU THE TRUTH, HE WILL. GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU ALL OF YOUR DAYS. LOVE AND PEACE

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