

Are We Living in the Last Days?

Technology, global control, and the blessed hope of the Church



Central Theme: The world is becoming capable of what Scripture has long described - and the Church waits for Christ, not wrath.

I. Defining the Last Days

The phrase “**last days**” must be interpreted by context. In the New Testament, the last days for the Church began with Christ and continue through the present Church Age. In the Old Testament, the last days often look forward to Israel’s future trouble, deliverance, Second Coming, and kingdom.

Representative passages: Hebrews 1:2; 1 John 2:18; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; Deuteronomy 4:30; Isaiah 2:2; Micah 4:1.

Summary: We are living in the last days of the Church, while Israel’s final “last days” begin with the Tribulation.

II. Foundational Conditions

The Rapture requires no prior signs. Yet several foundational, stage-setting conditions may already be present and make the Tribulation world increasingly plausible:

- **Israel in the land** - recognizable national Israel with Jerusalem central.
- **Western / Roman power base** - a geopolitical sphere capable of final confederation.
- **A man capable of becoming Antichrist** - positioned for rapid emergence after restraint is removed.
- **Global control capability** - identification, surveillance, communication, and economic restriction can converge.
- **Nothing must occur before the Rapture**, but the post-Rapture world can form quickly.

III. Technology and the Possibility of Global Control

Technology is not evil in itself, but it can become the architecture of control. Revelation 13 describes a future regime capable of controlling worship, commerce, and economic participation. For most of history, universal enforcement would have been impossible; now the infrastructure for such control is no longer unimaginable.

Data and Surveillance

- AI analysis of images, speech, purchases, location, and behavior.
- Facial recognition tied to databases.
- Drones and cameras extending surveillance.
- In-home devices normalizing always-connected life.

Economic and Identity Control

- Digital payments that are account-based and traceable.
- Digital identity linking banking, travel, health, government, and online access.
- Biometrics: face, fingerprint, iris, voice, gait, and palm.
- Programmable systems could condition participation.

Capability chain: identify -> track -> restrict -> reward -> exclude. The issue is technological feasibility, not fulfillment.

IV. No Time in History Like Now

No ancient ruler could monitor the world, control global markets, track movement, shape information, or restrict commerce universally. The present world is different because surveillance, identity, payment, transportation, communication, and data systems can now converge.

This does not prove that we are seeing fulfilled prophecy today. It does show that the world described by Scripture is easier to imagine than in any prior generation. The issue is not that today’s systems fulfill prophecy, but that the world now possesses capabilities that earlier generations could scarcely picture.

The stage is being set.

Teaching Guardrails

- We are discussing **stage-setting**, not date-setting or headline fulfillment.
- Technology is not the fulfillment; it is the possible architecture of enforcement.
- The Rapture remains signless and imminent.
- The Church waits for Christ, not the Antichrist, wrath, or global control.
- Current conditions may be preparatory, but Scripture remains the authority.
- The proper response is watchfulness, holiness, evangelism, and hope.
- We read the world through the Bible, not the Bible through the world.

The Blessed Hope: The Rapture of the Church

The Church is waiting for Christ, not wrath.



V. What Is the Rapture?

The Rapture is Christ catching up His Church to meet Him in the air. The key verb is *harpazo* - to snatch, seize, or take suddenly and forcefully. This event ends the Church Age, gathers all Church Age believers to Christ, and begins the Church's heavenly hope.

Two Events at the Rapture

- **Bodily resurrection** of all dead believers of the Church Age.
- **Bodily transformation** of all living believers.
- Both groups are gathered together to meet the Lord in the air.

Key Point

All are escorted to heaven to be with Him forever. The Rapture is synonymous with the **resurrection of the righteous of the Church Age** and is intended to comfort, purify, and focus the Church.

VI. Key Rapture Passages

John 14:1-3

Christ promises to receive His own to Himself in the Father's house.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

The Lord descends; the dead rise; living believers are caught up together.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

Believers are changed in a moment; death is swallowed up in victory.

VII. Features of the Rapture

- **Imminent** - Christ could return at any moment; nothing else must happen first.
- **Sudden** - in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.
- **Comforting** - "encourage one another with these words."
- **Purpose** - ends the Church Age before divine wrath.

VIII. Pre-Trib Reasons

- Church absent on earth in Revelation 4-18.
- Twenty-four elders appear enthroned, crowned, and clothed in white.
- Rapture and Second Coming are related but distinct.
- The Church is not appointed to wrath.
- A time gap is needed; the restrainer must be removed; imminency is preserved.

IX. Not Appointed to Wrath

The Church faces trials in this age, but not the outpouring of divine wrath.

- Jesus rescues us from the wrath to come.
- God has appointed us to obtain salvation through Christ.
- The blessed hope directs the Church toward Christ's appearing.

X. Rapture vs. Second Coming

The Rapture

Christ comes in the air; for His saints; believers are removed; imminent and signless; blessing and comfort; Tribulation follows.

The Second Coming

Christ comes to the earth; with His saints; unbelievers are judged; preceded by signs; visible to all; Millennium follows.

Final Summary: The Church is living in the last days of the Church Age. Yet the Church waits for **Christ**. **Key Truth:** The Rapture requires no prior signs.

