

## **Overview of the Partial Rapture Theory**

This view is in contrast to the previous views in that the question of the timing of the rapture is not the focus but rather the nature of the rapture.

### **Description of the Partial Rapture Theory**

This view teaches that only those who are spiritual, who are prepared for the Lord's return, will escape the terrors of the tribulation by being taken in the rapture. Carnal Christians are raptured progressively during the tribulation as they become righteous and the tribulation period is a time for disciplining believers toward holy living.

### **History of the Partial Rapture Theory**

The partial rapture theory originated with Robert Govett in 1835 in his book Entrance into the Kingdom: The Apocalypse Expounded by Scripture. Later proponents of this view include J.A. Seiss, G.H. Pember, G.H. Lang, Ray Brubaker and the cult of the Local Church Movement (Witness Lee).

### **Analysis of the Partial Rapture Theory**

The defense of this view is wrongly based on a few passages which refer to Israel during the tribulation period (Luke 21:36; Matthew 24:41-42; Matthew 25:1-13) and which are based on a false distinction between believers (Hebrews 9:28).

The difficulties with this view are as follows:

- The rapture is never presented as a reward for godly living in the Scripture.
- The partial rapture view destroys the unity of the body of Christ.
- The partial rapture view destroys the imminent hope of the return of Christ for all believers.
- What happens to carnal Christians who died before the rapture?