

Where does the word rapture appear in the Bible. Also the word tribulation referring to that ~~xxx~~ future time of trouble?

Let me answer the second part of this question first. The word tribulation is used in the Bible of that coming time of great trouble on this earth. Jesus Christ Himself predicted that "there will be great tribulation, such as was not since the ~~work~~ beginning of the world, to this time" You'll find that in Matt. 24:21. In the book of the Revelation John saw a vision of a certain group of redeemed people in heaven, and he asked who they were. The answer was: "these are they which came out of the great tribulation and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb" Rev. 7:14.

It's quite clear that the word tribulation is used in the Bible of the coming period of tribulation. But what about the word rapture? The word rapture is not used in the Bible. It's an English word that comes directly from a Latin word that means to seize or snatch away. We use it today when speaking about being seized or overwhelmed with emotion. We say, I'm enraptured with the music. That means I'm caught up in the music. Thus when we use the word of the rapture of the church we mean the catching away of the church from earth to heaven.

If the word rapture is not in the Bible how did it get into our theological vocabulary? It does appear in the Latin Bible in 1 Thess. 4:17 where our English Bible translates it "caught up." And of course both the English and the Latin translate the original Greek word which ~~does~~ means the same: to catch up. So it really is a biblical term which comes to us from the Latin Bible. And it speaks of an event which will assuredly happen some day. When the Lord comes, some will be caught up, raptured, and some will not. You can be sure that you will be if you know the LJC as your personal Savior.

Did Mary and Joseph have children of their own? We know, of course, that Jesus' birth was a miraculous one in that he had only one human parent, his mother Mary. Joseph was not involved in the birth of Jesus, and this ~~is what we celebrate~~ miraculous virgin birth of Jesus is what we celebrate at Christmas time.

But did Joseph and Mary have children after the birth of Jesus? Yes, but not until after Jesus was born, for the Bible says that Joseph did not know Mary sexually until she had brought forth her firstborn son Matt. 1:25.

Do we know how many children they had? Not precisely. We do know that Jesus had 4 half-brothers. ~~They were named~~ Their names are listed for us in Matt. 13:55, and they were James, Joseph, Simon and Judas. Now you probably recognize at least 2 of those names: James and Jude. For each of them wrote one of the books of the N.T.. The author of the epistle of James was James, the half brother of Jesus, and the author of the epistle of Jude was His half-brother Jude. Of the other 2 brothers we know nothing.

Did Jesus have any half-sisters? Yes, that same verse says that he had "sisters." So, although we do not know exactly how many that means, it must mean at least 2. Now if you add them up you see that including Jesus there were at least 7 ^{children} in the family. And that must have been a house full.

Imagine growing up in the same house with Jesus Christ? That must have been a great privilege for His half-brothers and sisters.

Yes, it would seem so, but apparently they did not take advantage of it.

What do you mean? The Bible tells us in John 7:5 that His brothers did not believe in Him during the years He was ministering here on earth. Only after the resurrection did they understand and believe in Him. James, of course, became the leader of the church in Jerusalem. You know, you can belong to the family of Jesus today. Jesus said: My ~~mother~~ brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it Lk8:21.