

OUR BLESSED HOPE, THE RAPTURE

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NIV)

¹³ Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.

¹⁴ We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

¹⁵ According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

¹⁸ Therefore encourage each other with these words.

**THE BIBLE IS VERY DEFINITE.
JESUS IS COMING BACK.**

- **HE IS COMING WITH POWER AND GREAT GLORY.**
- **HE IS COMING TO JUDGE THE WORLD.**
- **HE IS COMING SUDDENLY. THERE IS NO WARNING OF THE DAY**

BEFORE IT HAPPENS ONE MORE SPECIAL EVENT MUST OCCUR.

- JESUS HAS TO COME BACK TO COLLECT HIS CHURCH.... HIS BRIDE.
- FOR CHRISTIANS THIS IS OUR BLESSED HOPE

Titus 2:11-13 (NIV)

¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.

¹² It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,

¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ,

THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH. 1Thess. 4.13-18

- **PAROUSIA.** v15 *1 Thess 4:15 (NIV)* ¹⁵ *According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till **the coming of the Lord**, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.*
Royal official State visit
- **HARPAZO.** *1 Thess 4:17 (NIV)*
¹⁷ *After that, we who are still alive and are left will be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.*
- **RAPTURE**
Latin “**Rapere**” Same sense.

PROBLEMS FOR THE EARLY CHURCH

- **THEY EXPECTED THE LORD'S RETURN.**
- **THE TEACHING OF JESUS.** *John 14:3 (NIV) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.*
- **THE ANGELS STATEMENT.** *Acts 1:11 (NIV) "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."*
- **PAUL CLEARLY TAUGHT IT.** Thessalonians was the first letter
- **ALL EXPECTED AN EARLY RETURN.** Always written with a sense of imminence. **"Perhaps today"**

THE FIRST PROBLEM.

- What would happen to those who had died?
- **LATER PROBLEM.**
- What happen to the living when he comes?

PAUL REVEALS THE MYSTERY OF THE RAPTURE

- **1 Corinthians 15:51 (NIV)** *Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed.*

- **WHAT IS A MYSTERY?**

A new revelation from God that he had hidden until now.

- Until now the only way to heaven was to die.
- Now not all will die -- but all will be changed.

THE PROCEDURE

- **1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 (NIV)**

¹⁵ According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

¹⁶ For the **Lord himself** will come down from heaven, with a **loud command**, with the **voice of the archangel** and with **the trumpet call of God**, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left **will be caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

¹⁸ Therefore encourage each other with these words.

THE LORD HIMSELF COMES DOWN FROM HEAVEN

- “COMES DOWN” *Parousia* Official visit. v16
- THE MEETING IS IN THE AIR. V17
- JESUS IS COMING FOR HIS BRIDE

THREE GREAT SOUNDS. V16

- *V16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.*

- **THE SHOUT OF COMMAND**

- **THE VOICE OF THE ARCHANGEL**

- **THE TRUMPET BLAST**

1 Corinthians 15:52 (NIV) ⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

IT ALL HAPPENS IN AN INSTANT

- THE DEAD IN CHRIST RISE FIRST
- LIVING BELIEVERS AN INSTANT LATER
- THE HOLY SPIRIT IN US IS OUR SEAL.
- WE ALL TOGETHER MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR.
- IT IS ALL THE WORK OF OUR LORD JESUS

Philippians 3:20-21 (NIV) ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

WHAT NEXT?

- **THEN IN HEAVEN IS THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB.**
- **PICTURE OF THE TRADITIONAL JEWISH WEDDING.**

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE RAPTURE AND THE SECOND COMING.

- **THE RAPTURE.**

IN THE AIR. NOT SEEN BY WORLD.

- **THE SECOND COMING. JESUS IS COMING TO EARTH**

. Seen by all. Will come back the same way that he left.

Acts 1:11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Zechariah 14:4 (NIV)

⁴ On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south.

We return to earth with the Lord when he come in power and majesty to claim his kingdom.

WHAT WILL BE THE IMPACT ON THE WORLD?

- **NO TRUE CHRISTIANS LEFT**
- **RESTRAINT REMOVED**
- **2 Thess. 2:7 (NIV)** For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.
- **FINAL WARNING TO THE WORLD BEFORE JUDGEMENT**

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE FOR US NOW?

- IT CHANGES OUR PERSPECTIVES.
- RESURRECTION DAY IS REUNION DAY.
- CHANGES OUR PRIORITIES
- GIVES INCENTIVE
- GIVES URGENCY TO US

JESUS IS COMING BACK AGAIN

- **HE IS COMING SOON**
- **IT IS OUR BLESSED HOPE**

- **V18 ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER
WITH THESE WORDS**

