

The Rapture

TEXT: I Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:1-10

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: John 14:1-3; Revelation 22:20

KEY VERSE: For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. — I Thessalonians 4:16,17

According to Scripture, the Second Coming of Christ encompasses two separate events: the Rapture of the saints, experienced only by those who are overcomers; and the Revelation of Christ, when Jesus comes with His saints from Heaven to set up His Kingdom. During the intervening time, the raptured saints will meet at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, while the Great Tribulation is taking place here on earth. In this lesson we will be studying the Rapture of the Church.

1. The dictionary gives several definitions for the word rapture. Which definition best fits the event described in our key verse?

2. At the time of the Rapture, who will rise first? What happens next?

3. What is the difference between the words resurrect and translate? Paraphrase our key verse using these two words.

4. We read in Revelation 1:7 that every eye shall see Him. This is speaking of the Revelation of Christ, not the Rapture. Why are we sure that only the saints will see Christ at the Rapture?

5. What is the warning implied in our text in I Thessalonians 5, as well as in Matthew 24:27 and I Corinthians 15:52?

6. The Bible teaches that there will be a great separation when Jesus comes for those who are ready. After reading Luke 17:34-36 and Matthew 25:10-12, describe the two groups mentioned in these accounts.

7. What change will take place in our physical bodies at the Rapture (Philippians 3:20,21)? Using the following Scriptures, describe the characteristics of Jesus' glorified body:

Matthew 28:9

Luke 24:31

Luke 24:41-43

John 20:19

Acts 1:9

8. In reading the following Scriptures, what conclusions can we draw as to the timing of the Rapture in regard to the Tribulation and the revealing of the Antichrist? See Isaiah 26:20,21; Matthew 24:37; Luke 21:36; II Thessalonians 2:3-8.

9. What promises do these Scriptures contain for those who look for His coming?

Matthew 24:45-47

John 14:3

Hebrews 9:28