

# Lesson 10

## The Rapture

Invite the Holy Spirit to teach and speak to you through the Word of God as you meditate on I Corinthians 15:51-54 and I Thessalonians 4:13-18 every day this week.

As you read through the verses presented this week, look for a special verse to make your memory verse for the week. We will share our verses at the end of our discussion time.

29. What was a new or interesting thought from last week's lesson?

*“Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.”*

*I Thessalonians 4:17*

The Bible teaches that one day the Lord will return to receive believers unto Himself. This event has come to be called *the rapture* from the Latin word meaning caught up.

30. Read I Corinthians 15:51-54 and I Thessalonians 4:13-18 and discuss what you learn from these verses.

31. What did Jesus say in John 14:1-3?

32. Tell what happens to Enoch in Genesis 5:21-24?

33. What happens to Elijah in II Kings 2:11?

34. Jesus called his followers the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world” in Matthew 5:13-14. Think about the properties of salt and light. What will it be like on the earth when the salt and light are suddenly removed?

There are four commonly held views about when the rapture will occur:

Those who hold the **Pre-Tribulation** view believe that the Rapture of the church will occur before any of the events of the Tribulation.

Those who hold the **Mid-Tribulation** view believe that the church will be raptured in the middle of the seven-year period that will come at the end of this age.

Those who hold the **Post-Tribulation** view believe that the church will be raptured just as Jesus Christ returns to earth at the end of the Tribulation.

Those who hold the **Pre-Wrath** view believe that the church will be raptured, during the Tribulation but before the wrath of God is poured out.

The Pre-Tribulation view holds that the Lord’s return for His followers is imminent, that it may occur at any time, no Scripture needs to be fulfilled before this event.

The other views on when the rapture will occur hold that believers will go through some, if not all of the seven year period leading up to the Lord’s return in Revelation 19 and that some specific events need to occur before the rapture.

We know that the rapture will occur, but we cannot be certain about when the rapture will occur. We must be wary of anyone who espouses that the Bible clearly teaches one view over another without acknowledging that the Scripture is not clear.

35. What is the attitude of the Bereans in Acts 17:11 and how can we emulate their attitude as we approach the subject of the timing of the rapture?

36. Read Revelation 3:10 and discuss what Jesus teaches here.

Those who hold the “Pre-Trib” view believe that Revelation 3:10 teaches that believers will be taken out of the earth before the time of testing, hence pre-tribulation. Those who do not hold to the “Pre-Trib” view have a different take on Revelation 3:10, “Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth.” These groups believe that the Lord will keep believers during the time of testing in the sense of John 17:15.

37. Read John 17:15 and discuss.
38. Read I Thessalonians 5:9. Those who hold the Pre-Trib view think that this verse means we will not see any of the Tribulation. Those who hold Mid-Trib and Pre-Wrath views feel that believers will be on the earth for much of the Tribulation, but will be raptured before the bowls of wrath are poured out, Revelation 15 and 16. The Post-Trib view is that this verse is talking about eternal destinies. What do YOU think?
39. Those who hold to the Pre-Trib view see the “restrainer” in II Thessalonians 2:6-9 as the Holy Spirit who resides in believers being taken away through the rapture. Those who hold the other points of view believe that the restrainer is the government in place at the time under the sovereignty of God. Read these verses and discuss what you think.

Those who hold the Pre-Trib view see Revelation 4:1 when John is told to “Come up here” as a veiled reference to the entire church being called to come up here, to be caught away, raptured, to heaven. Those who do not hold this view point out that the phrase “Come up here” is also in Revelation 11:12.

Those who hold the Pre-Trib view also point out that the Greek word for church, ekklesia is used numerous times in Revelation 2 and 3, but is not used again after chapter 3, suggesting that the church is not on the earth during the remaining part of Revelation. Those who do not hold this view say that it is not valid to make an argument from silence.

Those who do not hold to the Pre-Trib view also feel that the Lord’s great emphasis upon persevering, overcoming and holding fast, watching and being prepared in both Matthew 24 and Revelation 2 and 3 would be unnecessary if the Lord is going to rapture believers away before the time of testing.

40. Read II Thessalonians 2:1-5. The phrase “our gathering together to Him” may be a reference to the rapture. If so, what must occur before the rapture can happen? (Note: The lawless one, the Antichrist, will show himself by taking his seat in the temple which will begin a three and a half year period of time called the Great Tribulation.)
41. What does Jesus promise in Matthew 28:20?

42. Some scholars believe that the rapture will occur when the seventh trumpet, the last of the trumpet judgments, sounds in Revelation 11:15-19. See I Corinthians 15:52 and discuss what you think.
  
43. Based on your study this week, when do YOU think the rapture will occur? Remember the Scripture is not clear on this, there are many valid points of view and we need to be gracious and humble, but we need to give this some careful thought!
  
44. What does I John 3:2 teach?
  
45. Describe some of the things that Jesus was able to do in His resurrected body. See John 20:19-23, 26-29; 21:1-14 and Luke 24:36-43.
  
46. Share the memory verse that you found through this week's study and why you chose it.
  
47. From your meditation this week on I Corinthians 15:51-54 and I Thessalonians 4:13-18, what do you want to remember?

## Lecture Notes: