

THE END - Part 3

INTRODUCTION

[2Peter 3:9-11](#)

Notice how our understanding of the future, particularly the events surrounding the end of the world, will greatly affect how we live!

Now, we said to you that one of the events that will take place in the *end of the world* is the *resurrection of the saints*.

[1Corinthians 15:22-24](#)

According to this passage, the resurrection of the saints (i.e. those who die *in Christ*) will take place at the END! This fact, namely that the resurrection will take place in the *end*, has tremendous implications on other end-time events, like the *rapture of the Church*!

[1Thessalonians 4:16, 17](#)

Paul is not only describing the resurrection in this verse, he's also describing the rapture (i.e. the "catching up" of those who are "alive and remain"). Now, some may say that the idea of a 'rapture' taking place in the end of the world isn't taught in Scripture. This is because the word 'rapture' doesn't appear in the Bible.

While it *is* true that the word 'rapture' doesn't appear in our *English* Bible, it is NOT true to say that the Bible does not appear in any Bible. Neither is it true to say that the Bible does not teach in a rapture. We must understand that the word 'rapture' is a transliteration of a Latin word (*rapiemur*), which is a translation of the words "caught up" in **verse 17**. Therefore, if look at a Latin version of the Bible, you would see the word *rapiemur* (or rapture) appearing in [1Thessalonians 4:17](#)!

[1 Thessalonians 4:17 \(LLEIV\)](#)

Now, the thing I really want to point out in this passage is the fact that both the rapture and resurrection of the saints occur TOGETHER!

[1Thessalonians 4:17](#)

The reason this is important is because we have already seen that there's only ONE resurrection of the saints, AND that resurrection will take place at

the END of the Tribulation. Well, if the resurrection takes place with the rapture of the Church, then the rapture must also take place at the end of the Tribulation!

I repeat, the Bible teaches that THE RAPTURE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE END OF THE TRIBULATION! I believe Paul *confirms* this in [1Corinthians 15](#).

[1Corinthians 15:51, 52](#)

When Paul says, “We shall not all sleep (or *die*), but we shall all be changed” he’s saying that not everyone will be resurrected from the dead. Some will be raptured from the earth. However, there is ONE thing everyone will experience—and that’s a CHANGE! Moreover, the part of us that will experience a *change* at the rapture and resurrection of the saints is our *bodies*!

[Philippians 3:20, 21](#)

The kind of body we receive in *the next life* will reflect the way we have pleased God in *this life*.

[1Corinthians 15:38](#)

[Revelation 19:7, 8](#)

As a result, there will be *lesser* and *greater* bodies given out during the time of the resurrection!

[1Corinthians 15:41, 42](#)

These ‘bodies’ (glories) will be a kind of *reward* in the resurrection.

[Luke 14:13, 14](#)

[1Corinthians 15:51, 52](#)

Notice when this ‘change’ will take place—at the LAST TRUMP. According to the Apostle Paul, the resurrection AND rapture of the Church will take place at the “last trump.” The phrase “last trump” is actually a reference to the end of the Tribulation, which is marked by the blowing of the *seventh* (or last) *trumpet*.

[Revelation 11:12, 15](#)

Now, we should point out that God has, at various times in Scripture, used the *sound of a trumpet* to mark a rapture-like experience!

[Joshua 6:15](#)

This is an account of when Israel took possession of the Promised Land. It also happens to be a picture of the end times when the saints shall take possession of their full redemption!

For example, notice how Israel didn't take possession of the Promised Land until the *morning of the SEVENTH DAY, AND* after they *circled Jericho SEVEN TIMES*. We're living in the morning of the *SEVENTH MILLENNIAL DAY* (or 7 thousand years since creation). Also, circling Jericho *SEVEN TIMES* is a picture of how we must go through *SEVEN YEARS* of the Tribulation before we are able to enter heaven!

[Joshua 6:16, 20](#)

Notice what happened *AFTER* Israel circled Jericho seven times —*SEVEN TRUMPETS* were blown and the people *WENT UP* into Jericho from wherever they were! Again, this is a picture of how *AFTER* the seventh (or last) trump of the Tribulation the saints will 'go up' into heaven from wherever they are in the world!

[Matthew 24:29, 31](#)

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What impact do you think having a knowledge of the ‘end times’ can have on a person? Do you see this subject having the same impact on you?
2. In this lesson we shared with you TWO important events that will occur ‘together’ (or at the same time) during the *last days*. Can you name those events? Also, if we accept that these two events occur together, how does that affect how we look at the Tribulation?
3. In [1Corinthians 15:51](#), [52](#) Paul states that we will not all *sleep* (or die), but we shall all be *changed*. What two end-time events is Paul describing by this statement? Secondly, what part (or *parts*) of us will be “changed” at the time of these two events?
4. In [1Corinthians 15:52](#) Paul also states *when* this ‘change’ will take place—at the *last trump*. Can you think of any other times in the Bible where God used the sound of a “trumpet” to mark an event similar to the events being described by Paul in [1Corinthians 15:51](#), [52](#)? (Hint: There’s MORE than one example!)