

Resurrection 101: Its Prophecy!

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes

NKJV - *"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55 "O Death, where [is] your sting? O Hades, where [is] your victory?" 56 The sting of death [is] sin, and the strength of sin [is] the law. 57 But thanks [be] to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."*

- I. The Rapture's **PROPHECY** (v.50-52)
- II. The Rapture's **NECESSITY** (v.53)
- III. The Rapture's **VICTORY** (v.54-57)
- IV. The Rapture's **ETERNITY** (v.58)

I. The Rapture's **PROPHECY** (v.50-52) - *"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."*

- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - *"But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, **lest you sorrow** as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him*

those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the **trumpet** of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 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**. Therefore **comfort** one another with these words."

- **KWNT** - "...us who are living and who are left behind, together with them we shall be **snatched away forcibly** in masses of saints having the appearance of clouds for a welcome-meeting with the Lord **in the lower atmosphere**."
- **1 Thessalonians 1:10** - "...to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who **delivers us from the wrath to come**."
- **1 Thessalonians 5:9,11** - "For God **did not appoint us to wrath**, but to **obtain salvation** through our Lord Jesus Christ, ... 11 Therefore **comfort** each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing."
- **Revelation 3:10** - "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also **will keep you from the hour of trial** which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth."

Prophecy Chart...

II. The Rapture's **NECESSITY** (v.53) - "**For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.**"

- A **Physical** Necessity - Our current bodies cannot enter into the environment of the Kingdom of Heaven.
- A **Biblical** Necessity - The Rapture is mentioned/foreshadowed in both Old & New Testaments.
- A **Theological** Necessity - There are numerous theological problems, if the Church doesn't get raptured before the wrath of the Tribulation:

God's Promise isn't true - Luke 21:36

God's Sacrifice isn't enough - John 19:30

God's Love isn't constant - Rev 22:9

III. The Rapture's VICTORY (v.54-57) - "So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55 "O Death, where [is] your sting? O Hades, where [is] your victory?" 56 The sting of death [is] sin, and the strength of sin [is] the law. 57 But thanks [be] to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

- **Victory over DEATH:** The Rapture is the beginning of your **physical immortality** and resurrection life.

"To a saved man, death is his release from the imprisonment of this world, and his departure to the enjoyments of the next word." - Matthew Henry

"Death is like a dark valley that we all have to pass through. It is a dark place, but for the Christian it is a safe place. Christ has cleared out the enemies who used to lurk there." - Colin Smith

"Death may be the final destination of our earthly journey, but it is merely the tunnel that transports us to the very real world beyond." - Charles Swindoll

"I don't wait for the the undertaker, but for the "Uptaker" - Jesus Christ!" - Cory Ten Boom

After dying in an accident, three friends go to Heaven for orientation. They are all asked the same question:

"When you are in your casket, and friends and family are mourning over you, what would you like to hear them say about you?"

The first guy immediately responds,

"I would like to hear them say that I was one of the great doctors of my time, and a great family man."

The second guy says, *"I would like to hear that I was a wonderful husband and school teacher who made a huge difference in the children of tomorrow."*

The last guy thinks a minute and replies,

"I guess I'd like to hear them say... look, he's moving!"

- **Victory over HELL:** The Rapture is the escape-hatch to **Heaven** and Glory.

There was this Christian lady that had to do a lot of travelling for her business, so she did a lot of flying. Flying made her nervous, so she always took her Bible along with her to read and it helped relax

her. One time, she was sitting next to a man, who was a hardened atheist. When he saw her pull out her Bible, he gave a little chuckle and went back to what he was doing. After awhile, he turned to her and asked, "**You don't really believe all that stuff in there do you?**"

The lady replied, "**Of course I do. It is the Bible.**"

He said, "**Well, what about that guy that was swallowed by that whale?**"

"She replied, "**Oh, Jonah. Yes, I believe that, it is in the Bible.**"

He asked, "**Well, how do you suppose he survived all that time inside the whale?**"

The lady said, "**Well, I don't really know. I guess when I get to heaven, I will ask him.**"

"**What if he isn't in heaven?**" the man asked sarcastically.

"**Then you can ask him.**" replied the lady.

"A lot of people talk about hell, use it to tell others where to go, but do not want to be confronted with the thought that it might be their destination." - **Billy Graham**

"The Hell of the Bible is horrible beyond description, and our imaginations cannot exceed it." - **William Munsey**

"Men are not sent to Hell because of being murderers or liars, they are sent to Hell because they are not in a right relationship with God." - **David Jeremiah**

- **Victory over SIN:** The Rapture proves that you're **forgiven by God** and saved for God.

"Sin is choosing to do what I want without doing it in submission to God's Will and plan." - **Erwin Lutzer**

"We have a strange illusion that the simple passage of time cancels out our sin - it does not." - **CS Lewis**

"Sin is a deep-seated, terminal disease that can be cured only by the healing work of the Great Physician, Jesus Christ!" - **John MacArthur**

"Sin has birthed a thousand heartaches and broken a million promises. Your addiction can be traced back to sin. Your mistrust can be traced back to sin. Bigotry, robbery, adultery are all because of sin. But in Heaven, all to this will end." - **Max Lucado**

IV. The Rapture's ETERNITY (v.58) - "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

- The Rapture proves our labor is an **INVESTMENT** for Eternity

Matthew 6:19-21, 33 NLT - "**Don't store up treasures here on earth**, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 **Store your treasures in heaven**, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. 21 Wherever **your treasure** is, there the desires of **your heart** will also be. ... 33 **Seek the Kingdom of God above all else..**"

During WWII, Dietrich Bonhoeffer was imprisoned for resisting Hitler. Yet he continued to urge fellow believers to resist Nazi tyranny. A group of Christians, believing that Hitler was the Antichrist, asked Bonhoeffer, "Why do you expose yourself to all this danger? Jesus will return any day, and all your work and suffering will be for nothing." Bonhoeffer replied, "**If Jesus returns tomorrow, then tomorrow I'll rest from my labor. But today I have work to do. I must continue the struggle until it's finished.**"

- The Rapture should move us to be "**steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord..**" knowing of the reward that is coming in the Kingdom for us:

Luke 19 - Parable of the **Minas**

Matt 25 - Parable of the **Talents**

1 Cor 3; 2 Cor 5 - **Bema** Seat of Christ

After church, where she had been taught about the Rapture, a little girl was quizzing her mother.

"Mommy, do you believe Jesus will Rapture us?"

"Yes."

"Could it be today?"

"Yes."

"Could it be in a few minutes?"

"Yes, dear."

"Mommy...then would you please comb my hair?"

- **THE MARTYRDOM OF POLYCARP, PASTOR OF SMYRNA:** (Letter from 156AD) As Polycarp was being taken into the arena, a voice came to him from heaven: "**Be strong,**

- Polycarp and play the man!**” No one saw who had spoken, but our brothers who were there heard the voice. When the crowd heard that Polycarp had been captured, there was an uproar. The Proconsul asked him whether he was Polycarp. On hearing that he was, he tried to persuade him to apostatize, saying, **“Have respect for your old age, swear by the fortune of Caesar. Repent, and say, ‘Down with the Atheists!’”** Polycarp looked grimly at the wicked heathen multitude in the stadium, and gesturing towards them, he said, **“Down with the Atheists!”** “Swear,” urged the Proconsul, **“reproach Christ, and I will set you free.”** **“86 years have I have served him,” Polycarp declared, “and he has done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme my King and my Savior?”**
- **“I have wild animals here,”** the Proconsul said. **“I will throw you to them if you do not repent.”** “Call them,” Polycarp replied. **“It is unthinkable for me to repent from what is good to turn to what is evil. I will be glad though to be changed from evil to righteousness.”** **“If you despise the animals, I will have you burned.”** **“You threaten me with fire which burns for an hour, and is then extinguished, but you know nothing of the fire of the coming judgment and eternal punishment, reserved for the ungodly. Why are you waiting? Bring on whatever you want.”**
 - It was all done in the time it takes to tell. The crowd collected wood and bundles of sticks from the shops and public baths. When the pile was ready, they went to fix him with nails, he said, **“Leave me as I am, for he that gives me strength to endure the fire, will enable me not to struggle, without the help of your nails.”** So they simply tied him with his hands behind him like a ram chosen for sacrifice. He was then burned alive and pierced with a sword until dead. This is the story of the blessed Polycarp, the pastor and twelfth martyr in Smyrna. **WHICH RESURRECTION WILL YOU EXPERIENCE??**

John 5:28,29 - *“Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth - those who have done good, to the Resurrection of Life, and those who have done evil, to the Resurrection of Condemnation.”*