

Summary

This sermon focuses on the Rapture, drawing primarily from 1 Thessalonians 4 and 5 to answer four key questions: what the Rapture will be like, why it will happen, how it will happen, and when it might occur. The pastor describes the Rapture as a personal, powerful, and prominent event where Jesus Himself will come with a commanding shout, the voice of the archangel, and the trumpet call of God. Believers will be instantly transformed and caught up to meet Jesus in the air, receiving new bodies free from pain and sickness. The sermon also explores the biblical feasts as prophetic markers, noting that Jesus fulfilled the spring feasts through His death, burial, resurrection, and the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The pastor believes the Feast of Trumpets, a fall feast, will be fulfilled at the Rapture. He points to current global conversations about "peace and security," the re-establishment of Israel as a nation in 1948, and ongoing conflict in the Middle East as signs that the end times are near. The central challenge of the message is for believers to be ready and to bring as many people as possible into a relationship with Jesus before that day arrives.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with open hearts and willing spirits. As we gather to discuss Your Word and the hope of Christ's return, we ask that You quiet our minds and remove any distractions. Holy Spirit, lead this conversation. Let each person in this group hear exactly what You want them to hear today. Give us boldness to ask honest questions, humility to listen well, and faith to trust in Your perfect plan. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

If you knew you only had one week left before Jesus came back, what is one thing you would want to make sure you did or said before that moment arrived?

Key Verses

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
- 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3

- 1 Thessalonians 5:9
- 1 Corinthians 15:51-52
- John 14:2-3
- Philippians 1:23-24
- Matthew 24:36
- Matthew 24:40-41
- Romans 5:9
- Ezekiel 38:8

Questions

- The pastor described the Rapture as personal, powerful, and prominent based on 1 Thessalonians 4:16. Which of those three characteristics stands out most to you personally, and why?
- In 1 Thessalonians 5:2, Paul says the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. How does that image of unexpectedness affect the way you think about your daily life and priorities?
- The sermon mentioned two reasons the Rapture will happen: so believers can be with Jesus forever, and so they are spared from the wrath of God. Which of those reasons brings you the most comfort, and why?
- Paul wrote in Philippians 1:23-24 that he was torn between wanting to be with Christ and wanting to stay and serve others. How do you personally balance the longing for heaven with the calling to invest in people around you right now?
- The pastor shared honestly that he sometimes feels like an 8.5 out of 10 in his confidence about being raptured. Have you ever wrestled with doubt about your own readiness or standing before God? How did you work through it?
- The sermon connected the biblical feasts to prophetic fulfillment, noting that Jesus fulfilled the spring feasts through His death, burial, resurrection, and Pentecost. How does seeing that kind of intentional pattern in Scripture affect your trust in God's plan for the future?
- The pastor pointed to global conversations about "peace and security" and the re-establishment of Israel as signs of the end times. How do you personally engage with current events through the lens of biblical prophecy without becoming anxious or distracted?
- The sermon closed with a challenge to make Jesus not just Savior but Lord, and to focus on bringing others into the kingdom. What is one practical step you could take this week to

share your faith or invest in someone who does not yet know Jesus?

Life Application

This week, take a few minutes each day to reflect on your readiness for Christ's return. Ask yourself honestly whether Jesus is truly Lord of every area of your life, not just Savior. Then identify one person in your life who does not yet know Jesus and commit to praying for them daily. Look for a natural opportunity to share your faith or invite them to church. Live this week as if the Rapture could happen at any moment, because according to Scripture, it could.

Key Takeaways

- The Rapture will be a personal, powerful, and prominent event. Jesus Himself will come with a commanding shout, the voice of the archangel, and the trumpet call of God, and believers will be instantly transformed and caught up to meet Him in the air.
- The Rapture will happen for two primary reasons: so that believers can be with Jesus forever, and so that they are delivered from the coming wrath of God during the tribulation period.
- The Rapture will be unexpected, coming like a thief in the night, which means believers must remain spiritually ready at all times rather than trying to predict an exact date.
- The biblical feasts provide a prophetic framework. Jesus fulfilled the spring feasts through His death, burial, resurrection, and the sending of the Holy Spirit. The Feast of Trumpets, a fall feast, is believed to point toward the Rapture.
- Current global signs, including widespread talk of peace and security, the re-establishment of Israel as a nation, and ongoing conflict in the Middle East, suggest that the return of Christ may be near, calling believers to urgency in their faith and in sharing the gospel.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the hope we have in Your return. Thank You that You are coming back personally, powerfully, and prominently for Your people. As we leave this discussion today, help us to live with that hope as our anchor. Where there is doubt, bring assurance. Where there is complacency, bring urgency. Stir in each of us a deeper love for You and a greater passion for

the people around us who do not yet know You. May we be found faithful and ready when that trumpet sounds. Until that day, use us for Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.