

I Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 – 26 November 2023

“The Rapture Unveils The Day Of The Lord”

Introduction

- *Paul had but 3 weeks to 3 months at Thessalonica
- *Amazing what God can do in a short period of time!
- *In Chap 1: Paul commended them for their immediate, expressions of faith, love & hope in their new life
- *In Chap 2: Paul more focused on the sincerity of our interactions in serving the world the Gospel
- *In Chap 3 into 4: Paul spoke regarding the depth of their Christian life & service (establish, grow, abound)
- *Today we get to the main message that Paul believes that they're needing clarification on
 - *Lots of cross-references today to jot down

Today, we're going to investigate the Rapture of the Church and the Day of the Lord

1st let's deal with the Rapture of the Church (Chap 4:13-18)

Read Vs 13

1. Paul wants them to have the knowledge that they need to have a true accurate hope
 - a. Read I Pet 1:3 – B/c He rose, we will rise
 - b. When a Christian dies; we still have sorrow, but it can only sink so low

Read Vs 14

1. “If” is better translated *since*
 - a. Read I Cor 15:20, 23 – Like harvest cycle
2. At Christ's 2nd Coming to earth, we the Church come...notice, “with Him”
 - a. Read Zec 14:5, Jude 14, Rev 19:14 – Only believers are referred to as saints, not angels
 - b. So this raises the obvious question, ‘when did the Church join the Lord?’
3. There is an end day for the Church in which human history on earth continue afterward

- a. Read Rom 11:25 & Luke 21:24 – Daniel’s 70th week is all that’s left afterward; in which God is focused on His people Israel

Read Vs 15

1. “By the word of the Lord” – nowhere else does Paul speak so clearly
 - a. He remarks when he speaks a word that isn’t directly from Jesus (ie Read I Cor 7:12)
2. Those that have already died will see the Lord even before those that are still alive at the Rapture
3. Vss 16-17 will tell us details of how He’ll do it

Read Vs 16-17

1. “It’s the Lord Himself w/ the trumpet of God” so this isn’t the same as the angel that pour out trumpet judgements in Rev 11
 - a. Trumpet isn’t linked to Feast of Trumpets
 - i. Feasts deal w/ Jesus & Israel, not Church
 - ii. If Rapture depended on this day, then it couldn’t be at any moment (Read Matt 24:36)

- b. Feast of Trumpet marks gathering of Israel to the Lord at end of 7 year Trib (Read Matt 24:31)
- c. 2nd Coming has known date (7 yrs & 3.5 yrs)
- d. Two types of trumpets in the OT
 - i. Shofar (ram's horn) – call to war (Jos 6)
 - 1. Aligns w/ Revelation trumpets
 - ii. Silver trumpets – call to gather (Num 10:2)
 - 1. Aligns w/ rapture trumpet
- 2. “Voice of an archangel” – Not that Jesus is an angel, but there is that type of commanding voice
- 3. Dead rise from their tombs & we're ‘caught up’
 - a. The word *rapture* IS in the Bible, just in another language
 - b. Being ‘caught up’ by force is all over OT
 - i. Brides always taken to the groom
 - 1. Gen 2:22- Eve was brought to Adam
 - 2. SOS 2:8-13– “Arise & come away”
 - 3. Jewish wedding tradition
 - ii. Beloved always taken before judgement
 - 1. Gen 5-6– Enoch raptured b4 Flood
 - a. Noah sealed same as Trib Jews

2. Gen 18 - Lot taken by force b4 fall
 - a. No righteous left to save thru it
3. Jos 6 – Rahab saved b4 Jericho fell
4. Daniel missing as 3 Jews go thru fire
4. Where does Jesus come to? “The clouds, the air”
 - a. The 2nd Coming is to the earth as in Rev 19
 - b. Clearly stated in (Read) Acts 1:11 & Zec 14:4

Read Vs 18

1. 1/3 of the Bible is prophecy, why?
 - a. So we can see what God’s fulfilled & trust!
 - b. So we can see what He’s doing & love!
 - c. So we can see what He’s going to do & hope!
2. We don’t sorrow as unbelievers! We live differently!

2nd let’s deal with the Day of the Lord (Chap 5:1-11)

Read Vs 1-2

1. The Tribulation begins the Day of the Lord
 - a. Read Matt 24:37-39- Sudden unknown time
 - b. Some scoff at a “secret rapture” – YES it is!

Read Vs 3

1. Jesus described events leading up to the Tribulation as birth pains upon a woman, then said...
 - a. Read Luke 21:28 – At any moment
2. Notice it comes “upon them”, not us
 - a. Tribulation is God’s wrath, but it’s not for us, our wrath was already removed at the cross

Read Vs 4-6

1. “Upon them” in vs 3, but “ye” are going into “sudden destruction” b/c we’ve come to the light
 - a. The Day of the Lord is darkness & not for us (Read Amos 5:18-20 – no escaping)
2. “Let us not sleep”
 - a. We’re not spiritually in darkness & spiritual sleeping unaware of the conditions around
 - b. As Peter in Gethsemane, he missed a lot
 - c. Read Matt 24:42, 46 – Watch & occupy
 - d. The only way to wake up from the sleep is to come to the light (Read John 8:12)

Read Vs 7-8

1. Come to the light & confess who we really are
2. Read John 3:19-21
3. ‘Sin will keep you from the Bible, but the Bible will keep you from sin’

Read Vs 9

1. It’s the ‘Day of the Lord’ that is wrath and that’s not for us Christians (Read Isa 13:9)
2. Remember 7-year Tribulation is God’s wrath
 - a. He says so in Rev 6:16-17
 - b. We’re told to pray that we’re worthy to escape the wrath to come in Luke 21:36
 - c. Jesus took our wrath on the cross

Read Vs 10

1. Jesus died to enter eternal life to take us w/ Him
 - a. Now whether we live until the Rapture or not, we will all be with Him
2. That’s the ultimate achievement; to be w/ Him
 - a. If your daily life isn’t excited to be w/ Him, why would you want eternal life w/ Him?

Read Vs 11

1. *Edify* is almost always translated ‘build’ or ‘to be at home’, only 3 times it’s translated as edify
2. The idea is to be at peace and settled in your mind b/c of these things being counted as true

Conclusion

So I have a few questions for you.

1. **Are you living in light of our pending Rapture and rescue of our soul?**
2. **Have you escaped the pending Day of the Lord having your wrath removed at the cross?**

Once you’ve settled it in your heart, here’s what to do.

1. **Always be abounding in the work of the Lord, b/c it’s not in vain (From I Cor 15:58)**
2. **Comfort one another with these words**
 - a. From I Thes 4:18
3. **Thank & praise God for giving us the victory over death itself (From I Cor 15:57)**