



The End Part I | The Rapture of the Church | Jimmy Evans | 8.17.25

OPENING PRAYER & ICEBREAKER

Icebreaker Question: If you knew Jesus was returning tomorrow, what would you do differently today?

KEY SCRIPTURE

- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (The Rapture Described)
- 1 Corinthians 15:50-54 (Changed in a Moment)
- Luke 17:26-36 (As in the Days of Noah)
- Revelation 6:15-17 (The Wrath of the Lamb)

Sermon Overview

This sermon explores the biblical teaching of the rapture—when Jesus will return to take believers to heaven before the seven-year tribulation period. Pastor Jimmy examines key scriptures, the signs of the times, and the Jewish feasts as prophetic markers pointing to Christ's return.

Key Sermon Takeaways

1. **The Rapture is Biblical and Imminent** - Scripture clearly teaches that Jesus will return to take believers to heaven before the tribulation period.

2. **Salvation is Personal** - Being close to Christians or being a "good person" isn't enough. Only those with a personal relationship with Jesus will be raptured.
 3. **Children Will Be Protected** - Young children and those below the age of accountability will be taken in the rapture, providing comfort to Christian parents.
 4. **We Are Delivered FROM Wrath, Not Through It** - God has not appointed believers to experience His wrath during the tribulation.
 5. **Every Day Matters** - How we live now has eternal significance. Our works will be judged and rewarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ.
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Rapture

1. Before this sermon, what was your understanding of the rapture? How has it changed or deepened?
2. Pastor Jimmy described the rapture as happening "in the twinkling of an eye" (1/40th of a second). What does this urgency communicate about the importance of being ready now?
3. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17. What comfort does this passage offer to believers who have lost loved ones in Christ?

Signs of the Times

4. Pastor Jimmy mentioned anti-Semitism as the greatest sign of the end times. What other signs do you observe in our world today that suggest we're living in the "end of the end times"?
5. Jesus compared His return to the days of Noah and Lot—people living "business as usual" before sudden judgment. How can we avoid spiritual complacency in our daily lives?

Deliverance from Wrath

6. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:9 and Luke 21:36. What is the difference between going "through" the tribulation versus being delivered "from" it? Why does this distinction matter?

7. Pastor Jimmy described the tribulation as a time when "no flesh would survive" without God's intervention. How does understanding the severity of this period affect your urgency about sharing the Gospel?

The Feast of Trumpets

8. Pastor Jimmy explained how the first four Jewish feasts were fulfilled at Jesus' first coming (Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, Pentecost). How does this pattern strengthen your confidence that the remaining feasts will also be fulfilled?
9. The Feast of Trumpets is called "the day which no one knows." How do we balance being watchful and ready while not setting specific dates for Christ's return?

Personal Readiness

10. The sermon emphasized that the rapture is a "selective event" based solely on your personal relationship with Jesus. If the rapture happened tonight, are you certain you would go? Why or why not?
11. Read 2 Corinthians 5:10 and Matthew 10:42. At the Judgment Seat of Christ, believers will be rewarded for their works. How does this truth motivate you to live differently?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one or more of the following to put into practice:

1. Share Your Faith

- Identify one person in your life who doesn't know Jesus
- Pray daily for their salvation
- Look for an opportunity this week to share what Jesus means to you

2. Live with Readiness

- Each morning this week, ask yourself: "If Jesus returned today, would I be pleased with how I'm living?"
- Identify one area where you need to make changes and take action

3. Study Prophecy

- Read one chapter from the book of Revelation each day
- Journal what you learn about God's character and His plans

4. Examine Your Works

- Consider how you're investing your time, talents, and resources
- Ask: "Will this matter at the Judgment Seat of Christ?"
- Make one specific change to live more intentionally for eternal rewards

5. Comfort Others

- IF you know someone grieving a Christian loved one, share the hope of the resurrection from 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- Encourage a fellow believer with the promise of Christ's return

Reflection Questions for Personal Journaling

- What emotions did I experience during this sermon? (Fear, hope, urgency, peace?)
- Am I absolutely certain of my salvation? If not, what's holding me back?
- Who in my life needs to hear about Jesus before it's too late?
- What would I regret not doing if Jesus returned tomorrow?
- How can I live more purposefully in light of eternity?

Prayer Focus

Pray together:

- For unsaved family members and friends to come to Christ
- For boldness to share the Gospel with urgency
- For spiritual readiness and freedom from worldly distractions
- For comfort for those who have lost loved ones in Christ
- For discernment to recognize the signs of the times
- For the peace of Jerusalem and the Jewish people

Looking Ahead

Next Week's Preparation: If your group is continuing in this prophecy series, consider reading Daniel 9:24-27 and Revelation 6-19 to prepare for discussions about the tribulation period.

Memory Verse: *"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."* - 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

Closing Prayer

Close your time by praying the following or something similar:

"Lord Jesus, thank You for the promise of Your return. Help us to live with readiness and urgency, sharing Your love with those who don't know You. Comfort us with the hope of the rapture and the resurrection. May we be found faithful when You appear. Come quickly, Lord Jesus. In Your name, Amen."