

# THE RESURRECTIONS

## 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (KJV)

<sup>13</sup> But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

<sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

<sup>15</sup> For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

<sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

<sup>17</sup> Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

<sup>18</sup> Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

And I will do some teaching tonight that I am calling: THE RESURRECTIONS.

Let me point some things out about the rapture before I move on:

- The Lord Himself will come to get us
- He will be seen by the church but the whole world
- The rapture is not in [Matt 24](#) or [Matt 25](#)
- The rapture is our final position in Christ, there is no changes after that
- It is our reward and should be words of comfort and not words of fear

The rapture also promises a new body awaiting us and the reception of this new body will finalize the work that Jesus paid for. **Our redemption is 3 part: Justification, sanctification, and the final part, glorification.**

**Glorification moves us from the body that has been corrupted by sin and a new body will be raised in power and glory and the spirit will be the life force of the body instead of blood.**

**Two groups are raptured with the church:**

- Those that have went the way of the grave receive first
- Those that are alive and are on the earth still receive second

So with the doctrine of the blessed hope established scripturally, I want to address the one area that separates denominations and even those within our own movement and that is: **WHEN IS THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH?**

**You have three groupings of when people think the rapture takes place: before tribulation, mid-tribulation, and after tribulation.**

Let's walk through this scripturally and bring the answer at the end once we have rightly divided the Word with truth.

### **The bible consists of 2 Resurrections.**

- The first is all those that will receive glorified bodies and be with the Lord
- The second are those that have rejected Christ in all generations going back to the first man and woman. They too will be resurrected to receive a body that will feel the punishment they chose for rejecting God's love through Christ

We get this from Jesus:

#### **John 5:29 (KJV)**

<sup>29</sup> And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

**Inside of the First Resurrection, also called the Resurrection of Life there are 5 raptures or gatherings of believers to receive a glorified body.**

This is where the confusion comes from with raptures. I am going to show you those raptures and then we will determine what scripture teaches about me and you.

### **THE RESURRECTION OF LIFE**

#### **CHRIST AND THOSE IN PARADISE**

This is the first rapture which has already happened. **The reason being is that Jesus has to be the first-fruit of anything we receive since we are joint-heirs with Him.** He purchased everything we have therefore He had to obtain before we could share in it.

#### **1 Corinthians 15:20 (KJV)**

<sup>20</sup> But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept.

#### **1 Corinthians 15:23 (KJV)**

<sup>23</sup> But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

#### **Ephesians 4:8 (KJV)**

<sup>8</sup> Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

#### **Matthew 27:52-53 (KJV)**

<sup>52</sup> And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,

<sup>53</sup> And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

**This shows us the glorification of Christ first, then the subsequent glorification of the saints of God that were in the place called paradise.** Jesus emptied paradise out according to [Ephesians 4](#) and brought them out of captivity and then **they were seen by many, which means they had bodies as Christ did.**

### **THOSE IN CHRIST WHEN HE COMES FOR HIS BRIDE, THE CHURCH**

This is the second rapture shown in scripture which is the one we have read about so far.

Jesus spoke of this day in [John 14](#):

#### **[John 14:1-3 \(KJV\)](#)**

- <sup>1</sup> Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.
- <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.
- <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

And Jesus makes things very clear about when this happens:

#### **[Luke 21:36 \(KJV\)](#)**

- <sup>36</sup> Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

**This passage not only tells us that we would be taken away before all the troubles listed before it but that we must live "worthy to escape" them all.**

#### **[1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 \(KJV\)](#)**

- <sup>9</sup> For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,
- <sup>10</sup> Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.
- <sup>11</sup> Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

**It says here that we weren't appointed to suffer wrath and clarifies what he is talking about in verse 10 when he says that whether awake or asleep, so he is speaking of the rapture.**

#### **[2 Thessalonians 2:3-7 \(KJV\)](#)**

- <sup>3</sup> Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;
- <sup>4</sup> Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.
- <sup>5</sup> Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?
- <sup>6</sup> And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.
- <sup>7</sup> For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way.

This passage speaks about the Anti-Christ coming, which we know is during the tribulation, and it says in verse 7 **that he, the Anti-Christ, cannot come until "he who now letteth will let" until he is taken out of the way.**

**This "he that letteth" is the church. And it says that when the church is taken away, then the Son of Perdition can have his way.**

And in [Revelation 4](#) which tells the story of the time soon approaching, we find the following:

#### **[Revelation 4:1 \(KJV\)](#)**

<sup>1</sup> After this I looked, and, behold, a door *was* opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard *was* as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

**We see an open door, a voice and a trumpet, and the words were said, "come up here".**

This shows a rapture before the tribulation begins. **Hear me clearly tonight: The church will be taken out of this world before the Tribulation.**

#### **THE TRIBULATION SAINTS**

These are the ones that will get saved during the tribulation that are not Jews. They will lose their lives to the Anti-Christ for not backing away from their new found faith in Christ.

#### **[Revelation 6:9-11 \(KJV\)](#)**

<sup>9</sup> And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

<sup>10</sup> And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

<sup>11</sup> And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they *were*, should be fulfilled.

**Verse 11 says that they are given "white robes" which are glorified bodies and then they wait for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.**

#### **[Revelation 7:9 \(KJV\)](#)**

<sup>9</sup> After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

#### **[Revelation 7:13-14 \(KJV\)](#)**

<sup>13</sup> And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

<sup>14</sup> And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

And we now see them standing before the throne of God, which couldn't happen in flesh and blood or as a spirit. In fact, anytime in Revelation that white robes, or multitudes of white are mentioned, it is referencing people in glorified bodies. **They have received a glorified body and are with God forever.**

### **THE TWO WITNESSES**

**These witnesses have to be Enoch and Elijah** who have not died a physical death anywhere in documented scripture. They will come to the earth and preach Christ and be killed for it.

#### **Revelation 11:3 (KJV)**

<sup>3</sup> And I will give *power* unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

#### **Revelation 11:7-12 (KJV)**

<sup>7</sup> And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

<sup>8</sup> And their dead bodies *shall lie* in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

<sup>9</sup> And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.

<sup>10</sup> And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

<sup>11</sup> And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

<sup>12</sup> And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

**Again, we see the words, "come up here" in verse 12, signifying that they are raptured and come to God.**

### **THE MANCHILD OR 144,000**

This is the 144,000 Jews, 12,000 from each one of the 12 tribes of Israel, that will come to know Jesus as Lord during the Tribulation, and then be caught up at the mid-point.

#### **Revelation 7:4 (KJV)**

<sup>4</sup> And I heard the number of them which were sealed: *and there were* sealed an hundred *and* forty *and* four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

This was the number of Jews that would be saved and then they are raptured later at the midway point of the 7 years.

#### **Revelation 12:5 (KJV)**

<sup>5</sup> And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and *to* his throne.

There is that phrase "caught up" or rapture, where the 144,000 will receive a glorified body and be with God forever.

**These are the 5 "raptures" that make up the First Resurrection, or what Jesus called the Resurrection of Life.**

Listen to scripture again:

**Revelation 20:5-6 (KJV)**

<sup>5</sup> But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

This shows the first resurrection and its completion and it has the raptures included in it that we have seen. **This is why people argue and discuss when the rapture takes place. There is a rapture before and raptures during tribulation.** There are no post-tribulation raptures. All those that go in the First Resurrection go before the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, which is found in [Rev 19:1-10](#) and they will come back with Christ for the Millennial Reign.

**But to answer the question of when the rapture will happen for us, it is very clear from a thorough study of scripture, that the church, whether asleep or alive, is taken before the tribulation as part of our salvation through grace right now.**

**THE RESURRECTION OF DAMNATION or THE SECOND DEATH**

This is the other resurrection spoken of by Jesus in [John 5](#) and again in [Revelation 2, 20, and 21](#).

In fact, listen to these very quickly:

**Revelation 20:6 (KJV)**

<sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

We will not have part in this if we made the First Resurrection. Thank the Lord for that!

**Revelation 21:8 (KJV)**

<sup>8</sup> But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Jesus taught on this subject even further in pieces throughout the gospels and spoke of a body that was destroyed and regenerated all over again. And where speculation is the only method to really consider the details of the Second Death, **the worst part of it all is to be consciously separated from the Lord for all of eternity.**

The good news is that no one has to experience this resurrection. A way has been provided for people to find salvation and part of that salvation is the promise of a better resurrection.