



## Living in the End Times Session 7 – Are you Ready for the Rapture?

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 (NKJV)** – <sup>13</sup>*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. <sup>14</sup>For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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.*

### I. Review

#### A. Two major that are still in our future.

1. The Resurrection
2. The Rapture

#### B. Rapture is for those who REMAIN

1. Remain – surviving ones, those who are left.
2. While the word “Rapture” is not found in the Bible, it is the best English term to describe the event.

#### C. The Process – What will happen?

1. **1 Thessalonians 4:16a (KJV)** – *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God.*
  - a. Jesus himself is going to descend with a SHOUT!
  - b. **Shout** = gr a direct order, or command, a command use to arouse horses, people, masters, etc.



*This was a signal given like a trumpet call to muster troops to action*

c. **The Voice of the Archangel**

Accompanied by the mighty shout from Jesus will be the voice of the archangel. Depicts the sound of wings, wind, or water – It can depict the sound of massive multitudes, an overwhelming sound!

d. **The Trump of God** = a war trumpet that calls to war – a war trumpet that announces battle and predictively, ultimate victory and the vanquishing of enemies.

e. **Shall Rise** – Rise = to stand again – a corpse that is lifeless will stand again – INTERESTINGLY – it depicts the rising of kings and rulers – When the dead in Christ are resurrected, they will be raised to rule as royalty with Jesus who is the King of Kings – in His Kingdom.

2. **1 Thessalonians 4:17a (KJV)** – *We which are alive and remain shall be caught up – raptured – together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.*

a. Immediately – to the meeting – MEETING = to the reception, to the encounter

*DENOTES: The reception of the newly arrived officials or Royalty*

b. At the most dangerous time that earth has ever experienced, Jesus is suddenly going to descend with a Shout and the dead in Christ will rise – Immediately those remaining living ones shall be raptured – snatched away out of danger – TO BE ESCORTED BY JESUS HIMSELF to the great reception – VIP reception in the air.

c. Instant Change/ Exchange of natural bodies to our spiritual body.

## II. Characteristics of The Rapture

### A. The Select Multitude of the Rapture – Who?

#### 1. Not everyone will be caught up with the Lord.



## 2. The Book of Revelation

### a. Chapter 1 – A revelation of Jesus

**Revelation 1:10-17 (NKJV)** – <sup>10</sup>I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, <sup>11</sup>saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea." <sup>12</sup>Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. <sup>14</sup>His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; <sup>15</sup>His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; <sup>16</sup>He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. <sup>17</sup>And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.

### b. Chapter 2–3 – The Church Age

### c. The Rapture

**Revelation 4:1-2 (NKJV)** – <sup>1</sup>After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

<sup>2</sup>Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne

### d. The Timeline of Events

- 1) **The Revelation of Jesus/His death, burial and resurrection**
- 2) **The Church Age – began at Pentecost.**
- 3) **The Rapture of the Church – The beginning of the Tribulation.**
- 4) **John Experiences in the Spirit a rapture.**
  - a) He hears the voice of God/the trumpet.
  - b) He hears the voice saying come up here.



- c) He is immediately caught up into heaven to see things that will come upon the earth and things that will be happening in heaven.
- d) In John's writings, the church on earth is never referenced again? Why? The church is no longer on earth.  
*The saints are mentioned begin in heaven, but once John is raptured by the Spirit into heaven, the church is no longer mentioned on earth.*
- 5) **John, by the Spirit, is shown things that will take place in heaven and on earth.**
- a) Great and wondrous things in heaven
- b) The most terrible things imaginable on earth.
- c) Which group will you be in?
- d) Where will you be at the moment the rapture takes place?
- With the dead saints who have arisen?
  - With the saints in the rapture?
  - With the unsaved dead who are still in the grave?
- e) **John's revelation is**  
*The saved/saints are now in heaven with the Lord  
The unsaved are still on earth at this moment in time.  
At this time in our study; the saints are in heaven and the unsaved are on earth.*

***NOTE: In the weeks to come we are going to ascend into heaven to see what is going on with the saints.  
We are also going to descend back to earth to see what is happening with the unsaved.***

## **B. The Motive of the Rapture: Why?**

*Now that we know WHO is going in the rapture, WHY is this rapture necessary?*

1. **Reception – John 14:2-3 (NKJV)** – <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 to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*



- a. Our Lord is coming to receive His bride to himself  
*The church is His bride.*
  - b. **Matthew 24:31 (NKJV)** – *And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other*
2. **Rescue – 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 (NKJV)** – *<sup>9</sup>For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.*
- a. **The Reason for the rapture is Christ coming for His bride, but it is also to rescue his church from the things that are about to be released upon this planet. *The wrath to come.***
  - b. **In Revelation Chapter 4, once John was in heaven, everything that was occurring on earth was connected to the antichrist and the wrath/judgement of God.**
  - c. **There is a day when God says, “That’s Enough!”**
  - d. **What about grace?**  
*There is a grace age – we are in it.*  
*There is a coming storm – Judgement for those who will not accept His grace.*
  - e. **Prior to this STORM coming upon this planet, Jesus will Rescue His bride and take her home.**
3. **Reunion – 1 Thessalonians 4:17 (NKJV)** – *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*

### C. Special Characteristics of the Rapture

1. **It will occur suddenly and without further warning.**  
***The Word has already sounded the warning.***
  - a. **Matthew 24:36-44 (NKJV)** – *<sup>36</sup>“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. <sup>37</sup>But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. <sup>38</sup>For as in the days before the flood, they were eating*



*and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. <sup>40</sup>Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. <sup>42</sup>Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.*

- b. **1 Thessalonians 5:1-5 (KJV)** – <sup>1</sup>*But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. <sup>2</sup>For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. <sup>4</sup>But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. <sup>5</sup>Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.*

#### **D. What does this mean for us?**

1. We should learn about His coming. *We cannot be ignorant of it.*
2. We should live for His coming.
3. We Should look for His coming.
4. We should long for His coming.
5. We should not put off preparing for His coming.
6. We should be ready!