



## Living in the End Times Session 6 – 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. Two major events that are still in our future.

#### A. The Resurrection of the dead.

**Vs 16 – *And the dead in Christ shall rise first.***

#### B. The Rapture

**Vs 17 – *Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.***

1. The Rapture is for those who REMAIN  
Remain – surviving ones, those who are left.
2. The Rapture takes place immediately after the resurrection of the dead.
3. Caught Up Together – gr – to catch, to seize, to take away, to snatch, suddenly just in time.
  - a. While the word “Rapture” is not found in the Bible, it is the best English term to describe the event.
  - b. Suddenly at the time of the resurrection of the dead, every born-again person on this planet is going to be snatched away, seized by the Holy Spirit, and taken away from this world just in time.



4. Who shall be in this group?  
*Those who remain – Physically living – Spiritually Living.*
  - a. Those who have not partaken of the great falling away.
  - b. Those whose love for God has not grown cold.
  - c. Those who have held on to their faith and refused to let go.
  - d. Those who STAYED in faith and did not allow the spirit of the age to change them.
  
5. **Luke 18:8b (KJV)** – *when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?*
  - a. Not all that remain physically alive will remain spiritually alive.
  - b. When the Son of man cometh, the thing that is going to qualify people for the rapture is THEIR FAITH!  
*Unwavering faith in Jesus*  
*Unwavering faith in the Word of God*  
*Faith is what will carry you out.*

### 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. This shout, voice, and trumpet is going to be so powerful that it will raise the dead.
  - b. Jesus himself is going to descend with a SHOUT!
  - c. **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.*
  - d. **Rick Renner** – “Here we see Christ, the ultimate commander and chief calling out and rousing all of heavens armies for the gathering of his faithful ones and the final battle of the ages.”
  - e. **The Voice of the Archangel** – Accompanied by the mighty shout from Jeus 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!

- f. **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.
  - g. **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.
3. Instant Change

**1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (NKJV)** – <sup>51</sup>*Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed* <sup>52</sup>*in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

- a. **Sleep** – the sleep of death – everyone will not experience the sleep of death – die. *This is speaking of those who remain in 1 Thessalonians 4.*
- b. **We shall all be changed** = *To exchange one thing for another. – to transform* – The Exchange of Bodies



- c. **In the twinkling of an eye** – in a flash – so quick that it is nearly undetectable.
- d. **The Rapture is the snatching away of believers** – and in that instance, so quickly that it will happen before you realize it is happening you will exchange your physical earthly body for a new kind of body. This will be a miraculous, supernatural transformation!
- e. **Rick Renner Version** – “What I am about to say will totally flabbergast you, but listen carefully, for I am going to tell you something that was previously an unknown mystery, but has now been revealed to us. Here it is. All will not die, but all, the dead and even the living will be altered, changed, miraculously modified, and transformed.”
- f. At the Last Trumpet – The war trumpet proclaiming absolute victory over the enemy.
- g. The dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
- h. **Rick Renner Version Continued** – “In a moment, a split second, an indivisible atom of time, as fast as the twitch of an eye, at the very last trump, that war trumpet will loudly sound to signal that the final battle, ultimate victory, and vanquishing of all God’s enemies is about to finally happen. That blast will be God’s way of letting everyone know that His enemies have lost their footing and longstanding battle with him and that He reigns victorious and supreme in total victory.

In that flash, the dead will stand upright on their feet, and will be resurrected to brand new resurrected royal status. And at that exact moment, they will miraculously receive NEW bodies that are incapable of decay and that will never again show the effects of wear, tear, and age – timeless, immortal, indestructible bodies. WE who are still alive when this happens will be supernaturally transformed as our old bodies are exchanged for new ones that also are incapable of decay.

- 4. On our way to the great celebration of the saints in Heaven.



## II. Closing

### A. Some have left the earth.

1. The dead have been resurrected.
2. The church/believers have been raptured.

### B. Some have not left the earth.

1. The unsaved dead are still in the grave – *To be resurrected later.*
2. The unsaved who are still alive have been left behind to experience the things that are coming upon earth. *The tribulation!*

### C. You do not want to be left behind to experience things on earth. *There are many who believe that the greatest thing for our world would be for Christians to disappear. This will prove to be false.*

### D. You want to be included in those who have left. *Either by the way of the resurrection or by the way of rapture!*