

The Rapture of the Church

1 Corinthians 15:51-58; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 4:1-3; John 10:9; 14:1-3, 6.

For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you are doing.

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11

Father, I desire that they also whom You have given Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me...

~ John 17:24

1. The Bride of Christ, known as the church, had its birth on the day of Pentecost.
2. The Bride of Christ, the Church, will one day be removed from this planet in a most spectacular miracle.
3. The Bible refers to this day as a mystery (1 Corinthians 15:51). Three prepositional phrases used:
 - In a flash.
 - In the blinking of an eye.
 - At the last trumpet.

FIVE REASONS JESUS WILL RETURN...

1. Because of the pattern of God.
 - a. a prophetic warning.
 - b. God then removes His people.
 - c. The judgment of God falls.
2. Because the world is running out of resources.
3. Because of the testimony of the saints at death.
4. Because God's Word is truth.
5. Because God has a history of doing the unexpected.

DOES GOD KEEP HIS WORD? CASE STUDY #2: The walls of Jericho (Joshua 6:26 cf. 1 Kings 16:34).

THE AGE OF THE CHURCH

The third part of the timetable we call Dispensations is the Church Age. The Scripture covering this period of time is John, Ch.14-17, the Book of Acts, plus the New Testament Epistles, with exception of certain parts that deal with the Tribulation, Second Advent, or Millennium. An example of this would be portions of Revelation, 2 Thess. 2 and 1 Peter 3. This age is divided into two parts:

1. The PreCanon Period: from the day of Pentecost to 96 AD. The New Testament was in the process of being written, but was not complete.
2. The PostCanon Period: from 96 AD with the death of the Apostle John, to the present. The Age of the Church will terminate with the Rapture or resurrection of the Church. The way of life for church age believers and the doctrines pertinent to this period are found in the New Testament Epistles—Romans through Revelation, Ch. 3. A picture of the church in heaven is found in revelation, Ch.4-5.

Eight Characteristics of the age of the Church (unique believer assets):

1. Positional truth—union with Christ. At the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit places every believer in union with Jesus Christ by means of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. The believer is acknowledged with the status of being a member of the royal family forever.
2. Universal indwelling of Christ (John 14:20). He dwells within us for the purpose of fellowship.
3. Universal indwelling of the Holy Spirit: in order to be able to live the Christian life and through the filling and power of the Holy Spirit.
4. Universal priesthood of the believer. Every believer has the right to represent himself before God.
5. Completed Canon of Scripture.
6. Supernatural way of life. Accomplished through the intake of Bible doctrine in the soul.
7. Filling of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18; 1 John 1:9).
8. Salvation: as in all four Dispensations, salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31).

