

“The Rapture and the Son of Man” Luke 17:20-37

Please Stand and Open Your Bibles to 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

As you can see from our title we are delving into a topic that breeds division and discord. Not from our side but from those that don't agree with what the Bible plainly teaches. You can see it reflected in their responses by name calling, circular reasoning and straw man arguments. Now in the hour ahead of us I will not be able to completely expound on the subject but only how it relates to our section in Luke. Before you come with your insults and accusations please do your own research as I have and prepare to use the Bible and the Bible only for your arguments. For a complete and thorough study on it I recommend Pastor Billy Crone's * "Are You Ready For The Rapture" Series. It is free to watch on his app and website. Video-Bible Prophecy-Are You Ready for the Rapture. Just to confirm how hated this teaching is that as he was teaching it the haters doxed him and showed up his house with signs warning people that he is a false teacher and other things.

But before we move into our section of Luke let's briefly discuss what it is.

1 Thessalonians 4:17

Then we (Paul included himself!) who are alive and remain shall be caught up (Greek- Harpazo, Latin-Raptus where we get our word for Rapture) together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

As you can see from this verse that this event was expected in Paul's lifetime and that it consists of believers being taken by the Lord. It is also spoken by him to the church in Corinth

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

Behold, I tell you a mystery (A Hidden Truth Now Revealed): We (Paul, again including himself!) shall not all sleep (A euphemism for death), but we shall all be changed— 52 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.

Now because of Paul's use of Mystery there are those that say that the Rapture was never discussed or talked about until it was revealed here. Some take it so far to say Jesus never taught it and all prophetic teaching by Him refers to the second coming as it relates to the Jews. But the problem with that is 1 Thessalonians was written before 1 Corinthians and Paul talked about it before his mystery statement here. Also, he had already said...

1 Thessalonians 4:15

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.

Most of us agree that this is referring to this...

John 14:1-3

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 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. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you (The Rapture!) to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

Now, you should take the time to see the distinct differences between this and the second coming. Now I only want to bring these points up to think about as we look at this teaching by Jesus to his followers that will be sparked by a question by the Pharisees. Just from what we have read, this Rapture will be...

The Rapture:

Imminent

Believers Taken to Jesus

It’s a Comfort to Believers

OK, now that we have laid that groundwork let's look at the first part of our study...

Luke 17:20-21

Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; 21 nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

Now the Pharisees are asking a legitimate question. The Old Testament teaches plainly that there will be a time when Israel will be the head of the Nations and that the Messiah would rule and reign from Jerusalem. Again, the church age was a mystery hidden in the Old Testament and revealed in the New. But the pharisee's problem is not when but Who. We already know from all our past lessons with them they have rejected Jesus, so He only answers the question as it relates to them. See the statement "is within you"? It is unfortunate that many have taken this to mean that the Kingdom of God is within you and me. They allegorize all the promises and use this verse to say that Jesus is now ruling on the throne of David that is in our hearts. If that kind of teaching could be applied to other places, I could make the Bible say anything I want it to. In many

of your Bibles including our Study Bibles in the margin correctly says that it means “In your Midst” Wow, that changes everything! You can’t have a kingdom without a King. The King was standing right in front of them and they were looking elsewhere. Now, this is when Jesus uses the opportunity talk about it with his followers...

Luke 17:22

Then He said to the disciples...

Who were His Disciples? Are they not the ones that are being trained to go out into the world with the gospel and become leaders of the “Church”? Do you not think at this time Jesus understood Biblical Eschatology?

One of the things that are going through the mind of His followers is that they thought the Kingdom would come immediately. That why he begins His teaching with what will happen in the near term...

First Things First

Luke 17:22-25

Jesus tells them plainly what is going to happen. He will be crucified and rise again from the dead, and they will be without

Him. He warns them not to listen to people that say He has come again as it will be an immediate and unexpected event. But before we move on, we need to further define something...

Luke 17:24

...so also the Son of Man will be in His day.

As you can see from this * chart I made, that the Day of the Lord is a complex issue defined by many scriptures. It is two-fold. For the Gentile world it is a time of judgement on a world that has rejected the gospel of Jesus Christ. For the Nation of Israel, it is when God will test them to bring them into faith in their Messiah whom they had rejected. But before that Day he tells them what the world will be like...

Luke 17:26-27

And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: 27 They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

Now we know a lot about the days of Noah. The first thing to point out is verse 27 is a Hebrew Idiom for life going on as normal. We know that Peter told us...

2 Peter 2:5

...and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly

For 120 years as he was building a boat to save people from the flood that Noah was a preacher of righteousness warning people of the flood. What happened? They ignored the warnings and went on about their lives. It's a good thing we don't see any correlation to today! But the point we need to pick up on is judgment didn't come to Noah. He was taken away while the world was drowned. That brings us to the next one...

Luke 17:28-29

Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; 29 but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.

Peter also tells us...

2 Peter 2:6-7

and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to

those who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked

In Lot's case the people tried to get him to conform to their evil ways and could not so God removed him. The people had the same attitude as in Noah's day

Genesis 19:14

So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, "Get up, get out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city!" But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.

Do you see it? Jesus is telling the disciples that before the Day of the Lord the world will be just like those days. He confirms it with this statement...

Luke 17:30

Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

Now, there are those that say this is speaking about the second coming. But is it? Do people in the seventieth week of Daniel know it's the Day of the Lord?

Revelation 6:15-17

And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

Revelation 9:20-21

But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Revelation 16:21

And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.

So you can see it will be way different then life as normal during this time and the whole world will know it is the judgement of God.

An Exhortation to Always be Ready

Luke 17:31-33

People will say because of what it says here and is similar to Matthew 24 talking about the Jews fleeing the Antichrist that this is the same. No. Jesus often used the same principles to teach the different things. Here it is to warn these new Christians to not cling to the things of the world because He could come back at any moment. Just like Lot's wife...

Genesis 19:26

But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

We are to always be ready!

The Day of the Rapture

Luke 17:34-37

There are good folks on either side of this that will differ, but the principle of separation is what is being taught. But you cannot get around the fact that in the examples used the saved are taken and the judged are left behind. Here are the things that we can derive from all of this...

It is an Imminent event
It is a global event
It is a separating event
It comes before judgement
The world is not expecting it

This does not fit the end when Jesus returns and judges the world. It only fits the Rapture when God delivers the righteous before He pours out His wrath on the world.

2 Peter 2:9

the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment

The only question left is * Are You Ready?