



**THE RAPTURE**  
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- **WHEN WE UNDERSTAND THE RAPTURE AND THE END OF THE WORLD, WE CAN BE PREPARED NOT SCARED.**

**I. WHAT IS THE RAPTURE?**

**DEFINITION: THE INSTANTANEOUS ACT OF GOD WHERE HE MOVES CHRIST FOLLOWERS FROM THIS LIFE TO THE NEXT.**

*"He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end."*  
ECCLESIASTES 3:11 | NLT

*"... we will be caught up together ... to meet the Lord in the air ... So encourage each other with these words."*  
1 THESSALONIANS 4:17-18 | NLT

**II. WHY THE RAPTURE?**

**1. TO SPARE BELIEVERS FROM THE TRIBULATION.**

*"But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye."*  
1 CORINTHIANS 15:51-52 | NLT

**2. TO LEAD SOME PEOPLE TO JESUS.**

*"These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."*  
REVELATION 7:14 | NIV

### III. WHEN WILL THE RAPTURE OCCUR?

#### 1. THE RAPTURE WILL OCCUR WITHOUT **WARNING** .

*"Jesus said, 'Look, I will come as unexpectedly as a thief! Blessed are all who are watching for me, who keep their clothing ready so they will not have to walk around naked and ashamed.'"*

REVELATION 16:15 | NLT

#### 2. THE RAPTURE WILL TAKE PLACE **BEFORE** THE TRIBULATION.

*"And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation."*

ROMANS 5:9 | NLT

*"So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus."*

ROMANS 8:1 | NLT

*"Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth."*

REVELATION 3:10 | NIV

#### A. THE TRIBULATION IS ABOUT GOD'S **WRATH** .

*"Then I heard a mighty voice from the Temple say to the seven angels, 'Go your ways and pour out on the earth the seven bowls containing God's wrath.'"*

REVELATION 16:1 | NLT

#### B. THE MISSING WORD FROM REVELATION CHAPTERS 4-18

IS **CHURCH** .

# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

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1. What is one thing that stood out to you in this week's sermon and why?
2. Why do you think God has not told us when the end might occur?
3. If you knew the world would end tomorrow, what would you do differently right now?  
Are you making the most of your life?
4. Would you say you have a heart on fire for God? Has your love grown cold ...  
or lukewarm? Or would you say you are just getting to know God?
5. How is your week going? How can we pray for you and your family?