



Session 8:

THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

Sequence, Details, Timing, and Purpose
(II Thess. 4:13-17; various Scriptures)

The event called the *rapture* is the _____ of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

The rapture is the formal end of the period of _____.

It will usher in the period called:

Sequence and Details of the Rapture

The rapture is the future event when Jesus Christ will descend from heaven to do **two things**.

First

Christ will:

“Those who are asleep” (I Thess. 4:13) refers to:

Paul logically connects to the belief in Christ’s death and resurrection the belief that _____ will _____ with Him when He comes (I Thess. 4:13; II Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23)

Paul says we (living believers) will not precede those who have died. Why is that important to the Thessalonians?

“Cry of command”: Resurrection happens by the _____ of Jesus.

The “dead *in* Christ” - limited to the _____.

Description:

Second

Christ will:

V.17: “we who are alive, who are left”-

“Caught up” in v.17 is the Greek word *harpazo* (ἁρπάζω), meaning:

As Christians are caught up, they’re also _____. (I Cor. 15:50-53)

Our new resurrection bodies will be:

1. Like _____ (I John 3:2)
2. _____ (Luke 24:39)
3. _____ (I Cor. 15:43a)
4. Capable of _____ (I Cor. 15:43b; John 20:26)
5. _____ and _____ (Luke 20:36; I Cor. 15:42)
6. Able to _____ heaven and _____ God (I Cor. 15:50-53; Exodus 33:20)

The rapture also carries the promise of:

Timing of the Rapture

The exact time is _____, except to _____ (Matthew 24:36; Acts 1:7)

The rapture will be _____. (Matt. 24:42, 44; Rev. 22:20)

The rapture will be _____ the _____. (Matthew 24:42, 44; Rev. 3:10; I Thess. 5:9)

Purpose of a Pretribulational Rapture

1. _____ from *wrath* to come. (I Thess. 1:9-10)
2. _____ for the _____ of unbelievers on earth. (II Thess. 2:1-4)
 - In II Thess. 2:1-3, Paul clearly considers the teaching that the church will go through the Tribulation to be:
 - II Thess. 2:11, 12: The _____ of the unbelievers is initiated for _____.
 - The restrainer of lawlessness is the _____ manifested greatly through the _____.

Reasons to Believe in a Pretribulational Rapture

1. Christ’s promise to prepare a place/return for us _____ sharply w/ the Tribulation. (Jn. 14)
2. Rapture is a “_____” unrevealed until Paul’s letters; Tribulation is _____ in the OT.
3. Scripture describes Christ’s return as _____ only a pretrib position supports this doctrine.
4. The Second Coming of Christ appears to be in _____, described very differently.
5. Distinction between _____ and the _____ demands a pretrib rapture.
6. The church is _____ as being on earth in Revelation 4-22.
7. A rapture is _____ if it follows the Tribulation.

Other Rapture Views

Partial Rapture	Midtribulation	Posttribulation	Prewrath Rapture
<i>Basics:</i>	<i>Basics:</i>	<i>Basics:</i>	<i>Basics:</i>
<i>Objections:</i>	<i>Objections:</i>	<i>Objections:</i>	<i>Objections:</i>

Answering Objections to the Pretrib Rapture

“The rapture theory’s only been around since 1830, from questionable sources.”

“The Reformers never talked about the rapture.”

“I Cor. 15:52 says the dead will be raised at the ‘last trumpet.’”

“The church’s hope isn’t to be rescued; it’s to shine in the darkness. Isn’t the tribulation a time for the church to shine?”

“This is a theology that serves us. It’s a convenient theology for a people that doesn’t deal with persecution.”

The TWO PHASES of the SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST

Differences between the RAPTURE and the REVELATION

	RAPTURE	REVELATION
1.	<i>Before</i> the Tribulation (Rev. 3:10)	<i>After</i> the Tribulation (Rev. 19:11-21)
2.	<i>Imminent</i> ; no prophecies to be fulfilled (I Cor. 1:7; Phil. 3:20; Rev. 22:20)	<i>Not imminent</i> ; several prophecies to be fulfilled (Matt. 24:29-30; Luke 21:10-11)
3.	<i>Unmentioned</i> in the Old Testament	Mentioned in <i>both</i> Old and New Testaments
4.	Announced by a <i>single angel</i> (I Thess. 4:16)	Accompanied by <i>countless angels</i> (Matt. 25:31; 25:31; Jude 14-15)
5.	Christ coming <i>for</i> His church (I Thess. 4:16-17; II Thess. 2:1)	Christ coming <i>with</i> His church (I Thess. 3:12-13; Rev. 19:14)
6.	Christ meets believers in the <i>clouds</i> (I Thess. 4:17)	Christ comes to the <i>earth</i> (Zech. 14:4)
7.	Witnessed <i>only</i> by believers (I Thess. 4)	Witnessed by <i>all</i> on the earth (Rev. 1:7)
8.	Believers are <i>translated</i> (John 14:3)	<i>No translation</i> takes place (Matt. 25:34; Rev. 5:10)
9.	<i>Preparation</i> for the Day of the Lord (I Thess. 2:1)	<i>Part</i> of the Day of the Lord (II Peter 3:10-13)
10.	Satan <i>not mentioned</i>	Satan <i>bound</i> ; Antichrist <i>judged</i> (Rev. 19:20; 20:1-3)
11.	Evil starts to <i>increase</i> (II Thess. 2:1-12; Matt. 24:37)	Evil will be <i>stopped</i> (Rom. 8:19-21)
12.	Sets up judgment for the <i>church</i> (Rom. 14:10; Rev. 4:4)	Sets up judgment for those who remain on <i>earth</i> (Rev. 20:4-5)
13.	Jesus comes as <i>head of the church</i> (Eph. 1:10-12)	Jesus comes as <i>Israel's Messiah</i> (Zech. 14:4)
14.	Judgment that follows is for <i>heavenly reward</i> (II Cor. 5:10; I Peter 5:4)	Judgment that follows is for <i>kingdom entry or eternal punishment</i> (Matt. 25, <i>sheep/goats</i> ; Rev. 20:12-15, <i>Great White Throne</i>)
15.	The church rescued <i>from</i> the earth (I Thess. 5:9; Rev. 3:10)	Jewish believers rescued <i>on</i> the earth (Luke 21:27; Jer. 30:17)
16.	Church-age saints' bodies made <i>immortal</i> (I John 3:2; II Cor. 4:14)	Tribulation saints' bodies remain <i>mortal</i> (Matthew 25; except for martyrs- Rev. 20:4)
17.	Promise made to the <i>church</i> fulfilled (John 14:1-3; II Cor. 4:14)	Promises made to <i>Israel</i> fulfilled (Gen. 12:1-3; Is. 11:11; Rom. 11:26-27)
18.	Nature subsequently <i>destroyed</i> (Rev. 6-19)	Nature subsequently <i>restored</i> (Is. 11:6-9; Rom. 8:19-22)
19.	The world will be <i>deceived</i> (II Thess. 2:9-10)	Satan <i>unable to deceive</i> any longer (Rev. 20:1-3)
20.	Message is one of <i>hope</i> (I Thess. 5:9; Titus 2: 13)	Message is one of <i>judgment</i> (Rev. 19:11; Matt. 25:41)