

THE RAPTURE I Corinthians 15:51-57

I Thessalonians 4:13-17 The next event on God's calendar is the Rapture of His church. The English word "Rapture" does not appear in the Bible, it is translated from the Latin translation of the Greek word (harpazo) which means (caught up or to catch up), thus scripture says "...caught up together..."

I Cor. 10:11 (Old Testament examples, types, shadows) **Rapture – Heb. 11:5** Enoch, **Heb. 11:7** Noah, **Gen. 19:22-24** Lot, **Joshua 6:22-23**; **Heb. 11:30-31**; **Mat. 1:5** Rahab the harlot.

I Cor. 15:51-57; **I Thess. 4:13-17**; **Rev. 4:1-2** There are three passages in the Bible that deal with the Rapture in any detail and there is at least one common theme that punctuates each Bible reference.

Trumpets – The common theme in these verses is the blowing of God's trumpet. The people at the time of the writing of scripture were well acquainted with what the trumpet meant. There were four specific purposes for the trumpet blowing; 1. To proclaim victory 2. To call to assembly 3. To announce a warning 4. To call the troops to battle.

WHO IS RAPTURED

I Thess. 4:14-17; **I Cor. 15:51-53** Paul is crystal clear about who will be "caught up together". Only Christians that have died and Christians that are alive will be taken from the earth to meet Jesus in the air. When Jesus comes for the church He will bring all believers that have died with Him in their spiritual bodies, then He will change their spiritual body with their resurrected "incorruptible" glorified bodies. He will then immediately change believers that are alive from mortal bodies into glorified immortal bodies.

WHEN IS THE RAPTURE

Mat. 24:33-36; **Acts 1:6-7** As for when Jesus will return in Rapture or the Kingdom, He was emphatic to the disciples that only God the Father knows the day and hour Jesus will return.

Mat. 24:1-33; **II Tim. 2:15** Regarding the disciples' questions in verse 3 and the answers and events that Jesus expounded on concerning the regathering of Israel, wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes, sun and moon signs, persecutions and death, all are signs that would happen at the end of this age.

Mat. 16:3; **24:3. 33**; **Jn. 2:18**; **4:48**; **I Cor. 1:22** Since the birth of the nation Israel God has sent prophets to them to give prophecies pertaining to Christ and the Kingdom. God has concluded that signs be given to the Jew in order for them to believe. Jesus showed them through many signs, wonders and miracles who He was. The Jews had the scriptures and saw great signs and still would not believe.

***** VERY IMPORTANT ***** No Where In Scripture Are Christians Told To Look For Signs!!!

Mat. 24:44; **Mat. 25:10**; **I Thess. 5:6**; **Rev. 16:15** To the unbelieving Jew the Lord continues to warn and exhort them to look for signs and *get ready* to meet Him. To the believer God warns us *to be ready*. There is a big difference between *getting ready* for God and to *be ready* for God- **Mat. 25:1-10**.

WHY THE RAPTURE

Rom. 1:8; **I Thess. 1:10**; **5:9**; **Rev. 3:10** God promised to keep believers from God's ultimate wrath.

Jn. 14:1-3; **Acts 1:9-11** Jesus promised His disciples that He would come back for believers and take them to His Father's house where He has prepared a special place for them.

I Cor. 3:13-15; **Eph. 5:25-27**; **Rev. 19:7** God wants to prepare the church as a chaste virgin bride for Christ. Jesus wants to reward the saints for their service and to give them their wedding garments.

Rom. 11:25; **Dan. 9:27**; **Jn. 3:36**; **Rm. 1:18**; **Eph. 5:6** The Tribulation period is the time of prophetic fulfillment between God and Israel. God will deal in wrath with unbelieving Israel but also those who refused His mercy and grace in the church age- **II Thess. 2:11-12**. Our sins are gone!!!