

Be Rapture-Ready

Without Setting Dates or Being Influenced by Those Who Do

The Rapture (from the use of the word “rapturo” in the Vulgate—an early Latin translation of the Bible in 1 Thessalonians 4:17) referring to the next major event on God’s program which will climax with the the 2nd Advent of Christ. It is the imminent return of Christ to resurrect Church Age believers/begin the End-Times.

Where Is The Rapture Taught?

John 14:1-3

Let not your heart be troubled...I go to prepare a place for you. **And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself;** so that where I am, *there* you may be also.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. 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, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. **For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel, and with the trumpet of God;** and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain **shall be caught up [*“rapturo”*]** *together* with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Corinthians 15:51-54

Behold, I tell you a mystery; **we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. This perishable must put on imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

1: The Rapture is Imminent

It is impending/could take place at any moment but not necessarily soon. When it does take place it will happen quickly /suddenly without warning

Revelation 22:12

Behold, I am coming quickly (suddenly at any moment), and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.

Revelation 4:1-2

After these things I looked, and behold, a door *standing open in heaven*, and the first voice which I had heard, like a trumpet speaking with me, said **Come up here**, I will show you what must take place after these things.

2: The Rapture Will Initiate the End-Times

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath* (of the Tribulation on Earth) **to come**.

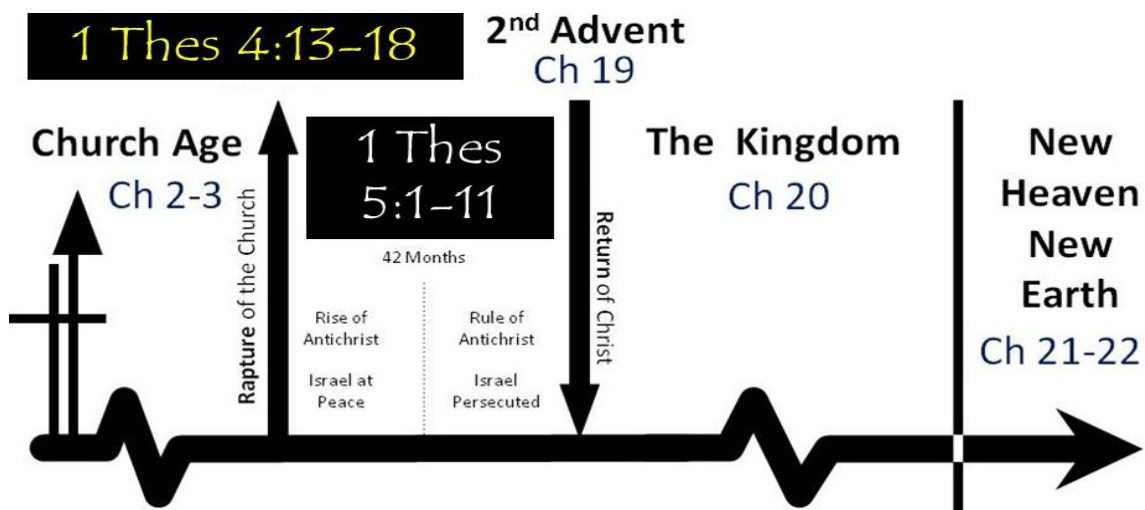
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The Rapture Event is Described (Christians Up and Out of Earth)

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Immediately Followed by the Tribulation on Earth (Revelation 6-18) Which in Turn Will Lead to the 2nd Advent of Christ (Revelation 19)

The Old Testament Predicts ONE Messiah with TWO Advents-Lamb/Lion
The New Testament Predicts TWO Aspects of the Return of Christ (R/2nd Adv)



The Rapture

Revelation 4
Movement: Up and Away
In the Air

To Prepared Places in Heaven
Will End the Church Age

A “Mystery” in the OT

Any Moment/Imminent
John 14:1-3; Revelation 22:12
1 Thes 4:13-18/1 Cor 15:51-58

The 2nd Advent

Revelation 19
Movement: Down and Stay
On the Mount of Olives

To Prep Earth for Millennium
Will End the Tribulation

A Major Theme in the OT

After Specific Events/Signs
Psalm 2:10-12; Zechariah 14:2-9
Daniel 7:13-14; 2 Thes 1:7-10

3: The Rapture Should Impact Us in Practical Ways Now

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people, telling us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, **looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus**; who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. **Titus 2:11-14**

For Believers the Rapture is a/the Blessed “Hope”

Hope: NT Greek “elpis = faith directed forward in active anticipation
IOWs: looking forward to something we know will happen in the future

The Capital C-Church’s “Hope” of the Rapture is Both Comforting/Encouraging Us to Walk Wisely/Righteously and Convicting/Exhorting Us to Avoid Selfishness/Sin

1 John 2:28-3:3

Little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears [the Rapture] we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming...See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God and *such* we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not yet appeared as to what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.

1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore (in light of the imminent Rapture as described in 15:51-57), my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in vain* in the Lord.

Take This To Heart

And To Your Home and Your Mission Field

The Coming of Christ for Believers at the Rapture

1: Is Imminent

It Could Take Place at Any Moment

2: It Will Initiate the End-Times

Which Will Lead Directly to Literal, Visible, Undeniable 2nd Advent of Christ

3: It Should Impact Believers in Practical Ways Now

Comforting and Convicting Us to Be Spiritually Steadfast/Immovable, Always Abounding in the Work of the Lord, Knowing...Our Toil (Living for the LORD in a Fallen World That Rejects Him and Us Is NOT *in Vain* in/for the Lord