

Rapture of the Church

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

2025

Charlottetown Bible Chapel

Prophecy and the Bible

There are Approximately

- **100 References to the First Coming of Christ**
- **500 References to the Second Coming**
- **27 % of the Bible contains prophecy**
- **There are 1,817 prophecies in the Bible**

**Prophecy is mentioned in every book of the New Testament
Except Philemon, Galatians**

Why is the Study of Prophecy Important

Prophecy Puts Christ First

Rapture - Christ is in the first place

Kingdom - Christ is in the first place in ruling and reigning for 1000 years.

Judgment Seat - Christ is in the first place.

Tribulation, Eternal State, etc. Christ is in the first place

***What does 1
Thessalonians 4:13-18
Say About the Rapture***

The Difference Between the Rapture & the Second Coming

Rapture

Coming for Christians

Coming in the Air

Coming for Blessing

Coming in a Moment

Second Coming

**Coming With Christians -
1 Thess. 3:13**

**Coming to the Earth -
Zach. 14:1-3**

**Coming for Judgment
2 Thess. 2:8-12**

**Coming That All Will See Christ
Rev. 1:7**

1 Thessalonians 4:13

Comfort for Departed Love Ones

Comfort For Departed Loved Ones.

“Be Not Ignorant” Favorite Phrase of Paul When Introducing an important truth. (1 Cor. 12:1, Rom. 11:25)

Those who “sleep” -

- a. Not “Soul-Sleep” but the body “sleeps”
- b. Acts 7:59 Stoning of Stephen

We do not sorrow...

We know we will be with the Lord

The Plan of the Rapture

1 Thess. 4:16

1. Lord Shall Descend

Christ's Great Shout – military command “Keleusma”

John 5:27 – those in the graves shall hear his voice...

2. – The Archangel (Michael) joins his voice the voice of Christ

He defends against Satan “Lord rebuke you” Michael is a defender against Satan. Is this a call to other angels? Will Satan try to oppose to rapture of his saints to heaven?

3. – The Trumpet of God joins the voices of Christ & Archangel

What Does the Word “Rapture” Mean?

Derived from the Latin verb “Rapto” meaning to carry or transport from one place to another.

Based upon the Greek word - “*Harpazo*” - to be caught up in 1 Thessalonians 4:16

Acts 23:11 “He ordered the troops to go down and *take him away* from them by force and bring him into the barracks.”

John 14:1-3

Philippians 3:20-21

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

1 Thessalonians 4:14-18

Rapture Texts

John 14:1-3 -

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”



1. Participants of the Rapture

Who Will be Raptured

The Promise - 1 Thess. 4:15

- **“We” who are alive**
- **The dead and the living** – “in Christ” believers
- **Ashamed at his coming** –
1 John 2:28 - Little children abide in him, that you might have confidence and not be ashamed at his coming.
- **All** – 1 Corinthians 15:51 – “We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.”
- **Disciples** – John 14:1-3 – “I go to prepare a place for **you** and if I go I will come again...”

***2. The Lord's
Coming is Imminent***

Dr. Charles Ryrie

“An imminent event is one that impending, hanging over one’s head, ready to take place. An imminent event is one that is always ready to take place.”

—“Come Quickly Lord Jesus”, p. 22



What Is Imminence?

- 1. No Intervening Events.**
- 2. The Next Thing on the Prophetic Calendar.**
- 3. It is Certain - “When He appears...” 1 John 3:1**
- 4. Any Moment**
- 5. Without warning**

Early Church - Supported Imminence

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

Notice the word “**We**”

- v. 15 “For this **we** say by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and shall not precede those who are asleep...
- v. 17 “Then **we** who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds and so shall **we** ever be with the Lord .”

Imminence - Scriptural Basis

1 Corinthians 1:7 - “Awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Philippians 3:20 - “For our citizenship is in heaven from which also we eagerly wait for our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

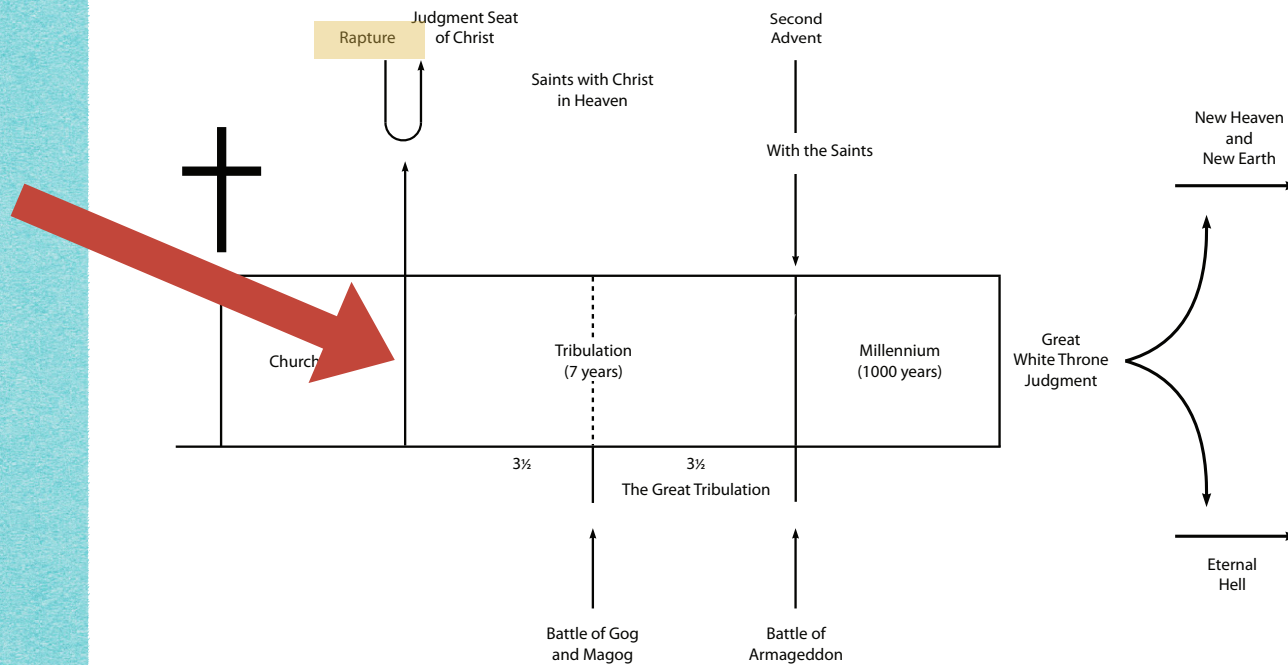
Hebrews 9: 28 - “So Christ...will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly wait for Him.”

1 Thessalonians 1:10 - “ ...to wait for His Son from heaven...”

Titus 2:13 - “Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.”

***3. The Lord's Coming
is Pre-Tribulational***

The Premillennial Scheme of World Events



The Rapture Will Take Place Prior the the Tribulation Period

Biblical Basis

“Before the Hour of Trial that shall come...” - Revelation 3:10

“Deliver you from the wrath to come” - 1 Thessalonians 1:10

“You are not appointed unto wrath” - 1 Thessalonians 5:9

“Worthy to escape these things that shall come to pass...” —Luke 21:36

Trumpet of God, Last Trumpet

Silver Trumpets of Numbers 10

Numbers 10:3 “Blow two silver trumpets to gather at the tabernacle.

Numbers 10:4 “Blow one silver trumpet to gather unto Moses

Numbers 10:5 “Blow an alarm then the camps on the east move forward

Numbers 10:6 “Blow an alarm a second time (last trumpet)...shall take their journey.

Carl Armerding - Professor of Bible at Wheaton College

“The last trump would signify that the whole congregation was finally on the move. This serves to illustrate what we find in 1 Corinthians 15:23, ‘every man in his own order (“rank” - Greek tagmati): Christ the first fruits, afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming. These last are certain divided into at least two groups: those who have ‘fallen asleep’ and those who are ‘alive and remain’.”

Carl Armerding, *The Last Trump and the Seventh Trumpet*, (New York, NY: Loizeaux Brothers Publishers

***4. New Glorified
Resurrection Bodies***

Rapture Resurrection Texts.

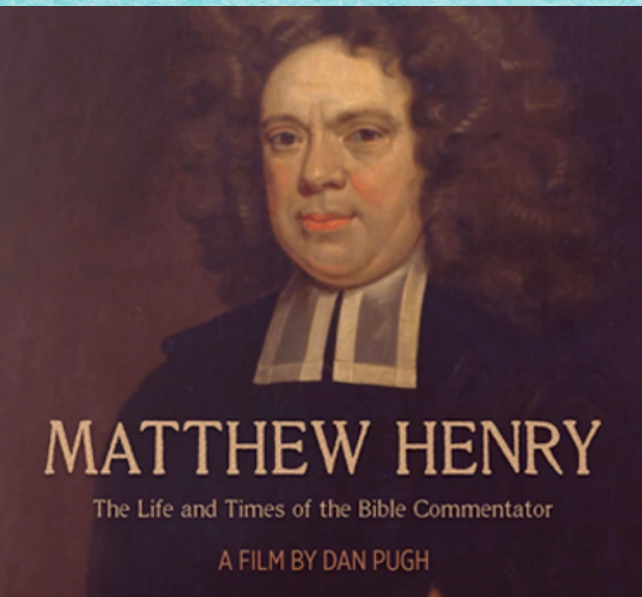
1 Corinthians 15:51-52 - “Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”

Philippians 3:20-21 - “But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.”

***5. Rapture: Blessing
or Judgment***

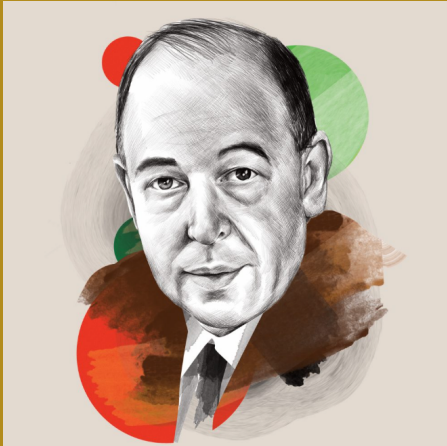
Blessing or Judgment

Matthew Henry



1 Thessalonians 4:16 “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout and with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God; and the *dead in Christ* shall rise first...”

Matthew Henry - Whole Bible Commentary - Vol. 6, p. 895 “The state and condition shall be glorious and happy at the **second coming** of Christ...the Lord will give notice of his approach, and the glorious appearance of this great Redeemer and **Judge** will be proclaimed and ushered in by the trump of God, for the trumpet shall sound, and this will awaken those that sleep in the dust of the earth, and summon the whole world to appear.”



C. S. Lewis

