

The End Times Series
The Rapture
1 Cor 15.51-58

[Beliefs concerning the rapture]

- [• Partial Rapture Theory - only those who are watching will be taken.]
- [• Post-Tribulation Rapture Theory - The rapture will occur after the tribulation period.]
- [• Mid-Tribulation Rapture Theory - The rapture occurs in the middle of the tribulation period.]
- [• Pre-Tribulation Rapture Theory - The rapture occurs at the beginning of the tribulation period.]

[Compelling scriptural evidence for the **Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church (2 Thes 2.1-8). The bible speaks of the order of events, these are,]**

- **[The Saint's Reunion - Our gathering unto Him (vs 1)]**
- **[The Spirit's Removal - Taken out of the way (vs 7-10; John 14.16-18 ;Heb 13.5) [The Holy Spirit will never leave a saint]**

[John 14:16-18 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; ¹⁷Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.]

[Hebrews 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.]

- **[Satan's Release - The man of sin revealed (vs 3-6, **7-8**)]**
- **[The Sinner's Rebellion - Strong Delusions (vs 11-12; 2 Cor 6.2)]**

[2 Cor. 6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, **now is the accepted time**; behold, **now is the day of salvation**.)]

[**Strong** - energeia (gk) - 1) working, efficiency. 1a) in the NT used only of **superhuman power**, whether of God or of the Devil]

[**Delusions** - plane plan'-ay (gk) - 1) a wandering, a straying about. 1a) one led astray from the right way, roams hither and thither. 2) metaph. 2a) mental straying.]

[Many people will be saved during the Tribulation Period, Glory to God. However, any individual who heard the clear Gospel message and rejected the Lord Jesus Christ during this Church Age will NOT get saved after the Rapture. They will be given a supernatural delusion and will believe the Anti-Christ is Christ. They will not have the opportunity to get saved.]

The Bible and the Rapture (1 Cor 15.51-58; cf 1 Thess 4.13-18). The Bible teaches about,

A. Our Transformation (vs 51; 1 Thess 4.15-17; 2 Cor 5.8) [- *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, **but we shall all be changed**, - All born-again Christians. The word sleep here is speaking of our death and burial. It is speaking of a Christians physical body lying in its grave until this moment of time, the Rapture, when it to will be changed and resurrected,]*

[1 Thessalonians 4:15-16 ¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord **shall not prevent them which are asleep.** ¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: **and the dead in Christ shall rise first:**]

[**Christian's whose bodies are in the grave are spiritually with the Lord Jesus Christ.**]

[2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather **to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.**]

[They will return without Lord and their soul and spirit will reenter their physical, transformed bodies, and they will rise to physically meet our Lord in the air with us.]

[1 Thessalonians 4:17 **Then we which are alive and remain** shall be **caught up together with them** in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.]

[What a glorious, mysterious, supernatural event the Rapture will be.]

[Notice in our Text that,]

1. **Our change will be Momentary** (vs 52; 1 Thess 5.2) [- *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, . . .* - Instantaneous, in the twinkling of an eye. In the blink of an eye.]

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The Bible and the Rapture

1. **Our Transformation**
 - a. Will be Momentary

[1 Thes. 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh **as a thief in the night.**]

[**In an instant** - Whatever you are doing you will complete in the presence of your Lord!]

[**Unexpected** – Instantaneous. When you least expect it. The Rapture will give a jolt to even those who are watching for it.]

[**Illustration** – Whatever you are doing at the moment of the Rapture you will complete in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.]

- [If you are praying you will finish your prayer in the presence of our Lord.]
- [If you are praising you will finish your praises in the presence of our Lord.]
- [If you are sinning you will be in the midst of your sin in the presence of our Lord.]
- [If you are cursing you will finish those words in the presence of our Lord.]
- [If you are hatefully arguing you will finish those words in the presence of our Lord.]

[Our Transformation will be momentary. How will you be found Christian?]

2. **Our change will be Marshaled** (vs 52; 1 Thes 4.16) [- *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound**, . . . - The trump shall sound. To bring together and order in an appropriate way. To lead ceremonially. As a Marine I think of the trumpet calls used for so many different things. In this case the trumpet call for assembly.]*

*[1 Thes. 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, **and with the trump of God:** and the dead in Christ shall rise first:]*

Matt 25.13

[Our Lord and King will call His people, born-again Christians, and the saints of all the ages together at this moment. Glory to God.]

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The Bible and the Rapture

1. Our Transformation

- a. Will be Momentary
- b. Will be Marshalled

[When will this all be?]

[No man knows the hour (Matt 24.36; 25.13; Mark 13.32)]

[Matthew 24:36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.]

[Mark 13:32 But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.]

*[Matthew 25:13 **Watch therefore**, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.]*

[The saints should be found watching (1 Thes 5.1-6)]

*[1 Thes. 5:1-6 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. ²For **yourselves know perfectly** that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. ³For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. ⁴**But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.** ⁵Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. ⁶Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; **but let us watch and be sober.**]*

3. Our change will be **Marvelous** (vs 52-53; 1 John 3.2) [- In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, **and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.** ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. - The dead raised, and we changed. Incorruptible and immortal.]

[1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.]

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The Bible and the Rapture

1. Our Transformation

- a. Will be Momentary
- b. Will be Marshalled
- c. Will be Marvelous

B. Our **Triumph** (vs 54-57) - So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, **Death is**

swallowed up in victory. ⁵⁵ O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. - **We are victorious:**

1. Over the **Punch** (vs 55-56; Rom 6.23) [- O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? ⁵⁶ **The sting of death is sin;** and the strength of sin is the law. - The sting that leads to death is sin.]

[Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.]

[Through our Lord Jesus Christ sin no longer has dominion over us. We have been made free from sin and its deadly sting.]

2. Over the **Power** (vs 56; Rom 7.7-13; Gal 3.24) [- The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. - the strength of sin is the law.]

*[Romans 7:7-13 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, **I had not known sin, but by the law:** for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. ⁸ But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. ⁹ For I was alive without the law once: but when the*

commandment came, sin revived, and I died. ¹⁰And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. ¹¹For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. ¹²Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. ¹³Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; **that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.**]

[Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.]

3. **By the Pardon (vs 57-59)** [- But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. - Through Jesus Christ.]

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1. **Our Transformation**
 - a. Will be Momentary
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 - c. Will be Marvelous
2. **Our Triumph**

- C. **Our Tribute (vs 58)** [- Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. – **Some people think that it doesn't matter what one believes about the rapture. I tell you they couldn't be more wrong.** What you believe about the rapture molds how you will live your Christian life. You expectancy, or the lack thereof, will change how you make every decision in your life.]

[Because of this impending rapture we should demonstrate:]

- a. [A **Foundation** - Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable,. . . - Steadfast and immovable.]
- b. [A **Focus** - Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, **always abounding in the work of the Lord,** . . . - Always Abounding in the work.]

- c. [**A Future** - *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, **forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*** - Your labour is not in vain.]

CrossRoads Baptist Church, Dec 27, 2014
Sugar Creek, Sunday evening, January 11, 2004
Sugar Creek, Wednesday, July 9, 2003

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The Bible and the Rapture

- 3. Our Transformation**
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 - b. Will be Marshalled
 - c. Will be Marvelous
- 4. Our Triumph**
- 5. Our Tribute**