

**When Jesus Comes For Me**  
**1 Thessalonians 4-5**  
**January 8, 2023 - Pastor Cliff Watson**

**I. THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH. 4:13-18 Jesus Coming FOR the church.**

**A. Getting our 'terms' right.**

**1. The "rapture". 4:17** Gr. *Harpazo*, Latin *Raptus*.

**"... 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 unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:2-3).**

**1 Corinthians 15:51-52:**

Behold, I tell you a **mystery**: We shall not all sleep, but we shall **all be changed**—<sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

**"All be changed"** from Gr. *allaso*, meaning "exchanged (as in metamorphosis)". It is "to change, alter, exchange, make different".

**Thessalonians 4:16**

- The Revelation angels blow the judgment trumpets. Jesus HIMSELF shouts with the trumpet (**1 Thess. 4:16**).
- The Rev. *judgments* keep saying "**woe, woe, woe**". The nature of the rapture trumpet is not 'woe', but glory and joy!

**Rapture** is from Latin '*raptus*', trans. For "caught up".

The Greek **Harpazo** is used 8 times in the NT translated "caught, snatched, seized, by force, take".

**Kenneth Wuest** teaches that:

**a) Caught away speedily.**

Used in **Acts 8:3:9** where the Spirit "caught away Philip"

**b) Seize by force (from Satan).**

In **John 6:15**, some tried to '**seize**' Christ to make Him a king.

**c) To claim for oneself (Jesus is claiming us).**

This shows the rapture from our Lord's point of view. He is coming for what belongs to him! His bride.

**d) To move to a new place (heaven).**

Paul uses **harpazo** in **2 Corinthians 12:1** for his visit to heaven.

## **John 14, Philippians. 3:20-21.**

**e) To rescue from danger (1:10; 5:9).**

**1 Thessalonians. 1:10 and 5:9** we will be taken 'home' BEFORE the danger (tribulation period).

("in the twinkling of an eye", **1 Corinthians 15:52**).

## **2. The "Day of the Lord". Ch. 5 (2<sup>nd</sup> part of the EVENT).**

### **The Timeline of the Event. (Bookends):**

- The instantaneous catching up (*rapture*). This chain follows:
- The Tribulation period (wrath) takes place for 7 years.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> coming and Armageddon are at the end of the 7 years.

"Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south. Then you shall flee through My mountain valley, For the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee As you fled from the earthquake In the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the LORD my God will come, And all the saints with You." (**Zechariah 14:3-5, NKJV**)

"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo." (**Zechariah 12:10-11, NKJV**)

"And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."" (**Romans 11:26-27, NKJV**)

**This is an EVENT** (starting with the Rapture, ending with the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming).

**Colossians 3:4** When Christ who is our life appears, **then you also will appear with Him in glory.**

**Jude 1:14-15** Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "**Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints,** to execute judgment on all,

**Zech. 14:4,5** "And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it

toward the south. Then you shall flee through My mountain valley, For the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee As you fled from the earthquake In the days of Uzziah king of Judah. **Thus the LORD my God will come, And all the saints with You.**"  
(Zechariah 14:4–5, NKJV)

### ***B. Misnomers about the 'rapture'.***

Paul believed he might be here for the rapture (v. 16,17).

#### **1. That it is not before the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming?**

#### **2. Soul sleep. 4:13,15**

The terms "**fallen asleep**" and "**sleep**" mean 'dead'. Note that the word "*cemetery*" means "*sleeping place*".

**2 Corinthians 5:6** So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. <sup>7</sup> For we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup> We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

#### **3. Post or partial Tribulation Rapture?**

We are not **appointed** to this '**day of wrath**' (1:10 and 5:9).

**WRATH:** The *purpose* of '**wrath**' on this world:

**Romans 1:18** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

(Gen. 18:23; 2 Pet. 2:7-9).

**Luke 21:26** Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to **escape all these things** that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

**Rev. 4:1** *meta tauta*. ("**after these things**").

**Romans 3:10-11** Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also **will keep you from the hour of trial** which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. <sup>11</sup> Behold, I am coming quickly!

### ***C. The straight facts of what we look forward to.***

**1. Reunited with Christ forever. V. 17** We eagerly await this.

**Phil. 3:20.**

## **2. Reunited with saved loved ones.**

**I Thess. 2:19** For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?

## **II. THE DAY OF THE LORD. 5:1- 11 Jesus Coming WITH the Church.**

**A. A "thief in the night". V. 2** The Lord is coming for a 'watching' church.

**B. The "Day of the Lord". V. 2,4** The 'day' starts after the Rapture. (ex. **Isa. 12,13**).

**C. Events the world (not us) will see. V. 3ff**

**1. The lie "peace & safety" will ring out.**

**2. Destruction will instead come. Look at the 'signs'.**  
**Luke 21:25-33, Matt. 24**

## **III. THE LIFE WE MUST LIVE. 5:4-11**

**A. We need to walk as "children of light". V. 4,5**

As unbelievers, we lived in darkness (**John 3:19-21; Eph. 5:11**)  
We were under its control (**Eph. 6:12**)  
and were headed for eternal darkness (**Matt. 8:12**).

"the light of the world" (**Jn. 8:12**), children of light (**Eph. 5**).  
Our new life-change is described in **2 Cor. 4:1-6; Col. 1:13;**  
**and 1 Peter 2:9.**

**B. We need to be "awake"! V. 6, 7**

My sister, my bride, you have thrilled my heart; you have thrilled my heart with a glance of your eyes, with one sparkle from your necklace. Your love is so sweet, my sister, my bride. Your love is better than wine, and your perfume smells better than any spice. . . My sister, my bride, you are like a garden locked up, like a walled-in spring, a closed-up fountain.  
**(Song of Sol. 4:9-12)**

**C. We need to be "active". V. 8-11**

## **CONCLUSION:**

So what kind of people should you be? You should live holy lives and serve God, as you wait for and look forward to the coming of the day of God.  
**2 Peter 3:11-12**