

THE RAPTURE: THE BLESSED HOPE OF THE CHURCH

Series: *The Final Things* – Week #1

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*“Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. 2 There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? 3 **When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.**” John 14:1-3 (NLT)*

What The Bible Teaches About The Rapture...

1. The Rapture Is a Biblical Promise, Not a Human Invention

*“And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died. ¹⁵We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. ¹⁶For the **Lord himself will come down** from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. ¹⁷Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth **will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.** Then we will be with the Lord forever.” 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 (NLT)*

2. The Rapture Is About Hope, Not Fear

*“So **encourage** each other with these words.” 1Thessalonians 4:18 (NLT)*

3. The Rapture Includes Supernatural Transformation

*“But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but **we will all be transformed!** ⁵² It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed.” 1 Corinthians 15: 51-52 (NLT)*

*“But we are **citizens of heaven**, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are **eagerly waiting for him to return** as our Savior. ²¹ He will take our **weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own**, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.” Philippians 3:20-21 (NLT)*

4. The Rapture & the Second Coming Are Related, But Distinct

*“Then I saw **heaven opened**, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war. ¹² His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself. ¹³ He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God. ¹⁴ **The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses.** ¹⁵ From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress. ¹⁶ On his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords.” Revelation 19:11-16 (NLT)*

5. The Rapture Happens Before the Day of Wrath

*“For then there will be **great tribulation**, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.” Matthew 24:21 (ESV)*

*“Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, **I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the***

whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.” Revelation 3:10

6. The Rapture Calls Us To **Holiness & Readiness**

*“For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. ¹² And **we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God,** ¹³ while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed.” Titus 2:11-13 (NLT)*