

## THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

**I Thessalonians 4:13-18**: But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will 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, will 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 will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another these words!

**I Corinthians 15: 50-53**: I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall 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 all be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

**John 14:1-3**: Let not your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

### **1. WHAT is the Rapture?**

The Rapture is a Divine Miracle where Jesus will appear in the clouds in the air. All Christians who have died will be resurrected out of their graves to meet their spirit in the air. After that Christians who are alive then will be caught up in the air for the translation of their bodies to be with the Lord forever and ever! I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:50-53; John 14:1-3

### **2. WHY the Rapture Must Take Place?**

After death, the redeemed go consciously into the presence of the Lord, while the unsaved go into conscious punishment. Luke 16:19-31; Philippians 1:22-24; II Corinthians 5:8. Both Groups of Souls have an Intermediate Body and awaiting a Bodily Resurrection!

I Corinthians 15:50,53: I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

Romans 8:22-25: We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. The Rapture is the completion of our Salvation with the receiving our Glorified Body made for Eternity!

### **3. WHO will be Raptured?**

John 11: 25-26: "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. All Born Again Christians who have been Baptized and Sealed with the Holy Spirit at Conversation! Romans 8:12

All individuals who were Saved from Pentecost to the Rapture (AKA: The Body and Bride of Christ, The Church, all Christians Jew and Gentile who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior during the Church Age will be raised at that time. I Cor 15 & I Thess 4!

### **4. WHERE does the Bible mention "Two Resurrections"?**

John 5:28-29: Do not be amazed at this, for the hour is coming in which all those in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who did good things to a resurrection of life, and those who practiced evil things to a resurrection of judgment.

Acts 24:15: Having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.

Revelation 20: 4-7: Then I saw thrones and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also, I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years. Two Resurrections! 1<sup>st</sup> Resurrection of the Righteous and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Resurrection of the Unrighteous there is a 1000-Yr Gap.

### **5. WHEN will the Rapture take Place?**

Matthew 24:41: "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. It could be a 100 Years from now or it could be in the next moment!

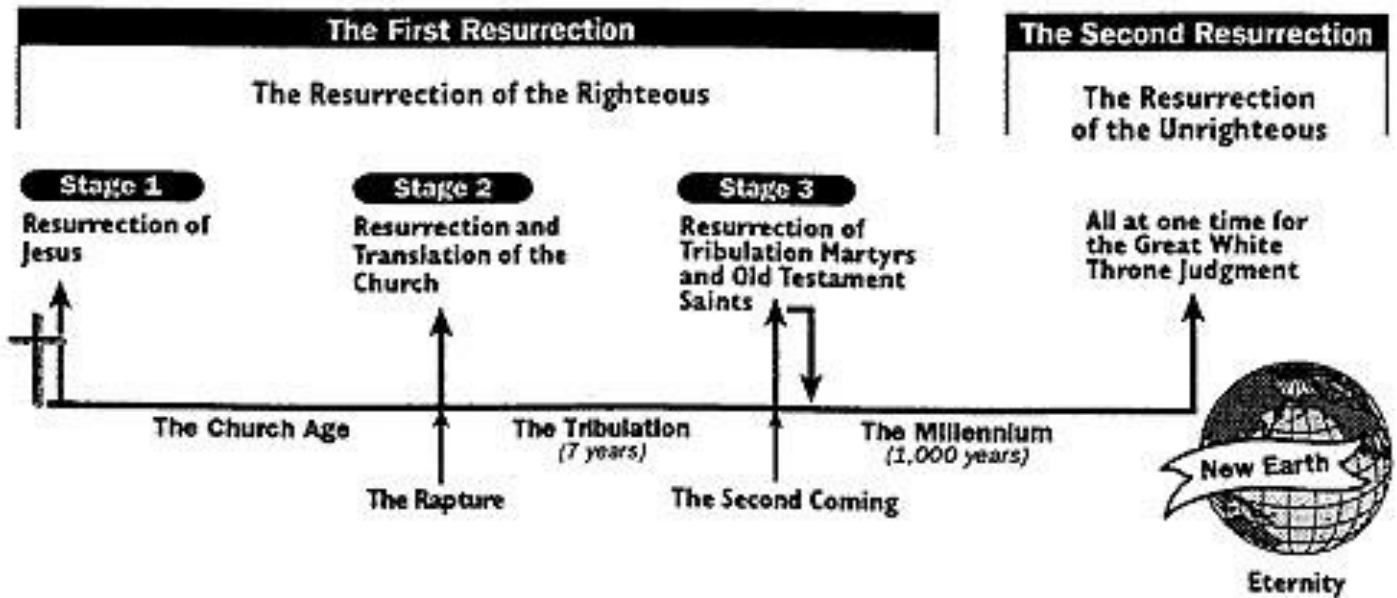
### **6. WATCHING and WAITING for the Rapture! Our Response!**

Titus 2:13: while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

**Listed below are 15 differences between the Rapture and the 2nd Coming**

	<u>Rapture</u>		<u>Second Coming</u>
1	Jesus coming <b>FOR</b> His Church. John 14:1-3, 1 Thess 4:14-17	1	Jesus coming <b>WITH</b> His Church Col 3:4, Zech 14:5, Jude 14, Rev 19:14
2	Caught up with Him <u>in the air</u> 1 Thess 4:13-18	2	Jesus' feet <u>touch the earth</u> Zech 14:4, Rev:19:11-21
3	Christians taken first, unbelievers are left behind. 1 Thess 4:13-18	3	Wicked are taken first, the righteous (Tribulation saints) are left behind. Matt 13:28-30
4	Purpose: To present the Church to Himself and to the Father 2 Cor 11:2, Rev. 19:6-9	4	Purpose: To execute judgment on earth and set up His Kingdom Jude 14-15, Rev 19:11-21, Zech 14:3-4
5	MARRIAGE: Marriage of Lamb <u>in heaven</u> after the Rapture	5	WAR: Marriage is followed by war <u>on earth</u> at the 2nd coming
6	Happens in a <u>moment</u> , in the twinkling of an eye (too fast for eyes to see) 1 Cor 15:52	6	Slow coming, people will see Him come back. Zech 12:10 Matt 24:30, Rev 1:7
7	<u>Only Christians</u> will see Him 1 John 3:2, 1 Cor 15:52	7	<u>Every eye</u> will see Him Rev. 1:7
8	Jesus descends with a shout (for resurrection) 1 Thess 4:16	8	No shout mentioned Rev. 19:11-21
9	A resurrection takes place 1 Thess 4:13-18, 1 Cor 15:51-54	9	No resurrection mentioned Rev 1:7, 19:11-21, Zech 12:10, 14:4-5
10	Can happen at any time Rev 3:3, 1 Thess 5:4-6	10	Occurs at end of 7 years of Tribulation Dan 9:24-27 Matt 24:29-30, 2 Thess 2:3-8
11	No angels are sent to gather (resurrected people don't need angels to help them)	11	Angels sent forth to gather people together for judgment Matt 13:39, 41, 49, 24:31, 25:31, 2 Thess 1:7-10
12	<u>Spirits</u> of those dead in Christ return with Jesus <u>to receive</u> their resurrected bodies 1 Thess 4:14-16	12	Christians return with Jesus <u>in already resurrected</u> bodies riding on white horses. Rev 19:11-21
13	Jesus does not return on a white horse	13	Jesus returns on a white horse Rev 19:11
14	For the Church only (those <u>in Christ</u> ) 1 Thess 4:14-17	14	For redeemed Israel & Gentiles Rom 11:25-27, Matt 25:31-46
15	A message of <u>hope</u> and <u>comfort</u> 1 Thess 4:18, Titus 2:13, 1 John 3:3	15	A message of <u>judgment</u> Joel 3:12-16, Rev 19:11-21, Mal 4:5

## THE FIRST AND SECOND RESURRECTION



Israel had Three Stages in their Food Harvest: Firstfruits, Harvest, Gleanings

FIRST RESURRECTION – Righteous, Just, Living, Good

This includes ALL SAVED PEOPLE FROM ADAM TO THE END OF THE MILLENIAL KINGDOM!

“The First Resurrection of the Righteous or the Saved happens in Three Stages:

Stage 1 “Firstfruits” – Christ Resurrection

I Corinthians 15:20

Stage 2 “Harvest” – Church’s Resurrection

This happens at the Rapture when the Church is “caught up” in the air to meet the Lord before The Seven Year Tribulation Period begins on earth.

I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:50-53; John 14:1-3

Stage 3a: “Initial Gleanings” – Tribulation Martyrs Resurrection

This happens at the End of the Seven Year Tribulation Period. Revelation 20:4-6.

Stage 3b: “Last Gleanings” – OT Saints Resurrection

This happens at the End of the Seven Year Tribulation Period and right before the beginning of the Thousand Year Millennial Kingdom begins on Earth. Daniel 12:1-2; Ezekiel 37:11-14.

SECOND RESURRECTION: Unrighteous, Dead, Just, Evil

ALL UNSAVED PEOPLE including Satan and Fallen Angels. This happens at the end of the Millennial Reign and at the creation of the New Earth and New Heaven. Revelation 20:11-15.

## There will be “Two Comings” of Christ

### Rapture Passages

#### In the Air

##### Phase I

John 14:1-3  
Romans 8:19  
Cor. 1:7, 8  
I Cor. 15:51-53  
1 Cor. 16:22  
Phil. 3:20, 21  
Phil. 4:5  
Col. 3:4  
1 Thess. 1:10  
1 Thess. 2:19  
1 Thess. 4:13-18  
1 Thess. 5:9  
1 Thess. 5:23  
1 Thess. 2:1  
1 Thess. 2:3 (?)  
1 Tim. 6:14  
1Tim. 4:1  
2 Tim. 4:8  
Titus 2:13  
Heb. 9:28  
James 5:7-9  
1 Peter 1:7, 13  
1 Peter 5:4  
1 John 2:28-3:2  
Jude 21  
Rev. 2:25  
Rev. 3:10

### Second Coming Passages

#### On the Earth

##### Phase II

Daniel 2:44, 45  
Daniel 7:9-14 I  
Daniel 12:1-3  
Zechariah 12:10  
Zechariah 14:1-15  
Matt. 13:41  
Matt. 24:15-31  
Matt. 26:64  
Mark 13:14-27  
Mark 14:62  
Luke 21:25-28  
Acts 1:9-11  
Acts 3:19-21  
1 Thess. 3:13  
2 Thess. 1:6-10  
2 Thess. 2:8  
1 Peter 4:12, 13  
2 Peter 3:1-14  
Jude 14, 15  
Rev. 1:7  
Rev. 19:11-20:6  
Rev. 22:7, 12, 20