



Lesson: Two hundred thirty-three
Series: Signs of the End.
Title: The Rapture, Part 1
Text: 1 Thess 4:13-18
Date: October 11, 2020

Implications

1. The rapture is a literal _____.
2. The rapture is God's promise that believers won't experience the Day of the Lord _____.
3. The rapture is a blessed _____ for all who have lost loved ones.

Discussion Guide

1. What has been your understanding of the rapture before today's sermon?
2. Why are the seven examples of saints being "caught up" or "snatched away" important for the doctrine of the rapture?
3. Why is it important to understand that the coming of the Lord has two phases?
4. Reread 1 Thess. 4:13-18 and 1 Cor. 15:51-52 and review what believer and expect when the rapture takes place.
5. Why is it important to understand that the rapture of saints who are alive and the resurrection of the dead are inextricably tied to the Lord's death and resurrection?
6. How has your confidence in the rapture changed?

ANSWERS: Enoch, Elijah, Jesus, Philip, Paul, John, Two Witnesses, certain, reality, wrath, hope

This series will answer two questions:

- Is the rapture biblical?
- When will the rapture take place?

Is the rapture biblical?

"Rapture comes from the Latin noun "rapture"

[**harpazo**] - snatched away or carried off by force.

1. _____

Genesis 5:24 Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

"and he died" - 5:5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 27, 31

Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was **taken up** so that he would not see death; and he was not found because God **took him up**; for he obtained the witness that before his being **taken up** he was pleasing to God.

"**taken up**" [metatithemi] -

"so that he would not see death"

2. _____

2 Kings 2:1 And it came about when the Lord was about to **take up** Elijah by a whirlwind to **heaven**, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.

3. _____

Acts 1:9-11 And after He had said these things, He was **lifted up** while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. 11 They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been **taken up** from you **into heaven**, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

Revelation 12:5 And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was **caught up** to God and to His throne.

4. _____

Acts 8:39-40 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord **snatched Philip away**; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.

"caught up" [harpazo]

Rev 12:5; Matt 11:12; Acts 8:39; 2 Cor 12:2

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, 52 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 will be changed.

"moment" [atomos]

"twinkling of an eye"

Where do we go?

John 14:1-3 "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 "In **My Father's house** are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3 "If I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again and receive you to Myself**, that where I am, there you may be also.

18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

The resurrection of deceased believers is as

_____ as Jesus being raised from the dead.

15 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.

Two groups will participate in the first phase of Christ's return

1. Those who have "fallen asleep"

2. Those who are "alive and remain"

16 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.

"descend from heaven"

"shout"

"voice of the archangel"

"trumpet of God"

"the dead in Christ will rise first"

17 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.

5.

2 Corinthians 12:1-4 Boasting is necessary, though it is not profitable; but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago — whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a man was caught up to the third heaven. 3 And I know how such a man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows — 4 was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.

6.

Revelation 4:1-2 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things." 2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne.

7.

Revelation 11:12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." Then they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies watched them.

“The doctrine of Christ’s Return”

1 Thessalonians 4:17
Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air,

Rapture

Zechariah 14:4 In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives,



Church Age	Tribulation	Millennium
Rapture in the air (Phase 1) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christ returns by Himself in the air for His own. 2. No judgment on earth 3. Church is taken to heaven 4. Imminent - could happen at anytime 5. No unfulfilled prophetic signs 6. Time of joy 7. Before the day of wrath 8. Only His own see Him 9. No mention of Satan 10. Tribulation begins 	Return to earth (Phase 2) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christ returns to the earth with His own. 2. Christ judges the inhabitants of the earth 3. Christ sets up his kingdom on earth 4. Cannot occur until after the seven-year tribulation 5. Many signs before Christ’s physical return. 6. Time of mourning 7. Immediately after the day of wrath 8. Every eye will see Him 9. Satan bound for 1,000 yrs 10. 1,000 year kingdom of Christ begins 	

4

Two truths we have learned.

1. Being “caught up” is a pattern that runs throughout Scripture.
2. The return of Christ is one idea, but it occurs in two phases

1 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. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. 15 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. 16 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. 17 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. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:13 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.

“asleep” - euphemism for death

“as do the rest who have no hope”

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

5