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*Paul's Letter to the
Church at Thessalonica*



I Thessalonians

Church As She Should Be (part 11)

What About The Rapture? Part 3

What About The Timing of the Rapture?

1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:1-11

06/17/2018

Paul's Letter to the

Church As She Should Be (part 11)

What About The Rapture? Part 3

What should be our Response, Attitude, and/or Behavior to the coming Rapture of the Church?

1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:1-11

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1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:1-11

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep 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 by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the LORD Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the TRUMPET of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be CAUGHT UP together with them in the clouds to meet the LORD in the air. And thus we shall always be with the LORD. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:1-11

5:1 - Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. ² For you yourselves know full well that the Day of the LORD will come just like a thief in the night. ³ While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will NOT escape. ⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; ⁵ for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are NOT of night nor of darkness; ⁶ so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. ⁷ For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has NOT destined us for WRATH, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

1 Corinthians 15:51-58 – The Last TRUMPET Blast ...

“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall 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 incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has 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 your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?”

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”



Revelation 4:1 – Voice Like a TRUMPET ...

“After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a TRUMPET speaking with me, saying, ‘Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.’”

AFTER THESE THINGS → TRUMPET

What “things” is this AFTER – in Sequence?

Revelation chapters 2 & 3 – relate to the Church Age.

The WORD → “Church” is never seen again after Rev. chapter 3.

Thus, AFTER the Church Age is finished –

We are called to “Come Up Here” → A Door OPEN in Heaven

That is a description of the Rapture – and it, again, relates to the

→ Feast Day of TRUMPETS



I COME QUICKLY

JESUS



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1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians 15:51-58, Revelation 4:1

FACTS about the Rapture Event – Overview:

- 1. Jesus is coming back for His Church that is still living on earth**
- 2. Jesus is coming back with those who've died in Christ but have been living in Heaven with Christ – to meet those who are still living on earth.**
- 3. Those living on Earth at this event will be Caught Up into the Clouds to meet Christ and past living Christians**
- 4. Both will receive their New Glorified Bodies at that time**
- 5. All will go up to Heaven and be there for the Wedding Feast, the Marriage Dinner of the Lamb (see Revelation 19:7-9)**
- 6. The Rapture Event is Prophetically TIED to the Feast Day of Trumpets**
- 7. The Rapture is NOT the 2nd Coming of Christ – which occurs AFTER the Marriage Dinner/Supper of the Lamb (see Revelation 19:11-21).
The 2nd Coming of Christ – is in regards to Wrath, Judgment, and Rescue of Israel (see also Zechariah 14).**

1 Thess. 5:1-11 makes this clear.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians 15:51-58, Revelation 4:1

FACTS about the Rapture Event – Overview:

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**1 Thess. 5:1-11 → The Rapture is BEFORE the Great Tribulation starts
“Thief in the Night” always refers to Punishment from God →
Being Found Out – Being Left Behind – Being Cast Out – Missing Out**

The Return of Christ – Per the Scriptural Passages we've looked at relate to Two Comings - Two Aspects of His Return

1. The Rapture (left picture)
2. The 2nd Coming of Christ at the End of the Great Tribulation



Many who hold to and teach – either Mid-Tribunational Rapture or Post-Tribunational Rapture use the illustration of Israel being in the land of Goshen during the time that Moses was being used of God during the 10 Plagues of Egypt prior to the Exodus of Israel out of Egypt. They were kept safe Through the “Wrath of God” ...

The Problem with this, is that there are NO passages in the New Testament in which the coming of Christ for the Church – any illustration of Israel going through the 10 plague of Egypt are used as a reference.

The two prominent illustrations or analogies are:

- 1. The Days of Noah leading up to the Flood and the Ark, etc.**
- 2. Lot and his family being taken out of Sodom before the destruction of those 5 cities**

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- 1. The Days of Noah leading up to the Flood and the Ark, etc.**

For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; SO will the coming of the Son of Man be. (Matthew 24:37-39)

So, we see a parallel between Noah and his family – being rescued in the Ark (i.e. the Rapture – Caught up, Floating up) and those left behind to suffer the Judgment – the Flood (i.e. sudden destruction).

- 2. Lot and his family being taken out of Sodom before the destruction of those 5 cities**

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For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah ... (Matt. 24:37-39)

So, we see a parallel between Noah and his family – being rescued in the Ark (i.e. the Rapture – Caught up, Floating up) and those left behind to suffer the Judgment – the Flood (i.e. sudden destruction).

2. Lot and his family being taken out of Sodom before the destruction of those 5 cities (compare with Genesis 19)

It was (*will be*) the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building;²⁹ but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Luke 17:28-29

So, we see a parallel between Lot and his family – being rescued by the Angel (i.e. the Rapture – Caught up, Went up) went up into the hills into a cave. Then Judgment rained down on Sodom, Gomorrah, etc. (i.e. sudden destruction).

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- 1. The Days of Noah leading up to the Flood and the Ark, etc.**
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So, in both cases of what Jesus puts forth as His Coming Back Scenarios – they are in Two Parts:

- 1. The Faithful are Rescue BEFORE and Away from God's Wrath**
- 2. God's Wrath and Judgment comes After the Faithful are Rescued and it comes on those that Rejected God's Rescue Plan (e.g.: Noah's Ark or the Angels rescuing Lot's Family, etc.)**

No Hint of any of God's Faithful, hunkering down and going through God's Time of Wrath in those illustrations by Jesus, Himself.

Two other passages in 1 Thessalonians help us with Timing, as well

For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who RESCUES us from the wrath to come. 1 Thess. 1:19-10 → We will be Rescued from God's Wrath

For God has NOT destined us for WRATH, but for obtaining SALVATION through our LORD Jesus Christ → 1 Thess. 5:9

Rapture = God's Rescue by Jesus Christ from God's Wrath to Come

The Great Tribulation = God's Wrath to Come – for 7 years

The Rapture of the Church Must Come Before the Great Tribulation

The Promise to the “Church of Philadelphia” Rev. 3:7-13

Because you have kept the WORD of My perseverance, I also will KEEP YOU FROM the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹ I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown. Rev. 3:10-11

The Hour of Testing for the whole world – read about it in Revelation chapters 6 – 19 → the 7 Year Great Tribulation.

The words or phrase in the Greek text for “keep you FROM” is τηρησω εκ, which literally means “shall BE KEEPING [YOU] OUT OF,” which does NOT imply being kept in or being kept through.

→ Taken Out – KEPT OUT FROM – NOT HERE

The Folks of This Church Exist just Prior to the Rapture

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What should be our Response, Attitude, and/or Behavior to the coming Rapture of the Church?

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What should be our Response, Attitude, and/or Behavior to the coming Rapture of the Church?

1. Attitude of Hope, Faith, Trust and Assurance of His Return

John 14:1-3 (Jesus said)

“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.”

Divine, Messianic Logic – IF / THEN ... He’s Coming Back – I should have FULL ASSURANCE and NO DOUBT about it. If He died on the cross, was buried and then Rose from the Dead ... If He Ascended to Heaven ... I KNOW He’s Coming Back

What should be our Response, Attitude, and/or Behavior to the coming Rapture of the Church?

1. Attitude of Hope, Faith, Trust and Assurance of His Return

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 [*angels*] 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.”

Thus, Jesus will Return in a Cloud of Glory and Receive them Unto Himself – just as described in 1 Thess. 4:13-18 & John 14:1-3

We Should Have FULL ASSURANCE He's Coming back for us

What should be our Response, Attitude, and/or Behavior to the coming Rapture of the Church?

2. EAGERLY LOOKING FORWARD TO

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ **LOOKING FOR** the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ **who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.**

Are you **LONGING** for His Return? Eagerly Seeking, Anticipating, Wanting, Waiting for, Hungering for, Thirsting for **Him**?

What should be our Response, Attitude, and/or Behavior to the coming Rapture of the Church?

2. EAGERLY LOOKING FORWARD TO

Hebrews 9:27-28 [Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)]

27 And just as it is appointed for [all] men once to die, and after that the [certain] judgment,

28 Even so it is that Christ, having been offered to take upon Himself and bear as a burden the sins of many once and once for all, will appear a second time, NOT to carry any burden of sin nor to deal with sin, but to bring to full salvation those who are [eagerly, constantly, and patiently] waiting for and expecting Him.

Are you **LONGING** for His Return? Eagerly Seeking, Anticipating, Wanting, Waiting for, Hungering for, Thirsting for **Him**?

What should be our Response, Attitude, and/or Behavior to the coming Rapture of the Church?

3. LIVE GODLY, HOLY and RIGHTEOUS LIVES

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For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹²teaching us that, DENYING UNGODLINESS and WORLDLY LUSTS, we should LIVE SOBERLY, RIGHTEOUSLY, AND GODLY in the present age, ¹³LOOKING FOR the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

Because Jesus is coming back – because we are Longing for His Return ... that should AFFECT how we live, now. God gives us the Power to Live Godly Lives because we have our “eyes” fixed on Jesus

What should be our Response, Attitude, and/or Behavior to the coming Rapture of the Church?

3. LIVE GODLY, HOLY and RIGHTEOUS LIVES

1 John 3:1-3

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, BUT we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall SEE Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this HOPE in Him PURIFIES himself, just as He is PURE.

Because Jesus is coming back – because we are Longing for His Return ... that should AFFECT how we live, now. God gives us the Power to Live Godly Lives because we have our “eyes” fixed on Jesus PURITY of Christ ... Living Purely for Christ

What should be our Response, Attitude, and/or Behavior to the coming Rapture of the Church?

4. The Fear of the LORD Motivates us to Share the Gospel:

What we've just looked at is "The Fear of the LORD" ...

In the passage of 2 Corinthians 5 – Paul has already discussed those who have died in Christ who are present with Jesus in Heaven and the coming "BEMA Seat" or "Judgment seat of Christ" ... then, he talked about our response to this truth

2 Corinthians 5:11, 14-15

"Therefore, knowing the Fear of the LORD, we PERSUADE men . . .

¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf."

The Fear of the LORD is tied to our LOVE for Christ AND our Eager Anticipation of His Return → We Seek to Persuade lost sinners

What should be our Response, Attitude, and/or Behavior to the coming Rapture of the Church?

4. The Fear of the LORD Motivates us to Share the Gospel:

What we've just looked at is "The Fear of the LORD" ...

2 Corinthians 5:20

"Therefore, we are AMBASSADORS for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

The Fear of the LORD is tied to our LOVE for Christ AND our Eager Anticipation of His Return → We Seek to Persuade lost sinners
We are Ambassadors of Christ ... urging, begging, pleading with sinners to be Reconciled to God – through Christ's finished work of Redemption (crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection)
The Highest Form of Living Godly For Christ - Evangelize the Lost