

Series: Prophecy

“The Imminent Rapture of the Church

(Sunday Morning July 21st, 2024)

Passage: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A. The P_____ of the Tribulation

Jer 30:7 “Alas! for that day is great, there is none like it; and it is the time of Jacob's distress, ...”

Zech 12:10 “I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son...”

Rev 6:16 “and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb’”

B. The P_____ of the Scriptures

1 Thes 1:7 “...wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come”

1 Thes 5:9 “For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ”

2 Pet 2:9 “...the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, ...”

I. The Rapture Will Involve a R_____

1) It Will be S_____

Matt 24:36 “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone”

Acts 1:7 “...’It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority’”

If God wanted us to know the time of the rapture, He would tell us, but He d_____ n_____ w_____ us to know.

2) It Will be S_____

1 Cor 15:52 “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”

The word that is translated as “moment” in that verse is the Greek word “*atomos*,” and it was the s_____ s_____ of time known in that day.

3) It Will be S_____

Acts 1:11 “...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.”

The Lord Jesus only shouts t_____ times in the Bible, and every time He shouts something great Happens.

John 11:43 “And when He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come forth’”

John 11:44 “He who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings; and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. ..”

Matt 27:50 “And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up {His} spirit”

Matt 27:52 "and the tombs were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised"

II. The Rapture Will Involve a R_____

1) It Will be S_____

1 Thes 1:3 "We are constantly bearing in mind your work of FAITH and labor of LOVE and steadfastness of HOPE in our Lord Jesus Christ..." (Emphasis Added)

1 Thes 3:6 "But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your FAITH and LOVE, ..." (Emphasis Added)

This event is selective in that it only includes C_____ not non-Christians; this is what the word "Saints" is referring to.

John 11:11 "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep..."

John 11:14 "(Jesus Said) ...'Lazarus is Dead'" (Emphasis Added)

2 Cor 5:8 "To be absent from the body is to be at home with the Lord"

2) It Will be S_____

More importantly, the scriptures clearly teach that the body of every Christian w_____ b_____ r_____.

Job 19:26 "Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh I shall see God"

1 Cor 15:42 "So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body;..."

III. The Rapture Will Involve a R_____

1) It Will be S_____

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'"

Jesus' statement reflects His understanding of an ancient Jewish custom related to the "kiddushin" which is the word that describes the "b_____ p_____."

Rom 8:18 "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us"

Ps 16:11 "...in Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever."

Rev 21:4 "there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

2) It Will be S_____

Christians will be physically persecuted and decapitated and killed during the t_____ time.

Rev 20:4 "And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand"

Matt 24:21 "For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will"

Luke 17:34-36 "34 I tell you, on that night there will be two in one bed; one will be taken and the other will be left. 35 "There will be two women grinding at the same place; one will be taken and the other will be left. 36 "Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other will be left."