

The Rapture of the Church

Rapture

First, understand the nature & character of God.

- Holy, righteous, true, pure, just, merciful, longsuffering
- Text
- Gem 6:3 And the Lord said, My Spirit will not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh, yet his days shall be a hundred and 20 years --- (until the judgement by a worldwide flood).

Psalm 2

1. Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?
2. The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against His Anointed, saying
3. "Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us."
4. He who sits in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision
5. Then shall He speak to them in His wrath; and vex them in His sore displeasure.

God's principles of sin, judgement, forgiveness and sparing of those made right & righteous.

- Text
- text

What, why, who, how, where, when?

What - the catching up, physically off the earth instantly of the bodies of dead believers and all living Christ followers.

Why - to save from us FROM the God's wrath that will then come on all the earth for sadly loving sin and evil, rejecting His sacrifice of His only Son to redeem each of us from our fallen state: for the Groom, Jesus, to take his Bride, the collection of born again Christ followers worldwide, to His Father's house, heaven, for the promised marriage to Christ.

Who - bride of Christ; body (singular) of Christ. The bodies of the dead "in Christ" and the living body, soul, and spirit of all those who are alive in Christ.

How - split second transformation, from corruptible body of sin, sickness, death to an incorruptible body with no sin nature, no sickness, no old age, that can never die.

Where - to meet the Lord Jesus Christ in the air to be taken immediately to heaven

When - before the 7-year Tribulation, the Time of Jacob's trouble; at His appointed time; without any preceding event or condition;

Greek - **Harpazo**, means caught up

Raptue (English) comes from the past participle of the Latin verb *rapia*.
As the word *rapturo*, rapture in the Latin Vulgate Bible.

Job 19:25-27

25. For I know *that* my redeemer lives, and *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth:

26. And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

27. Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; *though* my reins be consumed within me.

2 Cor3:18

18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.

1 Cor 15:51-52

52. Behold, I shew 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 trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

Greek - **mysterion**: a previously hidden thing is now being revealed.

1 John 3:2

1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

2 Hereby you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

2 Cor 5:1-2

1. For we know that if our earthly house of *this* **tabernacle** were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, **eternal** in the heavens.

2. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be **clothed** upon with our house which is from heaven:

3. If so be that being clothed we shall not be found **naked**.
(Adam & Eve sinned and became naked)

Greek - **oiketerion** - house

Jude 1:6

6. And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

The doctrine of imminence

There is no precedent condition or event that must happen prior to the Rapture.
The Bride must be ready and waiting to be gathered to the Groom.
The Rapture could happen at any time.

Phil 3:20-21

20. For our conversation is in heaven; from where also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ:

21. Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things to himself.

1 Thes 4:13-18

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

2 Cor 5:1

- 1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.
- 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:
- 3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.
- 4 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.
- 5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.
- 6 ¶Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:
- 7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)
- 8 We are confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.
- 9 ¶Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.
- 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.
- 11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

2 Cor 5:20

- 20 Now then we are **ambassadors** for Christ, ...

Before going to war, a country calls home its ambassadors

God will call home his believers before pouring his wrath on those who dwell on the earth

9 Raptures in the Bible

1. Enoch

Gen 5:21-24

21 And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah:

22 And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:

23 And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:

24 And Enoch walked with God: and he *was* not; for God took him.

Heb 11:5-6.

5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

2. Elijah

2 Kings 2:11-13

11 And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, *there appeared* a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

12 ¶And Elisha saw *it*, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces.

13 He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan;

3. Jesus

between appearing to the Mary's on resurrection morning and appearing to the disciples with Thomas.

4. Jesus

40 days after the resurrection Jesus ascended visibly

[Acts 1:9-11](#)

9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

5. **Phillip** - horizontally catch away.

[Acts 8:39](#)

39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

40 But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.

6. **Paul**

[2 Cor 12:2-5](#)

2. I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knows;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.

3. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knows;)

4. How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

5. Of such a one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities.

7. [John](#). (and representing the Church)

Rev 4:1-2

1. After this I looked, and, behold, a door *was* opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard *was* as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

2. And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and *one* sat on the throne

3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

Rev 12:3-6

Christ The Male Child

5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was [caught up](#) unto God, and *to* his throne.

6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days.

8. [The Church](#). [1 Thess. 4:13-18](#).

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

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9. The 2 Witnesses Rev 11:12

11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

John 14:1-3

1. Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

2. In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

1 Cor 15:50

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

51 Behold, I shew 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 trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

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3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

Heb. 10:36-37

36. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

37. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

I Thes 1:9-10

9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, which delivered us **from** the **wrath** to come.

Rev 3:10

10. Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth

Col 3:23-24

Our reward is not wrath.

23 And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the **reward** of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ

Heb 9:27-28

27. And as it is **appointed** unto men once to die, but after this the **judgment**:

28. So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he **appear** the second time without sin unto salvation.

Rev 20:11-15

11. And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

12. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Eph1:10

10. That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him:

2 Peter 3:8-9

8. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, *not willing that any should perish*, but that all should come to repentance.

Occupy, endure, persevere with patience, overcome

Gal 6:9

9. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Heb 6:12

12. That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

James 1:3-4

3. Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

4. But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Heb 10:23-25

23 Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;)

24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Rock Island Books – YouTube video: **2024: Mystery of the Blessed Hope**

