

## THE BLESSED HOPE OR NO HOPE?

“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.” (I Cor. 15:51-52)

The next event in the calendar of events according to the prophetic Word is the \_\_\_\_\_ or translation of the church. Christ, without prior warning, will suddenly appear in the clouds of heaven with a shout, the voice of the archangel and the trump of God. He will call from the graves all that died believing, snatch away all living Christians and unite them with the resurrected saints. Thus united, they will be taken to dwell with Him in heaven. “The next sound we hear may be His voice . . . . The next sensation we experience may be a strange transformation in these physical bodies!” (James Boyer, Prophecy Things to Come, p. 41)

## THE TERM

The word “Rapture” comes from a 4<sup>th</sup> century Latin translation of the Greek word harpadzo (a word found in I Thes. 4:17). Harpadzo means to be “caught away, snatched or seized by \_\_\_\_\_” (see I Cor. 12:2, 4). Just as the word “Trinity” is not found in the Bible, but the concept is apparent (Matt. 28:19), the word “Rapture” is not found in the Bible but the concept is clear.

## THE TRIUMPH

I Thessalonians 4:13-18 declares the triumph of the Rapture. There are \_\_\_\_\_ triumphant promises declared:

THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF CHRIST (v. 16). The Lord will send no angel, no ambassador of good will. He will return personally.

THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF CHRISTIANS (v. 16).  
The resurrection described here is specifically of the “dead in \_\_\_\_\_.”  
The Bible does not teach a “General Resurrection.”

THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF CHRISTIANS (v. 17).  
Just as “Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him” (Gen. 5:24) and Elijah “went up (alive) by a whirlwind into heaven” (II Kings 2:11), those who are alive when Jesus returns will be instantly ready for life in \_\_\_\_\_ (Phil. 3:20-21; I Cor. 15:51).

THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF CHRISTIANS (v. 17).

THE \_\_\_\_\_ WITH CHRIST (v. 17).  
The promise of the Bible is that we will be with Him \_\_\_\_\_.

## THE TIMING

We cannot know the “day or the hour” of our Lord’s return (Matt. 24:36), but we can certainly be “comforted” as we consider the timing of the Rapture.

IT IS BEFORE THE \_\_\_\_\_ (Titus 2:13)

Just as the Old Testament saints did not fully understand that the Messiah’s coming was 2-fold (see Isaiah 61:1-2; Luke 4:18-19), many today need to understand that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ has 2 stages. There is the Rapture of the Church and the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

IT IS BEFORE THE \_\_\_\_\_ (I Thes. 4-5)

There are 3 common views as to where the Rapture should be placed: Pre-Tribulation; Mid-Tribulation; Post-Tribulation. Let’s consider \_\_\_\_\_ reasons to be comforted by thoughts of a Pre-Tribulation Rapture:

1. We are not “reserved unto \_\_\_\_\_.” (I Thes. 5:9; Rom. 5:9).  
The same God who delivered \_\_\_\_\_ and Lot will deliver us!
2. We are “delivered . . . from the wrath to \_\_\_\_\_” (I Thes. 1:10).
3. We are “\_\_\_\_\_ from the hour of temptation” (Rev. 3:10).
4. We are in \_\_\_\_\_ during the Tribulation (Rev. 4:1)
  - Revelation 4-18 specifically speaks of the Tribulation. Israel’s trials on earth are spoken of often, the \_\_\_\_\_ is never addressed.
  - The “elders” of the Church are seen in Heaven (Rev. 4:4; 5:14; 7:13)
  - The Church comes from Heaven with Christ at the end of the Tribulation (Rev. 19:1-16; I Thes. 3:13).
5. We are included in Christ’s \_\_\_\_\_ (John 17:15).
6. We are \_\_\_\_\_ when the world is suffering (II Thes. 1:6-10).
7. The Holy Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_ during the Tribulation (II Thes. 2:5-8).
8. We could not \_\_\_\_\_ for them that rule over us (I Tim. 2:1-4) if we were under the rule of the Anti-Christ (I John 5:16).
9. The Tribulation is Israel’s \_\_\_\_\_ week (Dan. 9:24-27) and the Church Age is no more.

## THE TERROR

For some, a study of the Rapture is a terrifying thing because . . .

THE RAPTURE IS \_\_\_\_\_. There is nothing that must come before Christ comes. We are to be perpetually ready (Rev. 3:11).

THE RAPTURE IS \_\_\_\_\_. If you have not believed, it will be too late (II Thes. 2:10-12).