

Rapture

1) Death is “sleep” (for believers)

2) Glories of that Day – v. 16-17

a) Lord Jesus descends from heaven – v. 16

b) With Authority – v. 16

- With a shout of command
- With voice of Archangel
- With trumpet of God

c) Dead in Christ will rise first – v. 16

John 5:25,28-29

1 Cor 15:12-15, 20-23, 35-44, 51-52

d) Living in Christ will be Raptured – v. 17

(*harpadzo / raptura*) – meaning to seize or snatch away with force

e) Into the Clouds to Meet the Lord in the Air – v. 17

f) (In this way) Always with the Lord – v. 17

Therefore...

4:18, 5:11

1 Cor 15:58

2 Pet 3:11ff

Revelation 22:12-17, 20

Praxis

1. Why do you think are people so fascinated with end-of-the-world scenarios?
2. How do such fantasies color how we live? Take a few of these and play out how it might cause people to live...
3. What does it mean to allow all our plans to be guided by Rapture Day? How might that color your specific plans for the coming week?
4. How might we “comfort one another” with the reality of Rapture Day?
5. What all practical applications might we make from James 5:1-11’s teaching on the last days?