



## What about the Rapture?

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

<sup>13</sup> But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers *and sisters*, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as indeed the rest of *mankind do*, who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose *from the dead*, so also God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus. <sup>15</sup> For we say this to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who remain, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore, comfort one another with these words.

**I. What we do agree on?**

- 1. Jesus is going to return PHYSICALLY to earth**
- 2. His return is described as IMMEDIATE but also predicted and accompanied by visible SIGNS**
- 3. Some BELIEVERS will be ALIVE when Christ comes back, and others will have already died**
- 4. There will be an ORDER to Christ's return; first those who have died will be resurrected and then those who are alive will be caught up in the air with the Lord. This is known as the RAPTURE**
- 5. We will be with the Lord FOREVER**
- 6. Preceding Christ's PHYSICAL coming, God's wrath will be expressed in what is known as the Great TRIBULATION**
- 7. God's promise to believers is that He did not appoint us to WRATH but to receiving salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ**
- 8. Jesus will JUDGE all unbelievers and they will spend eternity in hell**
- 9. All believers will be BLESSED to spend eternity with Jesus WHO WILL MAKE ALL THINGS NEW**
- 10. God will create a NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH for us to enjoy with Him forever**

**II. Why believer's come to different conclusions on some interpretations of eschatology?**

- A. Because of the clarity and genre of Scripture
- B. Because of different theological starting points
- C. Because of different approaches to interpreting the Scriptures
- D. Because of different ways to understand the book of Revelation

**III. What are the different views of Jesus' Second Coming**

- A. Millennial Views (Rev. 20:1-10)

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. <sup>2</sup> And he took hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; <sup>3</sup> and he threw him into the abyss and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

<sup>4</sup> Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. 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 foreheads and on their hands; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup> The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

<sup>7</sup> When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, <sup>8</sup> and will come out to deceive the nations which are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. <sup>9</sup> And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. <sup>10</sup> And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are* also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

- **AMILLENIALISM.**
- **POST-MILLENIALISM**
- **PRE-MILLENIALISM**

#### B. Rapture Views (1 Thess. 4:12-18)

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*mankind do*, who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose *from the dead*, so also God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus. <sup>15</sup> For we say this to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who remain, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore, comfort one another with these words.

- PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE
- POST TRIBULATION RAPTURE
- PRE-WRATH RAPTURE
- MID TRIBULATION RAPTURE

#### **IV. Arguments for the Pre-Trib and Post-Trib views**

##### **The Pre-Tribulation Rapture Argument**

- 1) The sequence of 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 5:1-4
- 2) The promise of 1 Thessalonians 5:9 in context
- 3) The promise of Revelation 3:10

##### **The Post-Tribulation Argument**

- 1) The comparison of Matthew 24:29-31 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- 2) The argument of 2 Thessalonians 1:5-8, 2:1, 2:3-4
- 3) The resurrections of 1 Corinthians 15:50-54, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Revelation 20:4-6

#### **V. Principles for application**

**A. Keep the main thing the main thing**

**B. Study the Bible for yourself to develop personal biblical convictions**

**C. Be respectful of others and don't mischaracterize nor be divisive**

**D. Give attention to applying what you know over speculating on what you don't know**