

“The **Rapture**”

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Question: What will happen to the **Church** in the end times?

Answer: The Church will be **raptured** by Jesus, to be with Him in Heaven.

Memory Verses:

1 Thessalonians 4:17 ESV “Then we who are alive, who are left, 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.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16 ESV “For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.”

Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 ESV “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, 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.¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

Message Title: “The **Rapture**”

1 Thessalonians 1:10 ESV “and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

1. The **Certainty** of the Rapture

a. Physically **Dead** Christians will be Raptured

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 ESV “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, **God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.**”

b. Physically **Alive** Christians will be Raptured

1 Thessalonians 4:17 ESV “Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air...”

1 Thessalonians 4:14 ESV “For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.”

1 Corinthians 6:14 ESV “And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.”

1 Corinthians 15:23 ESV “But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.”

Romans 6:3 ESV “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?”

1 Thessalonians 4:15 ESV “For this we declare to you **by a word from the Lord**, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.”

2. The **Events** of the Rapture

a. The **Return** of Christ

1 Thessalonians 4:16a ESV “For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God...”

Acts 1:11 ESV “and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

b. The **Resurrection** of the Dead

1 Thessalonians 4:15 ESV “For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, **will not precede those who have fallen asleep.**”

1 Thessalonians 4:16 ESV “For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And **the dead in Christ will rise first.**”

c. The **Ascension** of Living Christians

1 Thessalonians 4:17 ESV “Then we who are alive, who are left, 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.”

1 Corinthians 15:52 ESV “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 shall be changed.”

3. The **Timing** of the Rapture

a. The Rapture is an **Imminent** Event

1 Thessalonians 4:17 ESV “Then **we** who are alive, who are left, 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.”

1 Corinthians 1:7 ESV “so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you **wait** for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,”

Philippians 3:20-21 ESV “But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we **await** a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.”

James 5:7-9 ESV “Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.”

b. The Rapture Occurs **Before** the Tribulation

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 ESV “For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.”

Revelation 3:10 ESV “Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.”

Jeremiah 30:7 ESV “Alas! That day is so great there is none like it; it is a time of distress for Jacob; yet he shall be saved out of it.”

c. The Rapture **Differs** from Christ’s Second Coming

Revelation 20:4 ESV “Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.”

2 Corinthians 5:10 ESV “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”

Revelation 19:7-9 ESV “Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; ⁸ it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. ⁹ And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”

4. Final Thought of **Application**

“God has promised to **rescue** His church from His **wrath** which is to come.”