

THE LIFE *and* TIMES of JESUS CHRIST

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-354 DECEMBER 12, 1999

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“Christ and the Rapture of the Church”

A delineation between the events of the Second coming and the Rapture

THE THEME OF THIS SERIES:

Colossians 2:9

**“For in Christ all the fullness of the Godhead
dwells in bodily form”**

TOPICAL SUBJECT REFERENCED UNDER:

**The Rapture and the Second Coming
are Different Events All Together**

Ever Since the Time of Christ,

**The Believers believed in the imminent, physical, Return of Jesus Christ to
this Earth’s atmosphere not in judgement but in Deliverance !!!**

In the Thessalonica Conversations open letters were being circulated throughout the churches stating two falsehoods - - #1 that Jesus was not coming back at all and other #2 - - that he had already come back and they had in fact missed the rapture of the church and what awaited them was certain death and the hands of the antichrist and his goobers !!!

It was Mark Twain Who Said;

“a lie can run around the world twice before the truth ever gets his shoes on”

1-Thessalonians 4:13-18

In His First Teachings at Thessalonica

Paul Encourages Each Practical Instruction He Makes with the Energetic Call to
Live a Holy Life in Light of His Imminent Coming For Them...

APPROPRIATE PROPHETIC DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE

The Return of Jesus Christ

is intended to be a comforting event for those who know Him... and Knowing Him
is the key to the prophetic word - The Bible !!!

Revelation 19:10

Worship God! For **the testimony** of Jesus is **the spirit of prophecy.**"

Keep This Very Important Truth in Mind

*That of all the fulfilled Prophecies of the Bible to date
every single one of them were fulfilled literal, - as described in the Bible*

According to the Bible, The Second Coming of Jesus Christ Cannot Happen Until...

- #1 A NATION BECAME A NATION AGAIN - CALLED ISRAEL (may 14, 1948)
- #2 ISRAEL WOULD HAVE TO OCCUPY JERUSALEM (june 1967)
- #3 THAT A UNITED STATES OF EUROPE WOULD FORM (jan 1,1981)
- #4 THAT THE SOVIET EMPIRE WOULD FRACTURE (1989 - rosh)
- #6 THAT THERE WOULD BE A SERIES OF PEACE TREATIES (1993 -
- #5 THAT JERUSALEM, THE CITY WOULD BECOME THE FOCAL (daily)
- #7 THAT THERE WOULD BE INTENSIFYING DISASTERS (worldwide)
- #8 THAT THE GLOBAL ECONOMIES WOULD BE IN DISREPAIR
- #9 THAT WORLD CURRENCIES WOULD BECOME COMPUTERIZED & DIGITIZED (Dec. 31, 1999)
- #10 THAT RUSSIA WOULD ATTACK THE MIDDLE EAST WITH AN ISLAMIC ALLIANCE

Jesus said "When you see these Things Begin to Happen
Look up for Redemption, (You're going to heaven) draws Near!

The Problem With Death

Did you know that out of every 10 people, 10 of those people die !!!
It is an (800 Billion dollar year business in America) But the very thought of death causes some of
you to be very uneasy.

Yesterday in Germany I Pushed the Button on the Tram to Stop It !!!

**THERE WAS AN AWESOME GRAVEYARD FILLED WITH TOMBSTONES AND MONUMENTS AND
SO...**

I STARTED TAKING PICTURES...

"THIS FRIENDS IS A FUTURE RESURRECTION SITE

**As long as we feel healthy
and fit we feel that we can flirt with the thought of death and even joke about it!**

**But Philosophers
have wrestled with the question of immortality**

**Spiritists
have sought to communicate with the dead**

**Even Our Modern Technologic Age
has gotten into the search for the door that led to the other side**

Then There's Harry Houdini,
The greatest of all escape artists.... Harry boasted about being able to beat death. So he
asked that at his death a telephone be placed inside his coffin so that when he was
loosed from death's grip he could call some one to dig him up - Harry must have had a
bad connection! Either that or his line was dead!!!

The Truth was - Harry Couldn't Pay His Bill

1.) The Rapture is the Hope of the Church

v.13a

“But I **do not** want you to **be ignorant**,

Ignorant in relation to (3) Three key Biblical Doctrines

#1

The Location of departed “Christians” **vv. 13**

#2

The Bodily Resurrection of those Departed **vv. 16**

#3

The Rapture of those who escape Death **vv. 17**



Ignorant GRK 50 agnoeo (ag-no-eh'-o)

the will of the heart - to not know something. to intentionally ignore, thus we get the term IGNOR – RAMUS. one who ignores (root of Agnostic)

“concerning those who have fallen **asleep**,
lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.”

**(MANY – NOT ALL, Those Pagan Cultures believed in
Annihilation after death - a non Existence)**

Death was the final act to them
- the end of all consequences

a.) Because it was **Promised** by Jesus Himself

John 14:1-4

"Let not your heart be troubled; you 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 to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. 4 "And where I go you know, and the way you know."

2 Corinthians 5:6

So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home, (living) in the body we are absent from the Lord..... :8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from this body and to be present with the Lord.

Verse 13

others who have **no hope**.

b.) Because it was **Historical** Christianity

v.14

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so...
“God will bring with Him” **those** who sleep in Jesus.

2 Timothy 4:8

Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

c.) Because it was **Intended** to Encourage Us

Acts 1:9-11

9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

5 TIMES IN 1 THESSALONIANS PAUL STRESSES A HOPE-FILLED THEME

1 Thessalonians 1:10

and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? 20 For you are our glory and joy.

1 Thessalonians 3:13

so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

1 Thessalonians 4:17-18

Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10

For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

2.) The Rapture is Rooted in God's Word

Isaiah 26:19-21

Your dead shall live; together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; for your dew is like the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead. 20 Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past. 21 For behold, the LORD comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; the earth will also disclose her

a.) The Rapture is Ordained Exclusively for the Church

John 14:1-4

"Let not your heart be troubled; you 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 to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. 4 "And where I go you know, and the way you know."

On The Authority of God Himself

For this we say to you
by the word of the Lord,

John 11:25

Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life. (That's a continuum)
He who believes in Me, (that's presently) though he may die, (yet future)
yet shall he live. (still yet future again)

b.) Paul's Doctrine of Imminence Prevailed v.15b

...that **we** who are alive and remain until **the coming** of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

- The Coming** **GRK 3952 parousia (par-oo-see'-ah)**
a being near physically, a physical advent, not necessarily nor always meaning a coming, but an appearance !!!

The Resurrection! - of the Church-Age Christian

- #1 First the bodies of those who had died will arise ascending upward
- #2 We will in an instant be raptured and (metamorpho) changed. Ascending just behind the resurrected as their new bodies will meet up their reality

1 Corinthians 15:52

:52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, (18/100's of a second) at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and **the dead** (those guys) will be raised incorruptible, and **we** (us guy's) shall be changed.

NOTHING NEEDS TO HAPPEN PRIOR TO

there is no biblical or non-biblical event
that is required or needed before the rapture takes place.....

Yet everyday Someone Who Is Uninformed on End- times Events Fulfills One More Prophetic Word

Matthew 24:48

"But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,'

2 Peter 3:3-4

knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

c.) The Rapture is Christ's Personal Event v.16

For **the Lord Himself** (Jesus) will descend from heaven **#1** with a shout, **#2** with the voice of an archangel, and **#3** with the trumpet of God. And **the dead in Christ will rise first.**

The Doctrine of the Resurrection is not a New Testament Revelation Only

Job 14:13-15 & 19:23-27 & Psalms 16:9-11 & Dan. 12:2
The Pharisees Held to the Doctrine & It was Taught by Paul
and All of the disciples

Philippians 3:20

....we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, Phil 3:21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body,

Turn to 1 Corinthians 15:46-57

This body is the seed side of things The New Body is the Flower side of things
note The sequence of the events

Verse 16A

#1

It will be with the Shout of the Lord

- Shout** **GRK 2752 keleusma (kel'-yoos-mah)**
a cry of incitement. To rally an Army. To issue a command

Joshua 6:20

So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

#2

It will be with The voice of the archangel

What Will That Be Like? - I do not Know

and **#3**

with the trumpet of God....

(the world will probably not hear or see a thing in relation to the rapture proper - just the after effects)

3.) The Rapture is Our Expectancy

Revelation 3:1-2

"And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. 2 "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not

a.) We Long For His Appearance !

Rapture! - Now You See Me, Now You...

Verse 17a

Then **we** who are alive and remain.....

THIS IS EXHORTATION
NUMBER 4 AS IN EACH CHAPTER OF THE BOOK

Paul used the "We" Personal Pronoun

4 times in 6 verses Paul uses the "We" statements concerning the Lord's return are made. In the year 51 AD.

Paul believed that he would be alive to see this event - The Rapture take place. **In Eschatology, these verses are responsible for giving birth to the "Doctrine of Immanency"** meaning that the Bible said Jesus could come without warning and at any moment for the church.

Paul put himself in this rank of the waiting believers who expected and anticipated Jesus' call...

Verse 17b

The Rapture Itself

We shall be **(caught up)** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.



Caught up GRK har-pad'-zo

to catch-away, to pluck or pull out by force an
Instantaneous removal

(Harpadzo Appears 18 Times in the new Testament)

- 1. To Take away with Great Speed Matthew 13:19 the seed being stolen
- 2. To Seize By Force Jude 1:23 saving by pulling them from fire
- 3. To Take as One's Sole possession Acts 8:39 Philip & Ethiopian
- 4. To Move to a New Place 2 Corinthians 12:2 Paul's vision of Heaven
- 5. To Rescue From Danger John 10:28 Jesus' hands

Yes It is The Great Escape

b.) The Rapture is Final, *Finally!* v.17c

“And thus **we** (a collective we) shall always be with the Lord.”

1 John 3:2-3

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

THEN OUR CHANGE SHALL FINALLY BE COMPLETE

c.) The Expectancy Makes Us Tell the World v.18

:18 Therefore **comfort** one another with these words.

the return of Jesus Christ
is an exclusive event for His chosen few

Matthew 7:13-14

"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

**Therefore we go about it with our
utmost passion**

It Prioritizes Life

Have You Noticed When IN a Difficult
Time - How quick we are to forget the struggle and the pain
(Delivery + Birth = Baby = Joy)

There is a Purpose to the Pain

For the Christian it can be said (Death + Life = Jesus = Joy)

There is a Purpose to the Pain

2 Corinthians 4:17

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal
glory that far outweighs them all.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit,
soul, and body be preserved blameless
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 2:19

For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

2 Timothy 4:6

For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day-- and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Paul Didn't See The Lord's Return... But Told us what to Listen for... - That Shout of His !!!

There's a story that comes out of children's hospital at USC where Tony, a beautiful, little, black 5 year old boy had been faithful to undergo his chemotherapy treatments to fight off the cancer that invaded him.

His mother was all that he had - his dad left home when he found out that Tony's mom had become pregnant with him.

The doctor had broken to mom the news that she had long dreaded to hear "Ms. Robert's he said rather direct but with a look compassion, Little Tony has 3 to 5 days at best. He's lost the war Ms. Robert's. He's fought longer and harder than any of us could have. Ms. Robert's, • his pain will unbearable increase, • his memory will begin to fail and • He will soon assume the fetal position and from that point it will not be long. Ms. Robert's, Tony needs to be going soon. And in your way, the only way that you his mother can do, you need comfort him the best you can! And with that he turned and walked away.

So mustering all the strength that she had inside of her and calling out to God for some extra - she walked into his hospital room that had become his home and held his bony little body and kissed his head that was once crowned with the blackest, curliest hair ever and she told him honey. **Jesus is coming soon! Sweet heart and he's coming for you - you don't worry about mama cuz I'll be right behind you.** "But Mama, Tony asked **"How will I know it's Jesus?"** **"You just listen for the Bell"** she said - **Jesus will be ringing a bell when He comes for you"** and with that little Tony fell asleep in her arms.

Two days later, very early in the morning her phone rang with the news "Ms. Robert's Little Tony's in distress and we're losing him"

Quickly she drove the 30 minute drive only to have arrived to late. Tony had slipped in to eternity just as she pulled into the parking lot at USC. Asking the nurse who was with him at that moment how his night was - she told of a very difficult struggle and terrible pain that kept him crying most of the night but she hesitated to tell that just when the battle seemed to be at it's worst, right before he died, he became unusually calm and he opened his eyes and said to me **"Ms. Betty..... do you hear em'? Do you hear those bells? Ms. Betty.... I can hear the bells"** and at that he went away!