

## When is the Rapture?

### 1. What is the Rapture?

*John 14:3 (NIV)*

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and **take you to be with me** that you also may be where I am.

*1 Corinthians 15:50-53 (NIV)*

<sup>50</sup> I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

<sup>51</sup> Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed--

<sup>52</sup> in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and **we will be changed.**

<sup>53</sup> For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

*2 Thessalonians 2:1,3,6-7 (NKJV)*

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and **our gathering together to Him**, we ask you, Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

<sup>6</sup> And now you know **what** is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.

<sup>7</sup> For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until **He is taken out of the way.**

*1 Thessalonians 4:17 (NIV)*

After that, we who are still alive and are left will be **caught up together** with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

### 2. What are the main views of the Rapture?

Pre-Trib Rapture	Before the Tribulation
Mid-Trib Rapture	Midpoint of Tribulation
Post-Trib Rapture	End of Tribulation
Partial Rapture	Before and End of Tribulation
Prewrath Rapture	Three-fourths into Tribulation

### 3. What will happen at the Rapture?

- **Realization**

*1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 (NIV)*

<sup>13</sup> Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.

<sup>14</sup> We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

- **Revelation**

*1 Thessalonians 4:15 (NIV)*

According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

- **Return**

*1 Thessalonians 4:15-16 (NIV)*

<sup>15</sup> According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

<sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

- **Resurrection**

*1 Thessalonians 4:16 (NIV)*

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

- **Removal**

*1 Thessalonians 4:17 (NIV)*

After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

- **Reunion**

*1 Thessalonians 4:17 (NIV)*

After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

- **Reassurance**

*1 Thessalonians 4:18 (NIV)*

Therefore encourage each other with these words.

#### **4. When is the Rapture?**

*Matthew 24:42 (NASB77)*

"Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.

*Matthew 24:44 (NIV)*

So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

*Matthew 25:13 (NIV)*

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

*Acts 1:7 (NIV)*

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

*Matthew 16:3 (NIV)*

...You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.

*Matthew 24:6-8,33-34 (NASB77)*

<sup>6</sup> "And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not frightened, for *those things* must take place, but *that* is not yet the end.

<sup>7</sup> "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.

<sup>8</sup> " But all these things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs... <sup>33</sup> even so you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, *right* at the door. <sup>34</sup> "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

## **Application:**

### **1. Keep Looking for the Lord**

*Philippians 3:20 (KJV)*

For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we **look for** the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ:

*Titus 2:13 (NASB77)*

**looking for** the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;

*1 Thessalonians 1:10 (NIV)*

and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead--Jesus, who **rescues us from the coming wrath.**

### **2. Keep Living for the Lord**

*Titus 2:11-14 (NIV)*

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.

<sup>12</sup> It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,

<sup>13</sup> while we wait for the **blessed hope**--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

<sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, **eager to do what is good.**

*2 Peter 3:12,14 (NIV)*

<sup>12</sup> as you look forward to the day of God and **speed its coming.** That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.

So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found **spotless, blameless and at peace with him.**

*Matthew 24:45-47 (NASB77)*

<sup>45</sup> " Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time?

<sup>46</sup> "Blessed is that slave whom his master finds **so doing** when he comes.

<sup>47</sup> "Truly I say to you, that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.