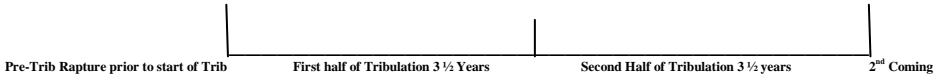


“The Rapture of the Church” 5/20/18
1 Thessalonians 4:13-17
Sermon Series- “Study of Prophetic Sign Posts”



LESSON 1- To understand the rapture we must grasp the What and HOW

- A. The how involves the catching away of the CHURCH
(1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; dead in Christ will rise 1st)
- B. The how involves the immediate changing of our BODIES
(1 Corinthians 15:50-54, 35-49; Philippians 3:20-21)
- C. The how involves the church always being READY
(Doctrine of Imminency- Rom 13:11-12; James 5:7-9; Rev 22:20)

“As we wait for the happy fulfillment of our hope in the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13 NET)

LESSON 2- To understand the rapture we must grasp the WHY

- A. The why involves our status as Jesus’ BRIDE
(John 14:1-3; Eph 5:25-32; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Rev 19:7)
- B. The why involves us being judged and made HOLY
(Rom 5:10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15; Luke 21:36)
- C. The why involves us getting our CROWNS
(Glory- 1 Pet 5:2-4; Incorruptible- 1 Cor 9:24-25; Rejoicing- 1 Thess 2:19; Righteousness- 2 Tim 4:7-8; Life- James 1:12; Rev 2:10; 4:10)

LESSON 3- To understand the rapture we must grasp the WHEN

- A. The when involves the removal of the church before God’s WRATH
(Revelation 3:10; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9; Romans 5:9)
- B. The when involves recognizing the time of Jacob’s TROUBLE
(Jer 30:7; Dan 9:24-27; Matt 24:31- Angels, not Jesus; Compare Matt 16:18 with Dan 7:18-27; Rev 6:9-11; 11:7; 12:11; 13:7-15; 14:13; 17:6)

Going Deeper *God wants us to be eagerly looking and being ready for our Lord!*

The Differences between the Rapture and Jesus' Actual 2nd Coming

<i>The Rapture</i>	<i>The 2nd Coming</i>
Messiah comes <i>to the air</i> (1 Thess 4:17)	He comes <i>to the earth</i> (Zech 14:4)
He comes <i>for His Bride</i> (1 Thess 4:16-17)	He comes <i>with His Wife</i> (Jude 14; Rev 19)
Rapture is a mystery (1 Cor 15:51)	2 nd coming well known in OT (Zech 14)
Is a blessing and comfort (1 Thess 4:18)	Main emphasis is judgment (2 Thess 2:8-12)
In a moment (1 Cor 15:52)	Will be visible to world (Rev 1:7; Matt 24)
Involves the Church (1 Thess 4:13-18)	Involves Israel (Matt 24-25)
No pre-requisite signs (imminent)	Definite signs and time frames
Resurrection of NT Saints (1 Thess 4:16)	Resurrection of OT saints (Dan 12:1-3)
Rapture into heaven by Jesus (John 14:1-3)	Rapture to Jerusalem by Angels (Matt 24:31)
Earth not judged	Earth judged; righteousness established
Affects believers only	Affects all mankind on earth
Before the day of wrath (1 Thess 5:9)	Concludes the day of wrath (Rev 19)
No reference to Satan	Satan is bound for 1000 years (Rev 20:1-3)
Only His own see (1 Thess 4:16-17)	Every eye shall see (Rev 1:7)
Tribulation begins after (Rev 3:10)	Millennium begins after (Rev 20)

For more information see article here:

<http://www.pre-trib.org/article-view.php?id=6>