

CHAPTERS FOUR AND FIVE – CAUGHT UP INTO HEAVEN

INTRODUCTION

In our last study of Revelation 4-5 we saw incredible events as they unfolded in heaven, we saw the characters that were present, and we read through glorious proceedings that we, as the church the bride of Christ, will one day witness firsthand. Today our focus changes as we approach our text from a _____ standpoint and learn about the sequence of events surrounding what has come to be called...

THE RAPTURE

1. The word “rapture”

- The word “rapture” does _____ appear in the Bible
 - It is taken from the term found in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 –
*Then we which are alive and remain shall be **caught up** together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*
 - It is an event that is _____ and seemingly forcibly executed...
 - A single English word that describes the entirety of this particular event is “_____”

2. The rapture

- The catching up into heaven by Jesus Christ all the living and dead saints; the reception of their new glorified bodies; the promise of being forever with the Lord Jesus Christ is realized – 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Co. 15:51-58; John 11:25-26; Song 1:5-6; 6:13; 2:10
 - The saints that _____ prior to the rapture are together with the Lord in heaven in _____ and _____ – Ps 49:15; Luke 16:19-31; 23:43; Acts 7:59; 2 Co. 5:8; Phil. 1:23...at the rapture they will be reunited with their glorified bodies in the air

3. The time of the rapture

- The rapture marks the beginning of Daniel's _____ week – Daniel 9:24-27
 - It signifies the _____ of the church age
 - It marks the beginning of the _____ period (aka – the Lord's day; those days, the time of Jacob's trouble, etc.)
- The rapture takes place _____ God's judgments unfold on the earth...
 - Some examples from the OT:
 - 1) _____ – Genesis 5:21-24; Hebrews 11:5
 - 2) _____ – Genesis 7:1; Hebrews 11:6
 - 3) _____ – Genesis 19:16, 29; 2 Peter 2:7-9

- The exact time of the rapture confuses many Christians...

- The Bible describes at least _____ raptures:

- 1) Enoch – Genesis 5:24
- 2) Elijah – 2 Kings 2:11
- 3) Jesus Christ - Acts 1:9
- 4) NT church age saints (Jews and Gentiles) – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17
- 5) Tribulation saints (Jews and Gentiles) – Matthew 24:31, 40-41; Revelation 7:9-14
- 6) 144,000 Jewish witnesses – Revelation 7:3-4 with 14:3
- 7) The two witnesses (Moses and Elijah) – Revelation 11:12

4. The sequence of the rapture

- The _____ heaven opens and the Lord Jesus Christ descends into the atmosphere of the first heaven
- He shouts with the commanding voice of an archangel and says ...“Come up hither”
- The trumpet sounds
- The bodies of all _____ believers are resurrected, glorified, and reunited with their soul/spirit in the air
- The bodies of all _____ believers are instantaneously translated and caught up in the air
- All dead and living believers, with their glorified bodies, meet Jesus Christ in the clouds of the _____ heaven
- We are all then taken to the third heaven to be with God; the events of Rev. 4-5 unfold before us

5. The purpose of believing and understanding the rapture

- So we would know that our labor is not in _____ – 1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

- To keep us _____ – 1 John 3:3

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

- To _____ us – 1 Thessalonians 4:18

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.