

# In A Moment

## INAM-02 “A LAST HOUR”

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### “THE DOCTRINE OF THE RAPTURE OF THE SAINTS”

**1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18** *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.* <sup>14</sup> *For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.*

<sup>15</sup> *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.* <sup>16</sup> *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.* <sup>17</sup> *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.*

<sup>18</sup> *Therefore encourage one another with these words.*

Our course is a study of “THE DOCTRINE OF THE RAPTURE OF THE SAINTS” as presented, and supported by the **NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES**. I am using the Title, “In a Moment” (taken from **1 COR 15:51-52**) to convey the message of the promise of a **sudden, unannounced, sovereign** work of God by which Believers are **immediately transformed**, whether living or dead, and **taken from this earth** into glorious presence. of Heaven

We will be using the passage, above, in **1 THESSALONIANS 4**, as our Primary Theme verse. There are a number of individual highlights in these words from Paul that will lead us to other supportive and informative Scriptures.

In this **2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson** we will be observing how “**The Rapture**” fits with God’s overall plan for mankind. What are “**Dispensations**”, and what do they reveal about God’s Timeline. The understanding of Dispensations is vital for our knowledge of the overall plan of God. **What Do the Scriptures Reveal?**

### **“THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH” IS A “MYSTERY”:**

**1 COR 15:51-53** *Behold! I tell you **a mystery**. **WE** shall not all sleep, but **WE** shall all be changed,* <sup>52</sup> *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.* <sup>53</sup> *For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.*

*(Continued from “In A Moment” 01: This can be found at: [homechurchok.com](http://homechurchok.com) > Media > HomeChurch Bible Class)*

➤ The “**RAPTURE**” is the **sudden arrival [Parousia]** of Jesus to “**take away - Rapture**” the Church so as to be forever with Him – At His “**arrival**” the Believers whether they are “**asleep or alive**” will be “**seized – taken away / taken-out**” – by a force which cannot be resisted or hindered

(See the **CHART OF THE END TIMES: page 4**)

➤ The **RAPTURE** ends the **CHURCH AGE** – also referred to as “**THE LAST DAYS**” – which began at **PENTECOST**

➤ The **RAPTURE** signals the beginning of “**THE TRIBULATION**” – the time of **JACOB’S [ISRAEL’S] TROUBLE / TRAVAIL**

➤ “**THE TRIBULATION**” lasts for “**7-Years**” and ends with “**THE GREAT DAY OF THE LORD - the 2<sup>ND</sup> COMING OF CHRIST**”

➤ The **RAPTURE** is “**before**” the **2<sup>ND</sup> COMING OF CHRIST**... which precedes **THE MILLENNIUM**

## IT IS “A LAST HOUR”

1 JOHN 2:18 Children, it is A LAST HOUR, and as you have heard that Antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore, we know that it is A LAST HOUR.

As shown on the “Timeline” (page 4), the CHURCH AGE begins at the DAY OF PENTECOST. This also signals the beginning of “THE LAST DAYS”

ACTS 2:16-18 But this is what was uttered through THE PROPHET JOEL:

<sup>17</sup> “And in THE LAST DAYS it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

<sup>18</sup> even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

### THE LAST DAYS VS THE LAST DAY:

< Did you know: There have been over 780,000 days since the 1<sup>st</sup> Pentecost >

- As Peter rose to address the crowds, the Spirit of God inspired him to quote from the PROPHET JOEL regarding what they were seeing and hearing...
- This “Outpouring” signaled the arrival of the Holy Spirit in a dimension which had never been known or realized in all the previous ages...
- In ACTS 2:39 Peter proclaims, “For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” This outpouring is:
  - The fulfillment of the “Promise of the Father” ... [ ACTS 1:8; LUKE 24:49; JN 7:38-39 ]
  - For both JEW (those who are near) and GENTILE (those who are far-off)
- Characteristics of “THE LAST DAYS”
  - “God speaks by His Son” [ HEB 1:2 ]
  - There will be “False Teachers / Prophets” [ 1 TIM 4:1 ]
  - There will be “great wickedness” [ 2 TIM 3:1-5 / JUDE 17-19 ]
  - There will be a general denial of “God’s warning of coming Judgment” [ 2 PETER 3:1-13 ]
- “THE LAST DAY”
  - THE Day of RESURRECTION as promised in the OT [ JOHN 6:40; 44; 54; 11:24; 12:28 ]
  - It is the Day of “The Coming of the SON OF MAN” to Judge ALL the Earth... [ MATT 24:27-31 ]

### “A” LAST HOUR VS “THE” LAST HOUR:

1 JOHN 2:18 Children, it is A LAST HOUR, and as you have heard that Antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore, we know that it is A LAST HOUR.

The Apostle John was faced with a growing problem of “gnostic Heresy” at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century. Many were worried by this, as many of these “False Teachers” rose-up from within the “professing Christians”. One of their troubling “Heresies” was the proclamation that Jesus’ body was NOT real... it only appeared to be real.

John addressed this directly in 1 JOHN 4

1 JN 4:1-3 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is NOT from God. THIS is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

- The “Heresy” centered around the “person of Christ” but especially as to whether He had “flesh” at all

- This heresy arises from the inspiration of **Satan himself** [ **The Antichrist** ]
- It is presented and advanced by False Teachers who John refers to a **"antichrists"**
- They are under the influence of **"the spirit of [the] Antichrist"**
- In **1 JN 2:18** he uses THIS designation for the False Teachers of the day [ **"... there are many antichrists"** ]
- Then John refers to the fact that in this **"Age"** ... THE LAST DAYS... there are many **"hours"**
  - The rise of these **"False Teachers"** IS a sign of the End of Days...
  - John says it is **"A Hour"** not **"THE Hour"** ... *a specific time within the Last Days ...*
  - The Greek structure is very direct... meaning it is NOT a specific hour (or day)...
  - John "knows" it is **"A Last Hour"** because of these signs ...
  - BUT it is not **"THE Last Hour"** for we have not been changed:
    - 1 JOHN 3:2-3** *Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that **when he appears we shall be like him**, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.*
    - 1 JOHN 2:28** *And now, little children, abide in him, so that **when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.***
- There will be many **"Last Hours"** in these **"Last Days"** ... but they are not **THE LAST HOUR** ...
- ONE of these **"Hours"** we WILL BE **"THE Last Hour"** of **"THE Last Day"**
- At that time the **"Veil will be pulled aside"** [Apokalupsis] and the glory of The Lord's Coming will be SEEN!

### **DISPENSATIONAL TRUTH:**

One of the **"keys"** to understanding NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINE, is the knowledge of **"DISPENSATIONAL TRUTH."** This knowledge helps Believers understand the difference between the **"Way"** God related to people in the **OLD TESTAMENT ERA: The time of Noah; the time of Abraham; the time of Moses & the Prophets.** This is vastly different than the **"Way"** in which God relates to people during the **NEW TESTAMENT ERA: Law & Grace; Justification by Faith; Believers and Non-believers; etc.** These differences are seen through an understanding of **"DISPENSATIONAL TRUTH."**

### **DISPENSATION:**

**EPH 3:1-2** *For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup> assuming that you have heard of **the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you,** <sup>3</sup> **how the mystery was made known to me** by revelation, as I have written briefly.*

**Vs 6** ***This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel.***

**Vs 9** *"...and to bring to light for everyone what **is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things,** <sup>10</sup> so that **through the Church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known...**"*

**COL 1:25-26** *"... [His Body, The Church] of which I became a minister **according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you,** to make the word of God fully known, <sup>26</sup> **the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.**"*

**HEBREWS 1:1-2** *Long ago, **at many times and in many ways,** God spoke to our fathers **by the prophets,** <sup>2</sup> **but in these LAST DAYS** he has spoken to us **by his Son,** whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.*

**Dispensation** – “Oikonomia” – Lit: *The law of the house* – An established set of rules by which a thing is governed – The *Rules of the House... for an established period of time...*

These rules may be subject to a certain “**period of time**” or to a certain “**group**” within the house  
 Through the “ages” of time, God has dealt with mankind in different ways for different periods of time... and for different “groups of people” within that given period of time.

These “**different time periods**” are called: **Dispensations** / **Stewardships**

**THE “8” DISPENSATIONS:**

1. **THE DISPENSATION OF INNOCENCE:** *Creation of Adam to “The Fall” -*
2. **THE DISPENSATION OF CONSCIENCE:** *“The Fall” to Noah’s Departure from the Ark -*
3. **THE DISPENSATION OF HUMAN GOVERNMENT:** *Noah’s Departure from the Ark to the Call of Abraham*
4. **THE DISPENSATION OF PROMISE:** *GOD’S “Covenant with Abraham” until the “Giving of THE LAW” at Sinai -*
5. **A) THE DISPENSATION OF THE LAW [Part 1]** – *“Giving of THE LAW” to “The Resurrection of JESUS CHRIST ”*
6. **THE DISPENSATION OF GRACE / THE CHURCH AGE:** *“The Resurrection” until “The Rapture of the Saints”*  
**5B) THE DISPENSATION OF THE LAW: [PART 2]** – *“After the Rapture until the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of JESUS CHRIST” (THE “7” YEARS OF THE TRIBULATION) This is the fulfillment of the “7<sup>th</sup> week of Years” prophesied by DANIEL*
7. **THE DISPENSATION OF THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM OF CHRIST:** *The 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus Christ until the Judgement of the Great White Throne*
8. **THE DISPENSATION OF THE NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH:** - *This is not truly a “dispensation” for there is “no time realized” after the Revealing of the New Heaven and New Earth...*

**The End Times Chart**

*“THE PRE-TRIBULATIONAL ... PRE-MILLENNIAL VIEWPOINT”*

