

In A Moment

INAM-11 "RAISED OR RAPTURED"

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"THE DOCTRINE OF THE RAPTURE OF THE SAINTS"

1 THESS 4:16-17 "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. ¹⁷ 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."

1 COR 15:51-52 "Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² 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."

Paul's admonition to the Thessalonian Believers was to assure them that when the Lord returns, ALL those who are "In Christ" will be "caught-up" to be with Him... FOREVER! Whether "asleep" or "alive" all will be included. THIS was to be an "encouragement / comfort" that was to be shared one to another. Today, all who are "In Christ" – The Church – should be doing the same. **We NEED it!**

SHALL NOT PRECEDE

1 THESS 4:15 "...that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep."

- "will not have the potential to suddenly come ahead of..." – The "Living" come after the "Dead"
- There is an "honor" given to the "dead in Christ" – they "died in faith"
HEB 11:13 "These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar..."
- Although there will be NO distinction in Heaven... THIS is granted to them as a First Reward...

NO Basis for a "Partial" Rapture... -

- "WE who are..." applies both to those who are "Alive ... who Remain" –
- Grammatically they are the SAME ones...
- Just as ALL the "dead in Christ" are raised... and "caught-up" ... -
- So also, ALL the "alive in Christ" are "caught-up..." and will be together WITH them

ALL WILL BE INCLUDED

A review of Paul's teachings from 1 THESSALONIANS 4 & 1 CORINTHIANS 15 shows us that there will be "2 Classes" of Believers within the Church that will be affected by the "Arrival - Parousia" of the Lord:

a) Those who are "asleep" and b) Those who are "alive". Each will be affected in a different way, but ALL will be "changed" and taken to be with the Lord Jesus forever.

1 THESS 4:16 "And the dead in Christ will rise first..."

1 THESS 4:17 "Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them..."

Paul's concise statements reveal that this is a subject he had covered during his time with them as the Church was being established. He wanted to re-affirm "hope" in their Eternal Presence with the Lord.

Paul wrote in 1 THESS 5:1 *“Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you.”* They had been taught... they just needed to be reminded.

The “dead (asleep) will be **“raised”** The “alive” will be **“caught-up”** ALL will be **“changed”**

HOW SHALL THE DEAD BE RAISED 1 COR 15:35-58

In 1 COR 15, Paul confronted the intellectually arrogant, the confused, and the uninformed regarding the **“Resurrection.”** It seems that there was a growing rejection of a **“bodily resurrection”** for Believers, going so far as to **deny Jesus’ Resurrection**. Their **“intellectual superiority”** would not accept that this could be true. They considered it as a **“metaphor”** or a simple **“spiritual illustration”** that had no basis in truth.

Paul was genuinely incensed! He responded boldly, and with precise **“apologetics.”** His arguments were rooted in History [vs 1-11]; Logic [vs 12-19]; Theology / Typology [vs 20-28]; and Practice [vs 29-34]. By the end of vs 34 his frustration is shown: **“For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.”**

He then addressed two “projected” questions:

A) *How is the resurrection achieved?*

B) *What is the nature of a resurrected body?*

Paul did not consider these the sort of questions a wise person would ask, **as is obvious from his response, How foolish!** (lit., **“how senseless or thoughtless”**) The answers are recorded in vs 35-58.

➤ 1 COR 15:35-37 *“But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?”* ³⁶ **You foolish person!** *What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.* ³⁷ *And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.”*

Belief in the **Resurrection** was like belief in **seedtime** and **harvest**. Neither can be completely understood but both are real. As the plant which sprouts from a seed is **directly linked to the seed...** it is **remarkably different** from it... so too is the relationship of a **natural** and a **resurrected** body. **Even in Nature: the SEED “dies” ... and a NEW PLANT is “raised-up.”** How could they NOT see this?

➤ 1 COR 15:38-49 *“But God gives it a “body” as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed “its own body”.* ³⁹ *For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish.* **Physical differences**

⁴⁰ *There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another.* ⁴¹ *There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; [and even] star differs from star in glory.”*

⁴² *“So is it with the resurrection of the dead.*

What is **sown** is **perishable**;

what is **raised** is **imperishable**.

⁴³ It is **sown** in **dishonor**;

it is **raised** in **glory**.

It is **sown** in **weakness**;

it is **raised** in **power**.

⁴⁴ It is **sown** a **natural body**;

it is **raised** a **spiritual body**.

IF (and there is) a **natural body**, there is also a **spiritual body**.

⁴⁵ *Thus it is written:*

*“The **first man**, Adam, became a living being [soul]”; [Gen 2:7]*

*the **Last Adam** became a **life-giving spirit**. [JOHN 5:21]*

⁴⁶ *[And] it is not the spiritual that is first but **the natural**... and then **the spiritual**.*

⁴⁷ *The **first man** was from the earth, a man of dust;*

*the **Second Man** is from Heaven.*

⁴⁸ *As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the Man of Heaven, so also are those who are of heaven.*

⁴⁹ *Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.”*

➤ 1 COR 15:50-53 *“I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.*

⁵¹ *Behold! I tell you a mystery...*

○ *We shall not all sleep – in physical death...*

○ *but we shall all be changed.*

“Allasso” – to exchange one thing for another – to change from one thing / status to another

“Metamorphoo” – to change the outward form to be a true representation of the inward reality

⁵² *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.*

○ ⁵³ *For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.”*

*Imperishable – NO ability to decay, change to lower quality nor corrupt what IS... *This would include aging and degeneration. **YEAH!****

Immortal – Not able to die – NOT just won't die

WE WILL ALL BE CHANGED 1 THESS 4:15-18

➤ *For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are [the] alive, who are [the] remaining ones until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.*

○ ¹⁶ *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.*

○ ¹⁷ *Then we [emphatic – you and I] who are [the] alive, who are [the] remaining ones, will be caught up [raptured] together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.*

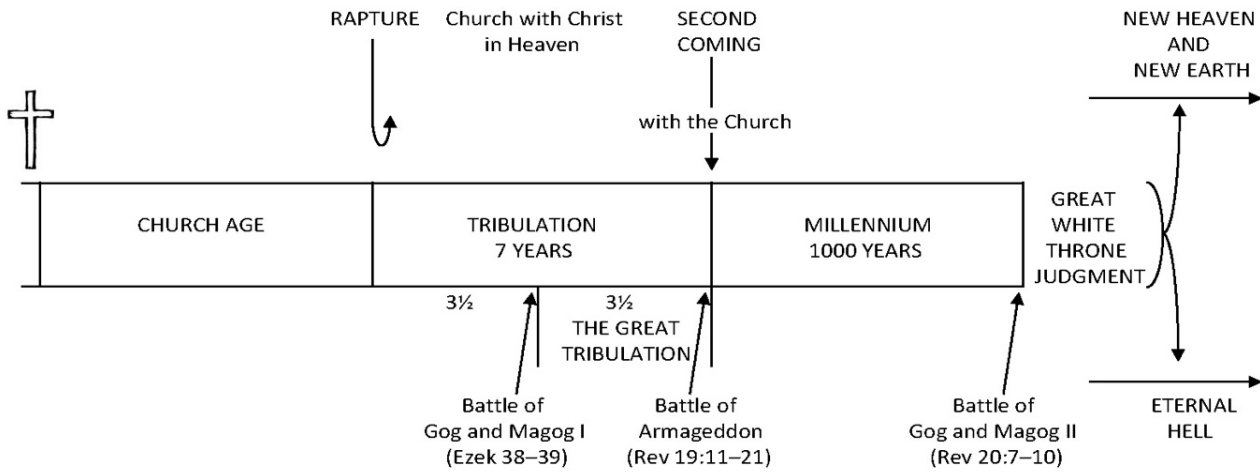
“caught-up” – Gk: “Harpagmos” – To be suddenly and forcefully taken away / removed – can have for both good and evil intentions

[Latin: “Rapturo” – the root for our words rapture / raptor / “rape”

¹⁸ *Therefore encourage [comfort / challenge] one another with these words.*

The End Times Chart

"THE PRE-TRIBULATIONAL ... PRE-MILLENNIAL VIEWPOINT"



Fellowship
BIBLE CHURCH