

THE FIRST RESURRECTION AND ASSOCIATED EVENTS

This lecture studies the prophetic event commonly referred to as the “Rapture” Technically, the rapture is only a part of the first resurrection (albeit a major part), and it also involves the living — whereas a resurrection applies only to the dead.

I. THE AFFIRMATION OF A BODILY RESURRECTION

The doctrine of the resurrection is found throughout the Word of God.

A. The Old Testament.

1. *1 Samuel 2:6* — a statement of God’s power to raise the dead.

1 Samuel 2:6

6 The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up.

2. *Job 19:25-27* — Job’s declaration of faith.

Job 19:25-27

25 For I know *that* my redeemer liveth, and *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth: 26 And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I see God: 27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; *though* my reins be consumed within me.

3. *Job 14:12-15* — note the “till” and “until.”

Job 14:12-15

12 So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens *be* no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep. 13 O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me! 14 If a man die, shall he live *again*? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come. 15 Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.

4. *Psalms 16:10, 11* — prophecy of Christ’s resurrection.

Psalms 16:10-11

10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence *is* fulness of joy; at thy right hand *there are*

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pleasures for evermore.

5. *Psalm 49:15.*

Psalm 49:15

15 But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah.

6. *Isaiah 26:19.*

Isaiah 26:19

19 Thy dead *men* shall live, *together with* my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew *is as* the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.

7. *Ezekiel 37:1-14; Hosea 6:1-3* — national resurrection of Israel.

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which *was* full of bones, 2 And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, *there were* very many in the open valley; and, lo, *they were* very dry. 3 And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. 4 Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. 5 Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: 6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD. 7 So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. 8 And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but *there was* no breath in them. 9 Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. 10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. 11 Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. 12 Therefore prophecy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. 13 And ye shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, 14 And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken *it*, and performed *it*, saith the LORD.

Hosea 6:1-3

Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and

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he will bind us up. 2 After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. 3 Then shall we know, *if* we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter *and* former rain unto the earth.

8. *Daniel 12:2* — first mention of a two-part resurrection.

Daniel 12:2

2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.

B. The New Testament.

1. *Matthew 22:23-33; Mark 12:18-27; Luke 20:27-38.*

Matthew 22:23-33

23 The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him, 24 Saying, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. 25 Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother: 26 Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh. 27 And last of all the woman died also. 28 Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her. 29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. 30 For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven. 31 But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, 32 I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. 33 And when the multitude heard *this*, they were astonished at his doctrine.

Mark 12:18-27

18 Then come unto him the Sadducees, which say there is no resurrection; and they asked him, saying, 19 Master, Moses wrote unto us, If a man's brother die, and leave *his* wife *behind him*, and leave no children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. 20 Now there were seven brethren: and the first took a wife, and dying left no seed. 21 And the second took her, and died, neither left he any seed: and the third likewise. 22 And the seven had her, and left no seed: last of all the woman died also. 23 In the resurrection therefore, when they shall rise, whose wife shall she be of them? for the seven had her to wife. 24 And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God? 25 For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven. 26 And as touching the dead, that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses,

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how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I *am* the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? 27 He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living: ye therefore do greatly err.

Luke 20:27-38

27 Then came to *him* certain of the Sadducees, which deny that there is any resurrection; and they asked him, 28 Saying, Master, Moses wrote unto us, If any man's brother die, having a wife, and he die without children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. 29 There were therefore seven brethren: and the first took a wife, and died without children. 30 And the second took her to wife, and he died childless. 31 And the third took her; and in like manner the seven also: and they left no children, and died. 32 Last of all the woman died also. 33 Therefore in the resurrection whose wife of them is she? for seven had her to wife. 34 And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: 35 But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: 36 Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection. 37 Now that the dead are raised, even Moses shewed at the bush, when he calleth the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. 38 For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him.

2. *John 6:54.*

John 6:54

54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

3. *John 11:23-26.*

John 11:23-26

23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. 24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. 25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

4. *Romans 6:5.*

Romans 6:5

5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of *his* resurrection:

5. *I Corinthians 15* — the “resurrection chapter.”

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1 Corinthians 15:1-58

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: 5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: 6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. 7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. 8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which *was bestowed* upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. 11 Therefore whether *it were* I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.

12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: 14 And if Christ be not risen, then *is* our preaching vain, and your faith *is* also vain. 15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. 16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: 17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith *is* vain; ye are yet in your sins. 18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. 24 Then *cometh* the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death. 27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under *him*, *it is* manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. 28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all. 29 Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead? 30 And why stand we in jeopardy every hour? 31 I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. 32 If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die. 33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. 34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak *this* to your shame.

35 But some *man* will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? 36 *Thou* fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: 37 And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other *grain*: 38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. 39 All flesh *is*

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not the same flesh: but *there is* one *kind of* flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. 40 *There are* also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial *is* one, and the *glory* of the terrestrial *is* another. 41 *There is* one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for *one* star differeth from *another* star in glory. 42 So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: 43 It is sown in dishonour; 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. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. 45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam *was made* a quickening spirit. 46 Howbeit that *was* not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. 47 The first man *is* of the earth, earthy: the second man *is* the Lord from heaven. 48 As *is* the earthy, such *are* they also that are earthy: and as *is* the heavenly, such *are* they also that are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. 50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

51 Behold, I shew 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 trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory? 56 The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law. 57 But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

6. *II Corinthians 5:1-4.*

2 Corinthians 5:1-4

For we know that if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: 3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. 4 For we that are in *this* tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

7. *II Timothy 4:1* — the dead must be raised in order to be judged.

2 Timothy 4:1

I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

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II. THE DECLARATION OF A TWO-FOLD RESURRECTION

We move from the fact of a resurrection to the teaching of a *two-fold* resurrection:

A. According To Daniel's Prophecy — *Daniel 12:2*.

Daniel 12:2

2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.

1. A resurrection to everlasting life.
2. A resurrection to everlasting contempt.

Note: Daniel sees these two aspects of the resurrection as being concurrent. This is the example of the “Law of Parenthesis” (the “Gap Principle”) — see: Lecture 2. Later revelation shows them to be separated by time.

Note: The order, however, is important and consistent with subsequent teaching.

Note: Daniel's prophecy pertains to the Jews (“*thy people*”— *verse 1*), so if *verse 2* is interpreted specifically it would primarily refer to the events of Daniel's 70TH Week.

Daniel 12:1

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation *even* to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

B. According To The Lord Jesus Christ — *John 5:25, 28, 29*.

John 5:25,28-29

25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. 28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

1. A resurrection to life — they that have done good (i.e. obeyed the Gospel — *Luke 6:43-45; Ephesians 2:10; etc.*)

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Luke 6:43-45

43 For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.
44 For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. 45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

Ephesians 2:10

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

2. The resurrection to damnation — they that have done evil.

Again, the order is important.

C. According To The Apostle Paul — *Acts 24:15*.

Acts 24:15

15 And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.

This Scripture defines the distinctions of *John 5:29*.

John 5:29

29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

1. A resurrection of the just — i.e. the saved.
2. A resurrection of the unjust — i.e. the unsaved.

D. According To The Book of The Revelation — *Revelation 20:4-6*.

Revelation 20:4-6

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

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This passage gives the details of the time between the first and second resurrections — 1,000 years.

III. THE MYSTERY OF THE FIRST RESURRECTION

In *I Corinthians 15:51* Paul writes: “Behold, I shew you a *mystery*...”

1 Corinthians 15:51

51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

A mystery is defined as:

- Something hidden from unbelievers — *Matthew 13:11*.

Matthew 13:11

11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

- A truth not revealed in the Old Testament — *Romans 16:25, 26; I Corinthians 2:7-10; Ephesians 3:3-5; Colossians 1:26*.

Romans 16:25-26

25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, 26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

1 Corinthians 2:7-10

7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, *even* the hidden *wisdom*, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: 8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10 But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

Ephesians 3:3-5

3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, 4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) 5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

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Colossians 1:26

26 *Even* the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

It is not the fact of the resurrection which was a mystery, but certain details of the resurrection which had been kept from the Old Testament writers — notably, the Rapture (*I Corinthians 15:51, 52*).

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

51 Behold, I shew 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 trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

The Old Testament prophets saw the return of Christ to the earth with His saints in power and glory, but not His coming to the air for the saints.
See also: *Philippians 3:20, 21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*.

Philippians 3:20-21

20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 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: 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. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

The fact of the mystery of the Rapture is seen by contrasting *I Thessalonians 4:13* (“*But I would not have you to be ignorant brethren...*” — new revelation) **with** *I Thessalonians 5:1, 2* (“***BUT** of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh...*” — Old Testament revelation).

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1 Thessalonians 5:1-2

But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. 2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

IV. THE “RAPTURE” OF THE SAINTS

The “Rapture” refers to the prophetic event described in *I Thessalonians 4:16, 17* and *I Corinthians 15:52* — the coming of Jesus Christ to the air and the catching up of all believers, living and dead.

A. The Word “Rapture” Defined.

The word “rapture” is not found in the Word of God. The word comes from the Latin ‘*rapere*’ (to seize), and means “to be caught up” or “carried away” [in love, joy, ecstasy, etc.].

Therefore the word accurately expresses the event described in the New Testament — “...*shall be caught up...*” (*I Thessalonians 4:17*).

B. It Is NOT The “Rapture Of The CHURCH”!

The common expression, “The Rapture of the Church,” is Biblically incorrect. That is the language of the universalists — those who believe in the mystical, (mythical), invisible, universal, body of Christ, Church error.

Bible-believing Baptists must discipline themselves to speak [correctly] of “the rapture of the SAINTS”, for all believers will be taken in the rapture.

C. The Rapture Described.

1. It Is Inevitable.

The Rapture is based upon the sure promises of God’s Word:

a. *John 14:3* — “*I will come again, and receive you unto myself.*”

John 14:3

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

b. *I Thessalonians 4:16* — “*For the Lord himself shall descend.*”

1 Thessalonians 4:16

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and

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with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

c. 1 John 3:2 — “... when he shall appear...”

1 John 3:2

2 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.

2. It Is Imminent.

The word “imminent” means it could happen at any time. The Rapture is the next event on God’s prophetic calendar — there are no specific prophetic events which must come to pass before the rapture can take place. Imminency does not necessarily mean that Christ will come soon — only that He *may* come soon.

There are no prophetic ‘signs’ associated with any clear Rapture passage — only instruction to believers to live as if He is coming today (*1 Thessalonians 5:4-8*) and to be ready should He come today (*Matthew 24:44*, “...*be ye also...*”). The first sign of Christ’s coming is the “abomination of desolation” (*Matthew 24:3f, 15*) which occurs in the middle of Daniel’s 70TH Week, and this is in reference to Christ’s return to the earth in power and glory.

1 Thessalonians 5:4-8

4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. 5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as *do* others; but let us watch and be sober. 7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. 8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

Matthew 24:3,15,42-44

3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what *shall be* the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? 15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) 42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. 43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. 44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Imminency is taught or implied in the following passages:

a. Matthew 24:42-44 — if we knew, we could prepare.

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- b. Matthew 25:6, 13 — an unexpected return.

Matthew 25:6,13

6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. 13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

- c. Mark 13:32-37. cf. Acts 1:7.

Mark 13:32-37

32 But of that day and *that* hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. 33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. 34 *For the Son of man is* as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. 35 Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: 36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. 37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

Acts 1:7

7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

- d. Luke 12:35, 36 — ‘girded loins’ indicates a state of readiness (to go).
cf. Exodus 12:11.

Luke 12:35-36

35 Let your loins be girded about, and *your* lights burning; 36 And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.

Exodus 12:11

11 And thus shall ye eat it; *with* your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it *is* the LORD’S passover.

- e. Luke 12:45, 46 — the danger of rejecting the doctrine of imminency.

Luke 12:45-46

45 But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; 46 The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for *him*, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

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- f. Luke 21:34 — believers should live their lives in full expectation of the Rapture.

Luke 21:34

34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and *so* that day come upon you unawares.

- g. Romans 13:11, 12— every day brings His coming nearer.

Romans 13:11-12

11 And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

- h. I Corinthians 1:7b — we are to wait for His coming. It's next!

1 Corinthians 1:7

7 So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

- i. I Corinthians 15:51 — “*We shall not all sleep...*” Paul evidently expected some of the Corinthian believers (along with himself) to be alive when the Rapture occurred.

1 Corinthians 15:51

51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

- j. Philippians 3:20 — the coming of Christ is to be the present-day believer's focus. Note the. “*we.*”

Philippians 3:20

20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

- k. I Thessalonians 1:10 — the first century members of the church at Thessalonica expected Christ could come for them at any moment. Paul commended them for waiting.

1 Thessalonians 1:10

10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

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- l. *I Thessalonians 4:15* — “. .. *we which are alive and remain...*”

1 Thessalonians 4:15

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

- m. *I Timothy 6:14* — evidently Paul thought Timothy might be alive when the Rapture happens.

1 Timothy 6:14

14 That thou keep *this* commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

- n. *Titus 2:13* — note this is to be done “in this *present* world” (*verse 12f*).

Titus 2:12-13

12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

- o. *Hebrews 9:28* — we are to be looking for (expecting) Christ’s return.

Hebrews 9:28

28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

- p. *James 5:8, 9* — it draweth nigh, He’s at the door!

James 5:8-9

8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. 9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.

- q. *I Peter 4:7*.

1 Peter 4:7

7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

- r. *I John 2:28* — if we knew when the Rapture was going to occur, we could get things in order so as not to be ashamed before Christ.

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1 John 2:28

28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

- s. Revelation 2:25 — this was initially given to a first century Baptist church!

Revelation 2:25

25 But that which ye have *already* hold fast till I come.

- t. Revelation 3:3 — this warning is addressed to a New Testament church.

Revelation 3:3

3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

- u. Revelation 22:6, 7, 10, 12, 20.

Revelation 22:6-7,10,12,20

6 And he said unto me, These sayings *are* faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. 7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed *is* he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book. 10 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. 12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. 20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

- i. “...*must shortly be done*...”
- ii. “Behold, I come quickly” — ταχύς suddenly, by surprise
- iii. “...*the time is at hand*”.
- iv. “I come quickly”
- v. “Surely, I come quickly.”

3. It Is Instantaneous.

According to *I Corinthians 15:52*, the Rapture will happen “*in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.*”

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1 Corinthians 15:52

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

- a. This Was The Experience Of Paul — *II Corinthians 12:2-4*. The words “caught up” (*harpadzo*) are identical to those used in *I Thessalonians 4:17*.

2 Corinthians 12:2-4

2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. 3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) 4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

1 Thessalonians 4:17

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.

- b. This Was The Experience Of John — *Revelation 4:1, 2*.

Revelation 4:1-2

After this I looked, and, behold, a door *was* opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard *was* as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. 2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and *one* sat on the throne.

- i. “*After this...*” — i.e. the messages to the churches.
- ii. A trumpet-like voice — cf. *I Thessalonians 4:16*.

1 Thessalonians 4:16

16 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:

- iii. “*And immediately ... in heaven*”
- c. This Was The Experience Of Enoch — *Genesis 5:24; Hebrews 11:5*.

Genesis 5:24

24 And Enoch walked with God: and he *was* not; for God took him.

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Hebrews 11:5

5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

4. It Is Immortalizing

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 describes the great bodily changes that will occur at the Rapture:

1 Corinthians 15:51-53

51 Behold, I shew 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 trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

- a. The Change Will Affect Both Living And Deceased Saints.
we shall ALL be changed...
- b. The Dead Shall Be Raised Incorruptible.
“...corruptible must put on incorruption...”

The natural human body is corruptible, i.e. subject to decay. After death it returns to the dust — *Genesis 3:19; Job 34:15; Psalm 103:14-16; 104:29; Ecclesiastes 3:20; 12:7.*

Genesis 3:19

19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Job 34:15

15 All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust.

Psalm 103:14-16

14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we *are* dust. 15 *As for* man, his days *are* as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. 16 For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.

Psalm 104:29

29 Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust.

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Ecclesiastes 3:20

20 All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.

Ecclesiastes 12:7

7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

c. Living Mortals Shall Put On Immortality.

“mortal must put on immortality..”

Mortality (and immortality) always has to do with the body — never the soul or spirit of man.

The new body we shall receive at the Rapture is described in *I Corinthians 15:42-50*. While we cannot fully comprehend having a body that is not subject to disease or death, *Philippians 3:21* and *I John 3:2* indicate that our glorified resurrection bodies shall be like the body of our resurrected Saviour. This means we will:

1 Corinthians 15:42-50

42 So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: 43 It is sown in dishonour; 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. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. 45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam *was made* a quickening spirit. 46 Howbeit that *was* not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. 47 The first man *is* of the earth, earthy: the second man *is* the Lord from heaven. 48 As *is* the earthy, such *are* they also that are earthy: and as *is* the heavenly, such *are* they also that are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. 50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

Philippians 3:21

21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

1 John 3:2

2 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.

- Be visible — *John 20:20*.

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John 20:20

20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them *his* hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

- Be different, yet recognizable — *Mark 16:12; Luke 24:13-32; John 20:4, 7.*

Mark 16:12

12 After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.

Luke 24:13-32

13 And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem *about* threescore furlongs. 14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened. 15 And it came to pass, that, while they communed *together* and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. 16 But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. 17 And he said unto them, What manner of communications *are* these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad? 18 And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days? 19 And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: 20 And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. 21 But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done. 22 Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; 23 And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. 24 And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found *it* even so as the women had said: but him they saw not. 25 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: 26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? 27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. 28 And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. 29 But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them. 30 And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed *it*, and brake, and gave to them. 31 And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. 32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

John 20:4,7

4 So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.
7 And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in

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a place by itself.

- Be touchable — *John 20:27*.

John 20:27

27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust *it* into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

- Be able to eat — *Luke 24:43*.

Luke 24:43

43 And he took *it*, and did eat before them.

- Be able to pass through material objects — *John 20:19*.

John 20:19

19 Then the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you.

- Consist of flesh and bone (no blood) — compare *Luke 24:39* with *I Corinthians 15:50*. This will be a different kind of flesh, *I Corinthians 15:44*.

Luke 24:39

39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

1 Corinthians 15:50

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

1 Corinthians 15:44

44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

The Rapture is the completion of our salvation, the redemption of the body — see: *Romans 8:17-23*; *Ephesians 1:13,14*; *Hebrews 9:28*; *1 Peter 1:5*.

Romans 8:17-23

17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together. 18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time

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are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. 20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected *the same* in hope, 21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. 23 And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.

Ephesians 1:13-14

13 In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Hebrews 9:28

28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

1 Peter 1:5

5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

5. It Is Inclusive.

Those who hold the “invisible, universal, Body of Christ, ‘Church’ theory” (and thus speak of the Rapture of ‘The Church’) generally teach that only Church-age saints will be raptured — Old Testament saints will be resurrected at the conclusion of the Great Tribulation.

There is no Biblical reason to hold to this belief. The criterion for participating in the Rapture is “*if we believe that Jesus died and rose again*” — *I Thessalonians 4:14*. It is reasonable to believe that **all** the saints will be raptured, including those who lived before Christ.

1 Thessalonians 4:14

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

- a. Certainly, the Old Testament saints anticipated the resurrection — e.g. *Psalm 17:15*.

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Psalm 17:15

15 As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

- b. When Christ ascended to Heaven, He took with him all the souls of the saints (including Abraham, *Luke 16:24-25*) who were then in Paradise — *Ephesians 4:8*. Why would He return to the air with only *some* of those who are now present with Him in glory?

Luke 16:24-25

24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. 25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

Ephesians 4:8

8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

- c. In the catalog of things we shall see in glory (*Hebrews 12:22-24*) is the “spirits of just men made perfect.” According to *Hebrews 11:40*, these are the Old Testament men and women of faith — made perfect through the resurrection.

Hebrews 12:22-24

22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, 23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of* Abel.

Hebrews 11:40

40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

- 6. It Is Imperceptible.
The idea of a ‘secret Rapture’ is not found in the Bible, per se. However, the glorious event will take place:
 - a. Unexpectedly — *Luke 12:40*.

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Luke 12:40

40 Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

- b. Instantaneously — *I Corinthians 15:52*.

1 Corinthians 15:52

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

- c. Atmospherically — *I Thessalonians 4:17*.

1 Thessalonians 4:17

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.

Only one's imagination can conceive of the effects of this event upon the world. A couple of observations:

- Enoch (*Hebrews 11:5*) — “and was not found” — indicating that people were looking for him.

Hebrews 11:5

5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

- Elijah (*II Kings 2:11, 16-18*) — the unbelieving theological students searched for him.

2 Kings 2:11,16-18

11 And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, *there appeared* a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. 16 And they said unto him, Behold now, there be with thy servants fifty strong men; let them go, we pray thee, and seek thy master: lest peradventure the Spirit of the LORD hath taken him up, and cast him upon some mountain, or into some valley. And he said, Ye shall not send. 17 And when they urged him till he was ashamed, he said, Send. They sent therefore fifty men; and they sought three days, but found him not. 18 And when they came again to him, (for he tarried at Jericho,) he said unto them, Did I not say unto you, Go not?

7. It Is Inaugural.

The Rapture is **the first phase** of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ; the

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Revelation (when every eye shall see Him) is the second phase.

These two phases of Christ's coming are separated by a short period of time, i.e. Daniel's 70TH Week.

Objections to this concept of a "two-stage return" are best answered by a consideration of Christ's first advent:

BETHLEHEM	CALVARY
Obscure, unannounced	Public manifestation
Known only by a few	On display to all
A moment of glory	A day of darkness
Preparatory	The main event

These two "phases" of Christ's first coming were separated by over 30 years.

There are distinct differences between the Rapture and the Revelation of Christ. These are set forth as follows:

RAPTURE	REVELATION
Coming FOR His saints	Coming WITH His saints
In the AIR	To the EARTH
Concerns the SAVED	Concerns ISRAEL
Imminent	Preceded by Signs
Return to HEAVEN	Establishes a KINGDOM

8. It Is Introductory.

The Rapture restarts God's "prophetic clock" and the beginning of Daniel's 70TH Week. (This 'clock' stopped at the end of the 69TH Week of Daniel's prophecy with Messiah being "cut off," *Daniel 9:26a*.)

Daniel 9:26

26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof *shall be* with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

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The Rapture heralds the Day of the Lord. Both events occur “like a thief in the night” (*Matthew 24:42, 43; I Thessalonians 5:2*) and are in effect simultaneous. [See; Lecture 11]

Matthew 24:42-43

42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. 43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

1 Thessalonians 5:2

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

9. It Is Inspirational.

The doctrine of the Rapture is one of the great motivational teachings of the New Testament (*II Thessalonians 2:1*). It is a worthy topic for teaching and preaching. An imminent Rapture will motivate the believer in the following areas:

2 Thessalonians 2:1

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto him,

- a. Holiness — *I John 3:2, 3; Colossians 3:4, 5; Philippians 3:18-21; Titus 2:12, 13; II Peter 3:13; Luke 21:34-36; Romans 13:11-13.*

1 John 3:2-3

2 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. 3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Colossians 3:4-5

4 When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. 5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

Philippians 3:18-21

18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 Whose end *is* destruction, whose God *is* their belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame, who mind earthly things.) 20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue

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all things unto himself.

Titus 2:12-13

12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

2 Peter 3:13

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Luke 21:34-36

34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and *so* that day come upon you unawares. 35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Romans 13:11-13

11 And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. 13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

b. Soul Winning — *I Thessalonians 2:19; II Timothy 4:1-3.*

1 Thessalonians 2:19

19 For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Are* not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

2 Timothy 4:1-3

I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

c. Faithfulness, Duty — *Hebrews 10:25; Mark 13:33; I Thessalonians 3:12, 13; etc.*

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Hebrews 10:25

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Mark 13:33

33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

12 And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all *men*, even as we *do* toward you: 13 To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

d. Perseverance — *I Peter 1:7,13; James 5:7, 8; I Peter 4:13; John 14:1-3; I John 2:28; Revelation 3:11; II Timothy 4:7, 8.*

1 Peter 1:7,13

7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

James 5:7-8

7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. 8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

1 Peter 4:13

13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

John 14:1-3

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not *so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

1 John 2:28

28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

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Revelation 3:11

11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

2 Timothy 4:7-8

7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

e. Comfort — *I Thessalonians 4:13, 18.*

1 Thessalonians 4:13,18

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

V. THE NATURE OF THE FIRST RESURRECTION

Having established the fact of a resurrection, and that being a two-fold resurrection, we now turn our attention to some additional details about the first resurrection. In particular, we are concerned with the resurrection of those who are saved *after* the Rapture, during Daniel's 70TH Week.

According to Revelation 7:9-17; 14:6, 13, a great multitude of Gentiles ("all nations") will be saved during the awful days of Daniel's 70TH Week. According to Revelation 6:9-11; 13:7, 8, 15; 20:4b, most will pay for their faith with their lives.

Revelation 7:9-17

9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; 10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. 11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and *about* the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, 12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, *be* unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? 14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. 16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. 17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

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Revelation 14:6,13

6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, 13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed *are* the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Revelation 6:9-11

9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? 11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they *were*, should be fulfilled.

Revelation 13:7-8,15

7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. 8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. 15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

Revelation 20:4

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

The question is: “When will the resurrection of their bodies take place?” The answer is that the Scriptures do not give us a clear-cut answer.

Two groups of resurrected believers are seen in *Revelation 20:4* (at the commencement of the Millennium).

- “*And I saw thrones, and them that sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: (Revelation 2 :26, 27; 5:10) — Raptured saints.*”

Revelation 2:26-27

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26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: 27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

Revelation 5:10

10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

AND

- *I saw the souls of them that were beheaded ... which had not worshipped the beast ... and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.” — resurrected Tribulation saints.*

The conclusion is that those who will believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and will be martyred during Daniel's 70TH Week will be resurrected at one time at the end of that period, presumably concurrent with the return of Christ in glory to the earth.

Based on *1 Corinthians 15:23*, the best way to illustrate the first resurrection is to liken it to a Jewish harvest. According to *Leviticus 23:20-22*, there are three parts to a harvest — the firstfruits (*verse 20*), the harvest proper (*verse 22a*), and the gleanings (*verse 22b*).

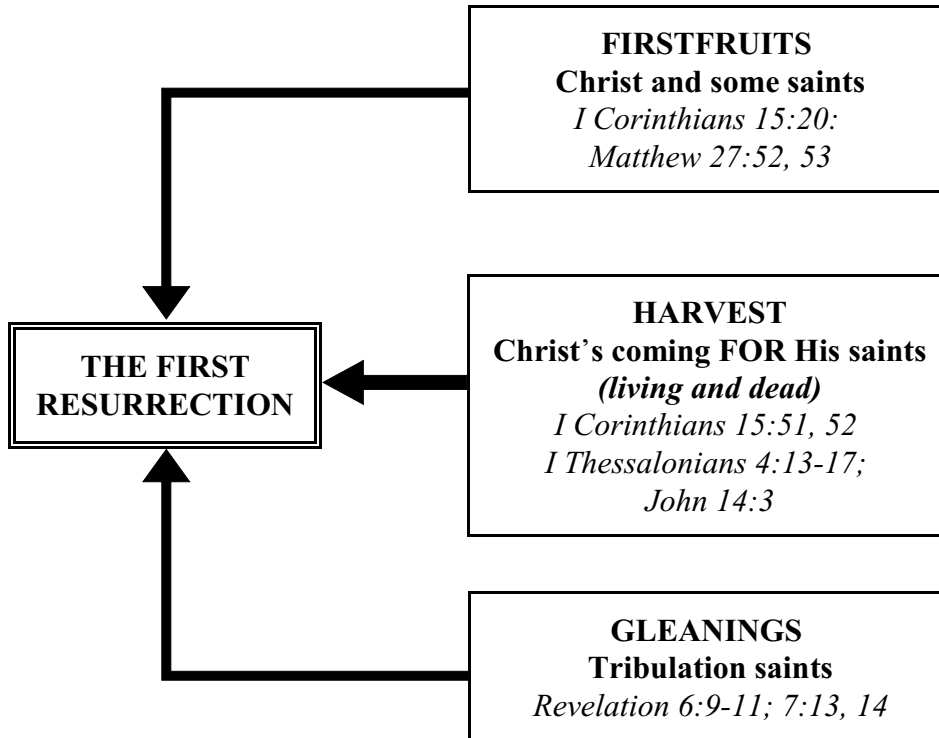
1 Corinthians 15:23

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

Leviticus 23:20-22

20 And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits *for* a wave offering before the LORD, with the two lambs: they shall be holy to the LORD for the priest. 21 And ye shall proclaim on the selfsame day, *that* it may be an holy convocation unto you: ye shall do no servile work *therein*: *it shall be* a statute for ever in all your dwellings throughout your generations. 22 And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleanings of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: *I am* the LORD your God.

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1 Corinthians 15:20

20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept.

Matthew 27:52-53

52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, 53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

51 Behold, I shew 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 trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 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: 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.

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John 14:3

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

Revelation 6:9-11

9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? 11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they *were*, should be fulfilled.

Revelation 7:13-14

13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? 14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

VI. THE EVENTS FOLLOWING THE FIRST RESURRECTION

As noted previously, the Rapture of the saints marks the beginning of a number of prophetic events.

- On Earth the Rapture heralds the beginning of the Day of the LORD and Daniel's 70TH Week. This will be a time of great deception and apparent peace — marked by the appearance of the Antichrist — and soon followed by an unprecedented time of trouble, disaster, conflict, wrath, etc.
- In Heaven, the Rapture marks the beginning of the Day of Christ. There are two notable events involving the resurrected saints in Heaven — the Judgment Seat of Christ and the Marriage of the Lamb.

A. The Judgment Seat Of Christ.

There are three judgments involving believers.

- **PAST:** The judgment of the believer's SIN — effected by the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross (c.29 A.D.) — *II Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 1:18, 19; 2:24; 3:18; Galatians 3:13; Acts 13:39; Colossians 2:10; John 3:36*. By this we have peace *with* God and are accepted *in* the Beloved!

2 Corinthians 5:21

21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness

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of God in him.

1 Peter 1:18-19

18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

1 Peter 2:24

24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

1 Peter 3:18

18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

Galatians 3:13

13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree:

Acts 13:39

39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Colossians 2:10

10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

John 3:36

36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

- **PRESENT:** The judgment of the believer's SELF — effected by the believer himself (*I Corinthians 11:28, 31, 32*), the church (*I Corinthians 5:3-5; I Timothy 1:19, 20*), or by the Father (*Hebrews 12:6-10*). Through this daily process we enjoy the peace *of* God and are kept acceptable *to* the Beloved!

1 Corinthians 11:28,31-32

28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of *that* bread, and drink of *that* cup. 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

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1 Corinthians 5:3-5

3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, *concerning* him that hath so done this deed, 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

1 Timothy 1:19-20

19 Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: 20 Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

Hebrews 12:6-10

6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. 7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. 9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected *us*, and we gave *them* reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they verily for a few days chastened *us* after their own pleasure; but he for *our* profit, that *we* might be partakers of his holiness.

- **PROSPECTIVE:** The judgment of the believer's SERVICE. This takes place after the Rapture, in Heaven at the Judgment Seat of Christ. It is a review of the believer's works through his church and will result in rewards or loss — *Romans 14:10-12; II Corinthians 5:9-11; 1 Corinthians 3:5-17.*

Romans 14:10-12

10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. 11 For it is written, *As I live*, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. 12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

2 Corinthians 5:9-11

9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad. 11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

1 Corinthians 3:5-17

5 Who then is Paul, and who *is* Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave

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to every man? 6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. 8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. 9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, *ye are* God's building. 10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. 11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. 16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? 17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which *temple* ye are.

For a detailed discussion of the Judgment Seat of Christ, see Lecture 8.

B. The Marriage Of The Lamb.

According to *Revelation 19:7-9*, this event will take place just prior to the Lord's return with His saints in power and great glory. Therefore, it will occur after the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Revelation 19:7-9

7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. 9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed *are* they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

For a detailed discussion of the Marriage of the Lamb, see Lecture 8

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STUDY QUESTIONS

Lecture 17

1. Give an Old Testament reference to the fact of a resurrection.
2. Distinguish the personal bodily resurrection and the national resurrection spoken of in the Old Testament.
3. What is the “resurrection chapter” of the Word of God?
4. What additional information concerning the resurrection did the prophet Daniel give?
5. Explain how the “Law of Parenthesis” applies to Daniel’s prophecy of the resurrection.
6. What is the first resurrection?
7. What is the second resurrection?
8. What aspect of the first resurrection was a mystery?
9. Give two key Scripture references to the Rapture of the saints.
10. What does the word “rapture” mean?
11. Why is it incorrect to speak of the “Rapture of the CHURCH?”
12. Cite a *Scriptural* statement (with reference) showing the inevitability of the Rapture.
13. Define “imminent” as it Scripturally applies to the Rapture.
14. Give three Scripture references teaching an imminent Rapture.
15. Name three men who had a “rapture experience.”
16. To whom does the statement, “*this corruptible must put on incorruption*” apply?
17. To whom does the statement, “*this mortal must put on immortality*” apply?
18. What does *Philippians 3:21* and *1 John 3:2* say our resurrection bodies will be like?

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19. Give 4 characteristics of the glorified, resurrection body.
20. What 'groups' of saints will participate in the Rapture?
21. What do we mean by saying the Rapture is the "first phase" of the return of Christ?
22. In what way do we see a two-phase first coming of Christ?
23. Give three differences between the Rapture and the Revelation.
24. List 4 things the promise of the Rapture should do for the believer.
25. What are the three phases of a Jewish harvest?
26. What is the approximate time span between the "firstfruits" and the "harvest" stage of the first resurrection?
27. What will be the time span between the "harvest" and the "gleanings" stage of the first resurrection?
28. At what point does the resurrection of the so-called "Tribulation saints" apparently take place?
29. What two events transpire in Heaven between the Rapture and the Revelation?
30. What is the past judgment involving believers, and what is involved?
31. What is the present judgment of believers, and what is involved?
32. What is the prospective judgment of believers, and what is involved?