

Discussion regarding the “rapture” of the church of Jesus Christ

Is there going to be a “rapture” and if so – why” - Why would there be a need for the rapture?

The answer is clearly stated in **1st Corinthians 15:50** “now I say this, brethren, flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does corruption inherit incorruption.”

A close look at **1st Corinthians 15; 51** and following – “Behold, I tell you a *mystery*: **We** (**Paul includes himself**) shall not all sleep, but **We** shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and **We** shall all be changed, for this corruption must put on incorruption, and this mortal shall put on immortality, so when this corruption has put on incorruption, and this mortality has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written; *death is swallowed up in victory.*”

Next we need to understand that death is not the end of everything. Further we need to understand that this body is not our final abode.

We have a “new body” coming – and I know you are as glad as I for that truth. For sure this one is wearing out rather nicely and on time.

A few things we know about this body compared to the one that Jesus has after his resurrection. It is 3 dimensional. In that 3-dimensional body, He walked on the sea of Galilee. He lived in a body that had weight, that required food and was solid to the touch. (**Luke 24- 36-43**)

However beyond the three dimensions of mortality, after His resurrection, He could enter a room without going through a wall or ceiling or floor, just appearing in the room.

If we look at a drawing of a house, we see 2 dimensions on the drawing. When the house is finished, we see a 3rd dimension.

Our present bodies are just a sketch of what is to come. When we see Him, we will be much more than 3 dimensions, for we shall see Him as He is and be like Him. Much more than 3 dimensions and I am not certain how many but we shall be like Him and just appear in a room without going through the wall floor or ceiling.

Look again at **2 Corinthians 5: 1&2**- “a building of God, an house not made with hands but eternal in the heavens” Now according to Paul here, we are living in a tabernacle (tent) if you will or temporary dwelling place – is the idea.

We have no idea about the physical and the spiritual things around us. We tend to believe that the physical is the real, and the spiritual is the “far out – spooky things>.

Truth is, it is just the opposite we just don’t see it.

Look again at **2 Corinthians 4:18**- “for we do not look at the things that are seen, but the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are *temporary*, but the things which are not seen are *eternal*.”

Paul then states in **2nd Corinthians 5:2** that we “grown” earnestly desire to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven.” Not this present “tent” in which we now live, but one fitted for our new surroundings, one like the Lord Jesus has right now.

When someone dies today, they leave their body (tent) behind. The body goes back to the dust of the earth from which it came, and the spirit goes to heaven. These departed spirits do not have a body until the resurrection. Very important to note here beloved.

Paul is noting for all of us that he also wished to be clothed with a body (not found naked) but to be clothed with a heavenly body. Not to be found naked in the spirit without a body, but to be clothed with a body which is from heaven.

To Paul, the rapture meant having a covering, a house, clothing for our naked spirits.

It is evident that Paul had the desire to be raptured. In his view, the spirits of those in Christ would be with the Lord during the interval between the moment of death until the moment of resurrection.

If the change occurs in the rapture, the putting on of the new body would happen instantly.

As Jesus said beloved, in **Luke 21:28** “now when these things begin to happen (speaking about those things in the preceding verses including the “Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory) **look up**, and **lift up your heads** for *your redemption draws near*”

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