1Thess #93

The Rapture is an intimate gathering of the future bride.

We will open and read from 1Thessalonians chapter 4 verses 14, 15, 16 and 17 today.

/The teaching that a rapture event occurs after the 7 years of Tribulation does not align with clear Biblical principles, prophecy or scripture. Knowing the difference between the Rapture and 2nd Advent is a key element of discernment for evaluating end time events. The set of events is clear in scripture – Rapture, 7 years of Tribulation, 2nd Advent of Christ, 1,000 reign of King Jesus on earth and then final judgement before eternity. \

There are those that teach different versions of these events and different sequences of these events – yet I can state with great confidence that, how I have it listed as the succession of events is how it will unfold.

/1Thes 4:14 For **if we believe that Jesus died and rose *from the dead****,* so also God will bring with Him those who have **fallen asleep through Jesus**.

There is great authority and certainty in these scriptures and it all points to only BELS! \

**IF** - is a Greek first-class condition, because we know for a fact the Jesus rose from the dead.

Because that is the truth, so too is the fact that resurrection for all Bels holds to the truth.

With the precise order, of future events aligned so the dead in Christ rise first at the Rapture.

/1Thess 4:15 **For we say this to you by the word of the Lord,** that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord **will not precede those who have fallen asleep**.

By teaching directly from Jesus Christ, the rapture of the church was revealed. There is great distinction between the Rapture and 2nd Advent.\

The 2nd advent is always attached to the Battle of Armageddon, along with a physical presence of Christ on earth that is unmistakable.

It is unmistakable because of the earth itself, shifts in supernatural fashion at HIS presence.

Unmistakable because prophecy tells us HIS return is as the warrior King, to reclaim the throne.

/1Thess 4:16 **For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven** with a **shout**, with the **voice of *the* archangel** and with the **trumpet of God**, and the **dead in Christ will rise first.**

Many times, within scripture we see these exact military alerts – they are never presented in this precise fashion or series pointing to ONLY Bels. \

The blast of a trumpet - the call of an angel, can be seen in prophetic scriptures throughout the Bible.

Yet not in this exact series and fashion speaking to an event for BELS only.

 REPEAT

/1Thess 4:17 Then **we who are alive, who remain, 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.

This describing an intimate gathering in the clouds of the air – this is touching on an event for Believers only! \

It is a quick snatching up which surprises all Bels who are alive. It leaves those Unbels on the earth in shock and awe.

Dumfound as to what just happened.

There are those who align scriptures of end time prophecy, especially in the book of Revelation, to 1 Thess chapter 4 but they are not the same set of events.

/Rev 1:7 **BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him**, even those who pierced Him; and **all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him**. So it is to be. Amen.

The return of Christ in the 2nd Advent is physical upon the earth. EVERYONE will see this event – no question as to HIS return. Its designed to slay the armies of evil who gather at the end of the 7 years of Tribulation. \

The Rapture of the church-age Bels was a deeper mystery, not discovered or rarely highlighted in OT scriptures.

The 2nd Advent is written about clearly, several times in prophecy.

/Zec 14:3 Then the **LORD will go forth and fight against those nations**, as when He fights on a day of battle. 4 On that day **His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives**, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and **the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle** from east to west *forming* a very large valley. Half of the mountain will move toward the north, and the other half toward the south.\

These examples in Zechariah and Micah or Joel are well documented and definitively studied as the 2nd advent of Christ.

/Mic 1:3 or behold, **the LORD is coming forth from His place. He will
come down and tread on the high places of the earth**. 4 **The mountains will melt under Him And the valleys will be split,** Like wax before the fire, Like water poured down a steep place.\

Go over to the gospel of Matthew 24.

/Joel 3:1 For behold, in those days and at that time, When I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, 2 I will gather all the nations And **bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat.** Then **I will
enter into judgment** with them there
On behalf of My people and My inheritance, **Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations**; And they
have divided up My land.\

The valley where Jehovah has judged is what that means. It is believed to be the valley along side the Mount of Olives where TLJC returns.

Part of the Kidron Valley near Jerusalem.

Look at the words of Jesus Christ;

/Mat 24:30 “And **then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn,** and the **they will see**SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.

All the tribes speak to everyone – all nations, they mourn because now the reality of Jesus Christ can no longer be denied. \

/[Mat 24:31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/24/31/s_953031)“And **He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET BLAST**, and THEY WILL **GATHER TOGETHER His elect**from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

This is a supernatural regathering on earth of all tribes of Israel, this is a resurrection also of the nation of Israel (OT). Then comes the Baptism of Fire (Ezk 20:33-49) \

Many Christians are disoriented about the end times starting with the Rapture.

This is what brings forth a lot of foolishness of the modern-day prophets who for the most part are charlatans, seeking out wealth and popularity.

/While the Rapture is imminent, the Second Advent is not. Before the Second Advent occurs, there are many prophecies which must occur; the Rapture, the Tribulation, the Bema Seat Judgment of Christ, the wedding ceremony of the church. Most of these are described in Revelation, particularly chapters 6-19.\

The Rapture could have occurred at the time of the Apostle John because no prophecy had to be fulfilled before the resurrection occurs.

Once that completed canon of scripture was written it could have happened the next day!

/The Rapture is the ignition for resurrection life to begin. The Church Age is the only dispensation in which there are historical trends and no prophecy. Christ was the first resurrection; the bride of Christ is second. The 2nd Advent brings in the third wave of resurrection. The fourth is at the Great White Throne Judgment. \

The Church Age is that period of human history when the royal family of God is being formed on earth, Eph 1:22-23, Eph 2:16-22, Eph 4:4-5; Col 1:18-24, Col 2:19.

/Eph 1:22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and **made Him head over all things to the church**, 23 which is **His body**, **the fullness of Him who fills all in all**.

Eph 2:20 having **been built on the foundation**of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom **the whole building, being fitted together, is growing** into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom **you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.**

 (Eph 4:4-5; Col 1:18-24, Col 2:19) \

There is a building up of the Royal Family – building the body of Christ in the CA. Yet there is a distinct point or time, when God ordained that it is complete, then the Rapture will occur.

/When the royal family of God is completed, then the Rapture occurs;

1Cor 15:51 Behold, **I am telling you a mystery;** we will not all sleep, but **we will 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 will be changed.

 (1Thes 4:16-18) \

This is the last military trumpet before the 7 years of Tribulation. During the 7 years, several trumpets will sound related to judgment and wrath falling upon the earth.

Many times, in the OT, the nation of Israel depended upon that military trumpet to call them to prepare for attack or defend against enemy assault.

The Trumpets of the Tribulation are calls to unfold the wrath of God in the end times.

 They are prophetic trumpets of judgment and gathering together of the prophetic end time events.

The Rapture of the church is the next prophetic event which is the spark of the end time events.

 REPEAT

The Rapture is called imminent which simply means, any time – right now or hundreds of years from now.

Three times in Revelation is the phrase, “I am coming quickly”:

/Rev 22:7 “And behold**, I am coming quickly**. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

Rev 22:12 “Behold, **I am coming quickly**, and My reward *is* with Me, to reward each one as his work deserves.

Rev 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, **I am coming quickly**.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.\

QUICKLY is the Greek adverb – *tachy, (TACC-WHO) –* it means swift, without delay but also it means - suddenly*.*

We will close in Titus chapter two today.

Remember that, to the Lord, a day is a thousand years and a thousand years as a day.

This statement in Revelation was written around A.D. 95-96, and this is now A.D. 2023. Therefore, “swiftly” or “quickly” relates to imminent, not immediately.

It is looming and waiting to go at any time.

When Bels talk prophecy - the Rapture of the Church is the next prophetical event to occur in history, it is not the 2nd Advent yet. It is not the Tribulation period yet, what we witness and feel is a building up of the Tribulation.

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people,

[Tit 2:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/tit/2/12/s_1131012) instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously, and in a godly manner in the present age,

/Tit 2:13 looking for **the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus**,

*The blessed hope* – Rapture, when we are gathered up with Christ in heaven. The appearing is intimate for Bels and is NOT the 2nd Advent, which is on earth for EVERYONE! \

You know the Rapture is coming.

It may not occur in your lifetime, but you still know it’s coming. The call remains the same - you apply Bible doctrine. You are occupied with the person of Jesus Christ, growing in virtue-love, reaching maturity gathering the blessings, rewards and crowns already laid aside for your wonderful life and death.

This is what Titus meant – in verse 12, living sensible, righteous and godly in this present age – Church Age.

 REPEAT

/The signs of the Tribulation will become obvious. The antichrist will arise at the beginning or already be on the landscape worldwide before the Rapture. The build up of tension and threat of war especially in the middle east will be evident. The Tribulation will open up the one world movement of religion, government and banking. The mark of the beast will be offered and eventually pressed upon all nations. Christians and Jewish people will become targeted. \

If all of these factors along with a temple being erected in Jerusalem are not happening in rapid fashion…you are NOT in the Tribulation.

Therefore the Rapture is still imminent.