

6-10-2026 – HEAVEN – week 2

Heaven. Our eternal destiny. Events must happen before we get there.

3 terms you've heard in church: Rapture. Second Coming. Tribulation.

Many questions!! I can answer some, not all.

When we die, our **spirits** go to Heaven ("Paradise"); our **bodies** are buried.

2 Cor. 5:8 - "to be absent from the body [is] to be present with the Lord."

- **Acts 7:59** - "As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, 'Lord Jesus, **receive my spirit.**'"

- And **Luke 23:46** - **Then Jesus called out in a loud voice, "Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit."**

○ **Paul** - right now we are surrounded by "a great cloud of witnesses" in heaven . . . those who have already passed.

○ And **Heb. 12** - "²² But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³ to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, **to the spirits of the righteous made perfect**, ²⁴ to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant . . . "

- **In heaven** right now ("**Paradise**") - **are the spirits of loved ones**. See again.

○ **Jesus died, left His body to be buried**. We will, too.

2 Cor. 5:2 - "We grow weary in our present bodies, and we long to put on our **heavenly bodies** like new clothing."

- **That day will come later. The day/hour is unknown. Process unknown.**

Rapture. It's in the Bible. 6 times. But not as you might expect.

Psalms 51:8 - Make me full of joy and **rapture**; so that the bones which have been broken may be glad.

Rapture **means: a state of intense joy, ecstasy, or being carried away by overwhelming emotion.** (I never knew that definition)-

[Song of Songs 2:3](#) – “As the apple-tree among the trees of the wood, So is my beloved among the sons: In his shadow have I **rapture** and sit down; And his fruit is sweet to my taste.”

[Luke 1:67](#) – “And Zechariah his father was filled with the Holy Spirit, and spoke in a **rapture** of praise.”

Rapture – Jesus **carrying His children away to heaven** – it’s in the Bible, but it’s there by description, not by English term, rapture.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Paul talks about the Rapture of the church.

- [Rapturo](#) – Latin word for [rapture](#); [Rapturo](#) translates into Greek as **Harpazo** which means “caught up” in English.

“Then we who are alive, who are left, will be *caught up* together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.” - **1 Thessalonians 4:17**

1 Thess. 4:13-18:

¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. ¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ **Therefore encourage one another with these words.**”

- You may question – but our spirits are already with the Lord?? Yes.

The **Rapture** is the raising of bodies, including those who died before Jesus.

At the Rapture, we get a **heavenly body**.

[1 Corinthians 15:49](#) – “And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, **so also shall we bear the likeness of the heavenly man.**”

- We'll have the same glorified body as Jesus.

[Phil. 3:20-21](#) – “But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, **will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.**”

- Paul writes at length about this in [1 Cor. 15](#):

- ³⁵ But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?” ³⁶ How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body.

- ³⁹ Not all flesh is the same: People have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. ⁴⁰ There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. ⁴¹ The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor. ⁴² So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; ⁴³ it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; ⁴⁴ it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

Jesus' heavenly body was different; could touch, eat, pass thru doors!

- Incarnate (“in the flesh”); identifiable, indestructible, immortal, illuminate.

NLT - ⁴³ “Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory.”

- **The Bible says** - when Christ appears, we shall be like Him.

[1 John 3:2 NLT](#) - “Dear friends, we are already God’s children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is.”

So the Rapture is about receiving new bodies, raising old ones. When?

Q: And is Rapture different than the Second Coming (2d Advent) of Christ??

- 1: in the Rapture, we'll be “caught up” w/Jesus; in the Second Coming, Christ will come down to Earth.

- Seems that Paul describes Rapture; Jesus maybe.
- 2: In the Rapture - Jesus **comes back for the Church**; in the Second Coming, Jesus comes to the Earth *with His church* (Rev. 19:14).
- 3: The Rapture is **God`s rescue plan** for the Church; the Second Coming is not a rescue, but a Coronation of a new King.
 - Paul writes to Thessalonians, joyful of their faith & witness: “They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, *who rescues us from the coming wrath.*” – [1 Thess. 1:9-10](#)

In the **Rapture**, Jesus comes to **take** the church **out of harm’s way**, in the **Second Coming**, He returns to destroy evil & establish His Millennial Kingdom

- Paul wrote about the coming Rapture - as a comforting doctrine, and encouraging theology . . . not to warn/something awful.

We won’t have to live in the darkest, most [difficult](#) time of life to come.

- Rapture will happen in a blink of an eye. Jesus will come half-way to Earth to carry away His people.
- There will be a reunion in the sky – we’ll see our loved ones again!
- The Rapture is a rescue operation; the Second Coming involves Jesus coming back to judge a Christ-rejecting world.

“Therefore comfort one another with these words” -Thessalonians 4:18

It seems the [Rapture](#) will take place in the twinkling of an eye. A moment.

- Many speculate the confusion that will happen on earth.

The question is about the time line. **When??**

- **We don’t know.** Here’s what Jesus said about it – **Matthew 24.**
- ³⁶ “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming

of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴² "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

Paul - "...We shall not all sleep, but we **shall all be changed**, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet" - **1 Corinthians 15:51-52**

2 main views as to when the Rapture will happen.

- **Premillennialism** – teaches that Jesus will return after a period called the Great Tribulation. Maj. view of early church (till about 250 AD).
- **Dispensational Premillennialism** – Also known as dispensationalism; This teaches the church will be raptured before the Great Tribulation.
 - **Dan. 12"1-2** – "...There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. ² Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt."