

The Rapture of the Church Pt 2

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Nov. 3rd

There are >100 prophecies about Jesus' second coming recorded in the New Testament! If Jesus fulfilled the hundreds of O.T. prophecies about his 1st coming, He will certainly fulfill the ones about his second coming! (Mt 5:18) Scripture reveals that there will be two distinct "stages: to his Second Coming.

- 1st: He will come "in the air" for His Church! (*Acts 1:11; 1 Thes. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-58*)
- 2nd Stage He'll come "in power" to reign. (*2 Thes. 2; Rev. 19:11-13*)

The Rapture involves the:

1. Transportation of the saints to Heaven.

(Jn 14:2; 1 Th. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:50-58; Rev 4)

- A. "caught up together" in 1Thes. 4:17 is harpadzo meaning "*to remove, or take away.*"
- B. Rapture comes from the Latin "raptus" meaning to seize or transport."

2. Transformation of our bodies. 1Co 15:51-54 *"I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, (Allasso: made different.) in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, (undecaying)*

3. Evaluation of our lives 2 Cor. 5:10 *"we must all stand before the judgment seat (Bema) of Christ..."* (see 1 Cor. 3:10-15; 2 Tim. 4:1,2; Heb.13:17; Mt. 25:13-30; Rev 4) 1 Cor. 3:10-15 *"ye are God's building... but let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be manifest, for the day shall declare (reveal) it..."*

4. Remuneration (payment) for faithful service. (Rewards) 1 Cor. 3:13-15 *"Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, ... If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. If any man's work abide, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."*

The Crowns symbolize both Rewards and Responsibility!

(Rev. 4:4,5,10,11; 5:10; 22:5; Mt. 25:14-21; 2 Tim. 4:8)

Rev 22:12 *"behold, I come quickly; (tachy: suddenly) and my reward (misthos: Pay for service!) is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."* (also Eph. 4:1)

5. Consummation! (Completion)

The Bible uses many "analogies" to describe our relationship with Christ.

Members of His Body (1 Cor. 12; Eph. 4); Sheep of His pasture: (Jn. 10; Ps. 23, 100)

Building blocks in His temple (Eph. 2); Members of His Family. (Gal. 4; Ro. 8)

- A. Perhaps the most intimate analogy is that God describes us as "The bride of Christ". (Mk 2:19,20; Jn 3:29; Mt. 9:15; Eph. 5:22-31; Rev. 19:7-9; 21:2,9-11; 22:7)

- 1) The Oxford Dictionary defines the word “Rapture” as:
 - a) The transporting of believers to heaven at the Second Coming of Christ.
 - b) Feelings of intense joy or pleasure. (ecstasy, bliss, euphoria, elation, exaltation) Ps 16:11

B. Jesus used a Jewish Wedding to illustrate his return. Mt. 25:1-13

- 1) **The Negotiation stage** resulting in “betrothal”. 2Cor. 11:2 *“I’ve espoused you to Christ”*
 - a) The Groom would go to the Bride’s house to negotiate a Bride Price. (Mohar) Gen 22
 - (1) What “Price” did Jesus pay for a relationship with us? (1 Pt 1:18,19; 1 Cor 6:19,20)
 - b) The “covenant” was Sealed by drinking from a common cup of wine. (1 Cor 11:24-26)

They were considered legally married and sanctified (separated) for each other!

- 2) **The Separation Stage:**
 - a) During this time, though “legally married”, They were physically separated.
 - (1) Remember Joseph and Mary. Mt 1:18; Lk 2:6

- 3) **The Preparation Stage**
 - a) The Groom would return to his father to prepare a home for his bride. Jn 14:3
 - b) The Bride would prepare herself for married life. (Rev. 19:7,8)
 - (1) She’d fill her “hope chest” with things she’d use to help her set up her new home.

Mt. 6:20,21 *“lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven”*
 - (2) She would prepare/protect her heart and body! Since she “belonged” to the groom, Immorality would be considered adultery. (2 Cor 11:2,3; James 4:4; 1 Jn 2:15-16)

- 4) **The Anticipation Stage!**
 - a) At the time appointed by the Groom’s father, the Groom would go to the Bride’s home to claim her! Jn. 14:3,4; 1 Jn 2:28-3:3) Mt 25:1-13 *“Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.”*

Conclusion:

Jesus will return for his bride. What “stage” are you in?

- 1) **Negotiation:** *Are you “His”? Have you accepted His offer of love?*
- 2) **Separation:** *Are we staying “true” and “Faithful” to our “Fiancé” during his absence?*
- 3) **Preparation:** While He’s preparing Heaven for us, *What are we doing to prepare for Heaven and Him? (Rev. 19:7,8; 1 Jn 2:28-3:3)*
Without Negotiation, Separation, Preparation,
- 4) There’ll be no real Anticipation! 1 Jn 2:18 *“Now abide in him, that when he shall appear we may have confidence, and not be ashamed...”*

Application:

Notice the last words of Jesus! Rev. 22:20 *“Surely I come quickly,”*

Notice the Rational response: *“Even so Come, Lord Jesus!”*

Notice our Reasonable responsibility: Revelation 22:17

“the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”