

What is Next - The Rapture

April 27, 2014 Sun AM

STUDYING THE END TIMES (*Eschatology - the doctrine of last things*)

1. God does not provide a seamless, detailed description from beginning to end. Rather, He reveals events that will take place and a general timeline. There is much He chooses not to reveal.

Acts 1:6-8

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

2. State only what the Scriptures reveal. Don't attempt to "fill in the gaps" with detail. Be content to accept by faith what is unknown and unclear.
3. God's purpose in revealing future end-time events is to motivate us to prepare and be ready. Study the end times with that motivation instead of studying to gain knowledge and technical understanding.

WHAT IS NEXT IN GOD'S AGENDA FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD?

The Rapture & The Judgment Seat of Christ

- **Rapture** - *the state of being transported from one sphere of existence to another with ecstatic joy*
- **The word "rapture" is never used in the Bible, but is referred to as:**
 - "His **APPEARING**" - 1 Tim 6:14, 2 Tim 4:8, Titus 2:13, 1 Peter 1:7
 - "the **BLESSED HOPE**" - Titus 2:13
 - "His **COMING**" - 1 Corinthians 1:7, 1 Corinthians 15:23, 1 Thessalonians 2:19, 3:13, 4:15, 5:23, 2 Thessalonians 2:1, James 5:7-8, 2 Peter 3:4, 1 John 2:28
 - "Our **GATHERING TOGETHER UNTO HIM**" - 2 Thessalonians 2:1

- **The Rapture - what is it?**

1 Thessalonians 4:15–18

15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 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.

18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Corinthians 15:20–23

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

23 But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

John 5:24–29

24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

25 “Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.

26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.

27 And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice

29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

Philippians 3:20–21

20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

- **Jesus commands us to be ready for His Coming**

Matthew 24:36-46

36 But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.

37 For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark,

39 and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

40 Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left.

41 Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left.

42 Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

45 Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time?

46 Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.

- **What does it mean to “*be ready*”?**

- **What is required?**
- **Who does the work?**

1 Corinthians 1:4–8

4 I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;

5 That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge;

6 Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you:

7 **So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for THE COMING of our Lord Jesus Christ:**

8 **Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be BLAMELESS in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

1 Thessalonians 3:12–13

12 and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you,

13 so that **he may establish your hearts BLAMELESS IN HOLINESS before our God and Father, at THE COMING of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.**

1 Thessalonians 5:23–24

23 Now may the God of peace himself **sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be KEPT BLAMELESS at THE COMING of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

24 He who calls you is faithful; **he will surely do it.**

1 Timothy 6:13–14

13 I charge you in the presence of God, **who gives life to all things,** and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession,

14 **to keep the commandment UNSTAINED and FREE FROM REPROACH until THE APPEARING of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

Titus 2:11–14

11 For **the grace of God has appeared,** bringing salvation for all people,

12 training us to **renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live SELF-CONTROLLED, UPRIGHT, and GODLY lives in the present age,**

13 **waiting for our BLESSED HOPE, the APPEARING of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,**

14 who gave himself for us **to redeem us from all lawlessness** and **to purify for himself a people** for his own possession who are **zealous for good works.**

1 Peter 1:6–9

6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

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:**

8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

9 **Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.**

1 John 2:28–3:3

28 And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he APPEARS we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at HIS COMING.

29 If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when HE APPEARS we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Ephesians 5:25–27

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, NOT HAVING SPOT, or WRINKLE, or any such thing; but that it should be HOLY and WITHOUT BLEMISH.

Matthew 7:21–23

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'

23 And then will I declare to them, 'I NEVER KNEW YOU; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

● What if we're not ready?

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you.

2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

3 While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

4 But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.

5 For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.

6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.

7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night.

8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.

11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.