



TEXT:

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Revelation 4:1-4

1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this." 2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. 3 And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. 4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.

Premises About the Rapture:

The Rapture is true believers being _____ to meet the Lord in the air.

o Enoch: Genesis 5:24 Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

- o Elijah: 2 Kings 2:11 As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.
- o Jesus: Acts 1:9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

Premises About the Rapture:

> The Rapture is a different event than the _____ of Christ.

- o Revelation 19:11-16 (John) 11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Premises About the Rapture:

> Will the Rapture indeed take place before the _____ ?

- o 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall 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 incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
- o 1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- o 2 Peter 2:5-9 if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; 6 if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; 7 and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless 8 (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— 9 if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.
- o Revelation 3:10-11 (Jesus to the Church at Philadelphia said) Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the

whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. 11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

o Revelation 4:1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

Premises About the Rapture:

> The Rapture is _____.

- o Natural Disasters: (Matthew 24; Romans 8).
- o Pushing for Peace: (1 Thessalonians 5)
- o Christians being Killed: (Matthew 24)
- o Increase in Lawlessness: (Matthew 24)
- o Ability to Enforce the Mark of the Beast (Revelation 13:16-17)

THE RAPTURE:

1. Will be a _____ moment for everyone.
 - a. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2 Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, 2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

THE RAPTURE:

2. Will only _____ those who have true _____.
 - a. John 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

THE RAPTURE:

3. Now to us who believe is a _____ message.
 - a. 1 Thessalonians 4:18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

BETWEEN NOW AND THE RAPTURE:

1. Keep _____ until Jesus comes—don't get caught watching the _____ and forget to _____.

a. Luke 19:13 ...Occupy until I come.

b. Acts 1:6-8 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

BETWEEN NOW AND THE RAPTURE:

2. The encouragement to Laodicean Christians and people who don't believe: get _____ and get _____!

a. 2 Peter 3:3-4, 10-12, 14 (NKJV) 3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless.

Conclusion:

Are you ready?

It could happen at any moment!

Reflection:

1. The topic is the Rapture is very interesting, but it is also very real.

2. There is only one way to be ready.

3. John 14:6