

Remember: Jesus told John to 'Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;' The *'things which John had seen'* were the glorified Lord Jesus Christ standing among candlesticks with stars in His hand. Then, *'the things which are'* encompassed the Church of John's time as well as the complete coming history of the Church on Earth. Now John will be shown *'the things which shall be hereafter;'* these will be all that will happen after the Rapture when the True Church is removed.

Notice how the very first sentence in chapter 4 gives us a picture of the Rapture:

Rev 4:1: *'After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.'*

The understanding of the Rapture of the Church, the True Church, is, I believe, the one thing which the Lord Jesus Christ wants us to most clearly expect and excitedly look forward to. The Rapture is the package in which Jesus Christ has wrapped His most precious gift for His Bride. This isn't the gift of Eternal Life which is what made us His Bride; this is like that precious gift which a Bride and Groom give to each other when as the guests have left. This is that very special surprise He intends for His Bride alone, the moment, in the twinkling of an eye, when we completely become one with our Groom, when our physical bodies are instantly refashioned to correspond with His own Body, when we will be completely integrated, Eternal Soul, Eternal Spirit and Eternal Body... all as one and one with Him. He wants us to so look forward to that gift that we are thinking of it always. Isn't the Bride thinking always, dreaming of the moment she hears her groom shout that he has come for her? The Rapture is real and it is His priceless, matchless gift to us.

As we watch all that is transpiring around the World and here at home... we see so much that could cause us to be fearful, discouraged, depressed, hopeless... but that's not how a child of God should respond: when we understand God's Word and see all that He has told us prophetically, we can't help but be excited, encouraged, full of hope and peace.

The World is falling apart; the World's ruling elite are guiding the World toward a single World government ruled by a single ruler. That should be exciting because God told us it would happen in the Last Days.

The Bible calls this man the Antichrist and his empire will last for 7 years, the Tribulation.

We just watched another major election be cheated and stolen in America and the same is happening around the World. Leaders are being put in place, now, who will willingly give their power and authority to the coming Antichrist.

National economies are being purposely destroyed by their leaders under the guise of climate emergency, green energy and unrestricted immigration from 3rd World countries. Germany's economy and government were completely destroyed after WW1; they were ripe, ready and willing to follow Hitler who was a type for the Antichrist.

To the Corinthians, Paul wrote: *'Behold, I shew 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 trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.'* 1 Cor 15:51

Twice Paul says, 'We shall be changed!'

The mystery Paul reveals is something not previously known or prophesied, something of which, even the Disciples were in the dark. It was Paul to whom Jesus chose to reveal so much of our doctrine of the New Covenant, doctrine for the Church, the Body and Bride of the Lord Jesus Christ.

To Titus, Paul wrote: *'For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, ¹² Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; ¹³ Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;*

John wrote, 'Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. ² Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. ³ And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.' 1 John 3:1

What, then, is our 'blessed hope;' what is it that we are hoping for? What do we hope, but not yet possess that would cause us to 'purify ourselves?' Hebrews says that we have already been purified or perfected: 'For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.' Heb 10:14

Paul told us: 'that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing'

We don't hope for salvation or for eternal life or... these are all ours, now... we don't hope for what we already possess.

The most incredible happening in all of human history, after the Cross, of course, is that moment when the Lord Jesus Christ comes down, only as far as the clouds, and draws us all up to Himself in the Rapture.

Jesus said, 'Let not your heart be troubled: ye 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 unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.' John 14:1

This is not of one dying and being taken up to Heaven. It certainly is not, as many false teachers profess, that Jesus comes and we go up to meet Him and accompany Him back to Earth.

The Greek word for 'receive' is, paralambano: it means to take, to take unto one's self, to take away.

Jesus said He was making each of us our own personal place... *'in My Father's house are many dwelling places.'* He says He is coming to take us but then the obvious destination is, to the special place He has prepared in His Father's house! He said, I am coming down to receive you up to myself and take you back to Heaven.

To the Thessalonians, Paul wrote, comforting those whose loved ones had died: *'But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. ¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words.'* 1 Thes 4:13

Notice where Paul used the word, 'caught up!' We'll come back to that.

Paul says, Jesus will come down as far as the clouds; He will bring those who've died, with Him; He will raise their bodies first, then He will call us up to Himself, in the clouds and in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, we will all be changed instantaneously; our Earthly bodies will be changed into glorified, eternal bodies like Jesus' own body.

What does that really mean? All we know is that God's plan for His children... that is, the True Church, those who have fully trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work in His Life, Death and Resurrection, that His sacrifice paid the full and complete price in payment for all our sin... the Children of God who are the body and Bride of the Lord Jesus ... His plan for us is to glorify us beyond our imagination and to give us gifts and rewards that we cannot even comprehend: 'Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, it cannot be imagined all the wonderful things God has in store for those who love Him. He tells us to set our hearts and minds on things above, not on the things of the Earth.

Right now, our salvation is a finished fact; we have Eternal Life now... we will never die unless our Earthly bodies give out before He comes for us... but even then, we would immediately go into the presence of the Lord. Paul wrote, to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.

The final culmination of our complete Salvation which will then include our souls, our spirits and our physical bodies... we will be changed in an instant and we will see Him as He is and we will be like Him... we will be LIKE HIM!!!

Other than the great comfort we have in knowing that He will come for us soon, there is another very special reason to look forward, excitedly for His coming in the Rapture.

When Paul knew the time of his death was nearing, to Timothy, he wrote, *'For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. ⁷ I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.'* 2 Tim 4:6

The Crown of Righteousness is a very special reward reserved for those who believe what Jesus has taught, through Paul. The Crown of Righteousness has nothing to do with our being good or righteous enough or conquering sin... we are already righteous and holy In God's sight because He only sees us clothed in the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ; He is perfect and we are perfect in Him. The Crown of Righteousness is for those who earnestly, expectantly and patiently look and wait for His coming for us in the Rapture.

To the Church at Philadelphia, which represents the True Church of the End Times, Jesus said, *'Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. ¹¹ Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown'...* ... that no man take thy Crown of Righteousness. Rev 3:10

He says, I will keep thee FROM the hour of temptation of the whole World... the 7-year Tribulation. The Greek word Jesus used for 'keep you FROM' is EK... it means... away from, out of, from... it denotes a complete change in location.

The New Testament, the New Covenant is filled with references to the Rapture; every time Paul mentions hope... unless specifically explained, he is meaning our blessed hope, the Rapture.

Of that moment, Jesus said that when He comes for us, it will be like the Days of Lot and the Days of Noah. He does not mean that it will be a time of extra wickedness... the World has always been extra wicked. Notice what aspect of the days of Lot and Noah to which Jesus refers: *'But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, ³⁹ And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. ⁴⁰ Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. ⁴² Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.'* Matt 24:37 *'Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; ²⁹ But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. ³⁰ Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed... I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. ³⁵ Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. ³⁶ Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.'* Luke 17:28 The World of Noah's time and the people of Sodom and Gomorrah were thoughtlessly living their lives without any thought of Eternity until one day, suddenly, unexpectedly, the righteous people of God were removed and then God's judgment began.

He is saying that everything is normal; life is moving along like always until suddenly, unexpectedly, every genuine believer will vanish upward. This can't be referring to Jesus coming at the end of the Tribulation at the Battle of Armageddon... then, it will be like hell on Earth; billions will have died, the Earth will be nearly destroyed and, especially, anyone paying attention will be able to calculate the day of His coming at Armageddon; exactly 7 years after the Antichrist confirms a treaty between Israel and her hateful neighbors and it will be exactly 3 1/2 years after the Antichrist desecrated the Temple in Jerusalem and declares that he is god and must be worshipped by all. Finally, how do we know the Rapture is real and not just some made up false teaching.

First, if we know what we're looking for, we'll recognize that Paul's writing are filled with references to the Rapture.

And, something to remember, the Rapture is not a special reward for the really good Christians; it is, simply, the final installment of the complete salvation Jesus Christ died to give us. Every true believer will be removed in the Rapture; no child of God will ever be left behind.

The early Church leaders believed and taught about the Rapture, the 7-year Tribulation and the Millennium, the 1000 year reign of Jesus Christ on Earth. But after a few Centuries, instead of studying the Bible literally, unless it clearly demands allegory, men like Augustine began to study and teach that much of Scripture, especially The Revelation, were meant as allegory and, as such not easily understood. They taught that Israel had been permanently discarded by God and replaced by the Church; the Church was now the kingdom of God on Earth. The truth of our Salvation being only received by God's grace through our faith was hidden; the Rapture was forgotten, and they say the 1000 year reign of Christ began in 70 AD.

In short, Catholicism denied and hid all these truths and so much more, keeping the people in darkness.

Today, we recognize that God began to awaken, in His chosen men of God, the truth of Salvation by God's Grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. These men were awakened to these hidden truths in what we call The Reformation. No one believes that it was a brand new idea that was made up by Luther, Calvin and others; they simply began to see the truth of God's Word which had been hidden.

What about the Rapture? Many, today, claim that it was a new, unheard of teaching which was made up in the early 1800's. But, again, the truth is that it was denied and hidden by the same Catholicism; once we began to come closer to the Last Days, God began to awaken certain men of God to the truth of End Times Prophecy. Men like John Nelson Darby, Cyrus Scofield, Clarence Larkin and others; they were reawakened to the truth by God's Holy Spirit.

Some claim that the Rapture is not even in the Bible. Back when I began, I said remember when Paul said, '...and we who are alive and remain shall be 'caught up' together with them in the clouds...'

The Greek word Paul used there was *harpazo*; it means, to seize, to pluck up, to take away by force. We will be taken up by force and carried away. One might say, 'it doesn't really mean that... it's just a figure of speech. Let's look at its use elsewhere:

In Acts chapter 8, the Holy Spirit told Phillip to go to the road to Gaza; he saw a chariot in which sat a eunuch from Ethiopia; he was reading from Isaiah. Phillip explained the Word to him and led him to faith in Jesus Christ. When the eunuch saw some water, he wanted to be baptized; this was a genuine conversion. They got down into the water and Phillip baptized him. The Word says, '*... And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.*'⁴⁰ *But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.*' Acts 8.

The Holy Spirit miraculously pulled Phillip up and away, depositing him at Azotus. The Holy Spirit inspired Luke to use the very same word: *harpazo*; he was snatched away by force and taken to a complexly different place.

When Paul tells of his having been caught up to the third Heaven to receive teaching, in person, from Jesus Christ, he used the Greek word, *harpazo*.

In Revelation 12, we see John's vision of a woman clothed with the sun, giving birth to a male child and before the dragon can devour the child, he is caught up unto God and to His Throne... same word, *harpazo*.

As for claiming that the word, Rapture, is not in the Bible: when Jerome translated the Bible into Latin, he chose to use a form of the Latin verb, *Rapiemur/Rapturo*; this is the same root from which we get our English word, raptor: eagles, hawks, owls, etc... these are called raptors; they silently swoop down and seize their prey, carrying it away by force, back to the place they had prepared for their children.

The World is swiftly rushing toward a financial meltdown followed by a one-world government ruled by the Antichrist but we, the children of God, the Body and Bride of the Lord Jesus Christ, have nothing to fear.

Rejoice in the Lord; although He cares for the birds and the flowers, we know that we are far more precious to Him and any one of those.

One day very soon, God, the Father will tell His Son... 'It's time! Go, retrieve Your Bride and bring back her to the place You've prepared for her in our house... Go now and quickly!'