

How do I understand the 'Rapture'?

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 & 1 Corinthians 15:51-54

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1. The rapture is a separate event from the 'second coming'. At the rapture, the Lord comes "in the clouds" to meet us "in the air" (1 Thessalonians 4:17). At the second coming, the Lord descends all the way to earth resulting in a massive earthquake, and annihilation of God's enemies (Zechariah 14:3-4).
2. The rapture will involve an instantaneous transformation of our bodies for eternity. (1 Corinthians 15:51-52)
3. Paul writes of the return of Jesus as if it will happen in his lifetime. They lived with the very real expectation of the return of Jesus taking place in their lifetime. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
4. The reality of the rapture does not rest on speculation or human opinion – the foundation of this truth rests on fact.
 - Based on the death of Christ – our future resurrection and rapture is built on the death of Christ, that He died our death in our place, was punished for our sins, turning death into 'sleep'. (1 Corinthians 15:14)
 - Based on the resurrection of Christ – The resurrection of Jesus is God's stamp of approval that Jesus paid in full for our sins. God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.
 - Based on the commitment of Christ – this truth is based on direct revelation from Jesus.
5. The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout and the sound of a trumpet.
6. This trumpet is the call to the dead to rise, their bodies transformed to perfection and fit for eternity.
7. Those who are alive will be snatched up unto His presence and transformed in a flash on the way to meet Him. (1 Corinthians 15:51-52)
8. You will be in perfect final form. Christ gathers His own and takes us to the place He's prepared for us.

GREEK WORDS

Paralambano (par-al-am-ban'-o) to receive near, i.e. associate with oneself; — take (unto, with)

Harpazo, (har-pad'-zo) to seize : — catch (away, up), pluck, pull, take (by force).

Atomos (at'-om-os) uncut, indivisible (an atom of time): — moment

SONG TITLES

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing – **Traditional**
Yes I Will - **Vertical Worship**