

An Overview of Biblical Prophecy

(3) Easter, part 2!

Christ, the firstfruits, then afterward...ICor.15:20-23

What is clearly taught about the resurrection(s) in ICor.15:20-23?

Christ is the firstfruits (first in sequence), afterward those who are Christ's at His return.

Where does the term "Rapture" originate? 4:17 see IICor.12:2

It is the 'old English' word for "caught up". Gr=harpazo; to sieze, catch away (by force).

What/who is the *object* of the "catching up" or "seizing"? vs.17

It is those believers who are still living at the instant of this event. Only true believers...

Is this an *event* or a *process* (how much time is involved)? vs.17; ICor.15:52

This happens suddenly, no warning. In a moment (Gr:atomos= indivisible), instantaneous.

And what happens to the living (and 'asleep') believers in this instant event? ICor.15:50-58

We are changed! to be like Him! Imperishable, immortal, all effects of death are reversed!

Until the Rapture, what is the hope for living believers? IICor.5:1-9; Phil.1:23-24; Titus 2:13

In our present "tent", with Him. Absent from the tent, with Him! Death is a promotion!

Since believers who have 'fallen asleep' are with Him, what's their part in the Rapture? 4:14

When Jesus comes back to get living believers, they will come with Him! Meet in the air.

And when the total Church is Raptured, changed, resurrected, what's next? vs.17

In our glorious resurrected bodies, now fit for heaven, we will all be with Him forever!

The incredible prophetic sequence of the Rapture...IThess.4:16-18

1. What is the first thing Paul teaches about the Rapture? vs.16a

The Lord Himself comes for His church, His Bride. This is personal!

2. What is the next thing Paul teaches? vs.16b Heb.1:3

The Lord leaves heaven! He has been at the right hand of the Father.

3. What happens next? vs.16b see John 11:43

He, the Lord Himself, gives a loud command. Perhaps like Lazarus? Authority of God...

4. What happens next? vs.16c see Jude 9

His command is joined by the voice of an unidentified archangel. (Jewish tradition = 7)

5. What's next? vs.16d see ICor.15:52

To the voice of the archangel is added the trumpet of God. Likely an announcement.

6. What happens after the trumpet of God? vs.16e

The dead in Christ will rise first. Spirits come with Christ. Get glorified bodies 'first'!

7. And what is the final event? vs.17a

Living believers are Raptured (caught up) together with them. Also glorified bodies.

And the conclusion? vs.17b-18

We're all (believers) with the Lord, forever! Encourage one another with these words!!