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**Rev 4:1-2** *After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.*

**Rev 1:1** *The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place... v3* **Blessed** is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

*Eschatology - "The part of theology concerned with death, judgement, and the final destiny of the soul and of humankind"*

**Rev 1:19** *Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.*

*“The key that will unlock many doors in the book of revelation is this 19th verse of the first chapter.” -Donald Barnhouse*

*“From one point of view, this is the most important verse in the book, since the failure to recognize its announcement of three divisions will bring confusion in the interpretation of many other visions to follow.”*

**Rev 1:8** *“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God,  
“who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”*



*“Revelation is a book about the future. It reveals more details about the end of days than any other book of the Bible.” -Skip Heitzig*

*“So when God gives us a vision of the end times, we need to pay attention. Biblical prophecy is the best chance we have of grasping the future — and Revelation shows us what the end of the world will really be like.”*

*Dr David Jeremiah defines The Rapture as “An event where all who have put their trust in Christ, living and deceased, will suddenly be caught up from the earth, be joined with Christ in the air, and taken to heaven.”*

***1 Thes 4:13-18 | The RAPTURE***

**1 Thes 4:13** *But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.*

*“We Christians need not wonder about death or life after death, for we have revelation from God’s Word. Why substitute human speculation for divine revelation? -Warren Wiersbe*

**1 Thes 4:14-15** *For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 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.*

***The Bible teaches that there is a resurrection of the dead***

*Phil 3:20-21; 1 Cor 15:42-44; Heb 9:27; 2 Cor 5:8*



**1 Thes 4:16** *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.*

**1 Thes 4:17** *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.*

## ***THE RAPTURE - HARPAZO***

1) *To Carry Off or Seize By Force | Gen 19:16*

## ***THE RAPTURE - HARPAZO***

*2) To Claim For Oneself Eagerly | John 14:1-3*

## ***THE RAPTURE - HARPAZO***

*3) To Snatch Away Speedily | 1 Cor 15:52; Acts 8:39*

## ***THE RAPTURE - HARPAZO***

*4) To Rescue From Danger of Destruction | Acts 23:10; 1 Thes 1:10; 5:9*

**1 Cor 15:51-53** Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

***THE RAPTURE VS THE SECOND COMING***



1) *THE RAPTURE - Christ comes in the air*  
*SECOND COMING - Christ comes to earth (Zach 14:4)*

**2) THE RAPTURE - Christ comes for His saints**  
**SECOND COMING - Christ comes with His saints (1 Thes 3:13; Jude 1:14)**

**3) THE RAPTURE** - Believers depart the earth  
**SECOND COMING** - Unbelievers are taken away (Matt 25:31-46)

**4) THE RAPTURE - Christ claims His Bride**  
**SECOND COMING - Christ comes with His Bride (Rev 19:14)**

**5) THE RAPTURE** - Christ gathers His own  
**SECOND COMING** - The Angels gather the elect (Matt 24:31)

**6) THE RAPTURE** - Christ comes to reward  
**SECOND COMING** - Christ comes to judge (Matt 25:31-46; 2 Tim 4:2)

7) *THE RAPTURE - Not in the Old Testament (1 Cor 15:51)*  
*SECOND COMING - Predicted often in the Old Testament*

**8) THE RAPTURE** - *There are no signs. It is imminent.*  
**SECOND COMING** - *Foreshadowed by many signs (Matt 24:4-29)*



**9) THE RAPTURE** - *Is a time of blessing & comfort*  
**SECOND COMING** - *Is a time of destruction & judgement*  
*(2 Thes 2:8-12)*

**10) THE RAPTURE** - *Involves believers only (John 14:1-3; 1 Cor 15:51-58)*  
**SECOND COMING** - *Involves Israel & the Gentile nations (Matt 24:1-25; 46)*

**11) THE RAPTURE** - Will occur in a moment, in the time it takes to blink.  
Only His own will see Him (1 Cor 15:51-52)  
**SECOND COMING** - Will be visible to the entire world (Matt 24:27; Rev 1:7)

**12)** *THE RAPTURE - Tribulation begins*  
*SECOND COMING - Millennium begins*

**Rev 3:10** *Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.*

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*“It would appear that, in this experience, John illustrates what will happen to God’s people when the Church Age has run its course: heaven will open; there will be a voice and the sound of the trumpet; and the saints will be caught up in heaven. Then God’s judgement of the earth can begin.” Warren Wiersbe*

**1 Thes 4:18** *Therefore encourage one another with these words.*



**1 John 3:2-3** 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. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

**Matt 24:46** *Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.*

***ARE YOU READY TO MEET JESUS?***