

The True Rapture

Introduction: Paul answers the Second Coming concerns of those in Thessalonica who had loved ones that had died.

I) What is rapture?

- A) Being "caught up" -*v17*.
- B) Corresponds to "twinkling of an eye" change -*1 Corinthians 15:52*.

II) When does it occur?

- A) With the trumpet call -*1 Thessalonians 4:16*.
- B) At the last trumpet -*1 Corinthians 15:52*.
- C) As Jesus takes over -*Revelation 11:15, 18*.

III) How about Revelation 3:10?

- A) "Keep" = guard from loss or injury by protecting.
- B) Also used in *John 17:15*. There Jesus prays to keep His disciples from evil, NOT take them out of the world.

IV) Great Tribulation is Satan's wrath. Jesus' return, which follows immediately (*Matthew 24:29-31*), ushers in God's wrath, the Day of the Lord, which will not harm His elect.

V) Source of the Secret Rapture.

- A) Margaret Macdonald and John Darby in the UK, 1830's.
- B) C.I. Scofield in Canada and the U.S., 1840-1870's, via the SCOFIELD Reference Bible.
- C) No mention until late 18th, early 19th centuries.

VI) Paul addressed the people's concerns.

- A) Jesus will bring the dead with Him -*v14; 2 Corinthians 5:8, Luke 23:43*.
- B) Only bodies are asleep -*1 Corinthians 15:42-44*.

Conclusion: This scripture is a message of hope for restoration and reunion with loved ones in a world under Jesus' rule. It is not an escape from Satan.