

## THE RAPTURE: WHEN WILL IT HAPPEN? (Part 1)

(Selected Scripture)

Central Idea: *As believers, we look forward to the imminent return of our Savior for us when He will suddenly come to take us to be with Him.*

### I. Rapture: Definition

A. The word “rapture” (1 Thess 4.17)

B. Meaning

### II. Rapture: Biblical Teaching

A. First promised by Jesus (Jn 14.1-3)

B. Later taught by Paul to the Corinthians (1 Cor 15.50-52)

- our physical bodies aren’t fit for glory (50)
- mystery (51a)
- sleep (51b)

- changed (51c)
  - dead raised / living changed (52)
- C. And taught by Paul to the Thessalonians (1 Thess 4.13-18)
- a truth to know (13-14)
  - the Lord Himself will descend (16a)
  - the dead in Christ will rise first (16b)
  - the living in Christ will be caught up (15, 17)
  - a comfort (18)

#### Questions for Group or Personal Study

1. Discuss: “The Rapture is not only a turning point for the saints, it is a turning point for the world. The world will never be the same after the Rapture.” Why is this true? Can you think of some ways in which the world will be impacted by the Rapture?
2. Clearly, Jesus wanted His disciples to know this important truth. What difference does our understanding of the Rapture make for the believer? Why is it an important truth?
3. The Rapture of the church may seem like a strange doctrine, but other raptures are described in the Scriptures. Consider the following passages: Gen 5.24; 2 Kings 2.1, 11; Acts 8.39-40; Rev 12.5 (Jesus’ ascension).
4. Share how your understanding of the Rapture has been a comfort and encouragement to you as you experienced the passing of a loved one or friend.

Community Bible Church  
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This outline is provided to assist you in understanding and applying today’s message. “*The Rapture: When Will It Happen? (Part 1)*” is the third message in a series on Understanding Prophecy. This message can be listened to or downloaded at [cbcomaha.org](http://cbcomaha.org). You may also stream and download CBC podcasts from itunes or google play.

# Two Phases of Christ's Return

