

Revelation 4th Chapter

Rapture

Verse 1

“After these things” – this means after John had finished writing the seven letters to the seven churches.

“a door standing open in heaven” – John is invited to Heaven

“like the sound of a trumpet speaking to me, said, Come up here” – This calling and taking John up to Heaven is what is called the Rapture.

Rapture – The word rapture is not found in the Bible. The meaning of Rapture is to be seized or snatched away. This snatching away is implied in the transition from verse 1 to verse 2.

After John had finished writing the seven letters to the seven churches he was still on the island of Patmos. But then immediately John went from Earth to Heaven and was looking at the throne of God. This going from Earth to Heaven is called the Rapture.

Who will be in the Rapture? It is the Church, meaning believers of Jesus Christ, that will be raptured to Heaven. The apostle John represented the Church, all believers in Jesus Christ. Therefore, when the apostle John was raptured to Heaven, it represented all believers being raptured to Heaven.

Is the idea of the Rapture mentioned in other books of the Bible?

Yes. For instance, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 is probably the most popular Bible passage that talk about what is called the Rapture. The apostle Paul wrote *“we who are alive and remain (meaning still living on Earth) shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air,”*

The phrase "caught up" comes from the Greek word "harpazo" which means to carry off, to take by force, or to seize. The Latin word is "raptura" which also means the same as harpazo. Scholars chose to use the Latin word raptura which is the English word rapture.

1 Corinthians 15:51, 52 the Rapture is talked about. The apostle Paul wrote, *"Behold, I will tell you a mystery, we shall not all sleep (death), 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."*

2 Thessalonians 2:1, *"Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together to Him."*

Matthew 24:30, 31, *"Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the people of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other."*

Luke 17:34-36, *"I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed, one will be taken, and the other left. Two women grinding grain together, one taken the other left."*

Mark 13:24-27, *But in those days, following that distress, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And He will*

send His angels and gather His elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.”

1 Thessalonians 5:1, *“For you know full well that the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night.”*

When will the Rapture take place? That depends on what you believe the Rapture is. Is the Rapture the beginning of Judgement Day or is the Rapture when the Great Tribulation will take place?

Those who believe the Rapture is the beginning of Judgement Day are called Amillennialists. And, those who believe that the Rapture is when the Great Tribulation takes place are called Premillennialists.

Amillennialists

Don't like calling the event when the church is taken out of the world the Rapture.

They don't believe in a literal 1000 year reign of Christ on the earth.

They believe that Satan is bound in the preaching and teaching of the gospel. Because Jesus is presently

Premillennialists

The belief that the Rapture is not the same as the 2nd coming of Christ. To them the Rapture is the taking of the Church out of the world. But Jesus doesn't set foot on the Earth. The Church Earth. The Church meets Him in the air.

reigning from Heaven as King. And, that Pentecost was the beginning of the last days, Acts 2:17.

They believe the 2nd coming of Christ will be for the Battle of Armageddon.

When Christ back comes it will be at Judgement Day

They believe in a literal 1000 year reign of Christ and will be then that Satan is bound. After the 1000 year reign, Satan is loosed, defeated and thrown into the Lake of Fire. Then Judgement Day begins.