

The Christian Arsenal

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**THE TIME IS NEAR FOR THE RAPTURE
THE TIME IS NEAR**

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Part 2 of 7

INTRO: 3 Problems people have who don't understand the 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ

1. Ignorance
2. Sorrow
3. Hopelessness

QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT THE RAPTURE:

1. WHAT? THE SACRED MYSTERY OF THE RESURRECTION AND RAPTURE

verses 16,17 Greek "harpazo" Latin "rapto"

4 places in the Bible where the word is used

1. Acts 8:39 (to catch away speedily)
2. John 6:15 (to be taken by force)
3. I Cor. 12:1 (to be taken from one place to another)
4. Acts 23:10 (to be delivered from danger)

I Cor. 15:51,52 *"Behold I show 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 incorruptible, and we shall be changed."*

Mystery – means something that has been hidden that is now revealed.

2. WHO? A SELECT MULTITUDE OF THE SAVIOR AND HIS SAINTS

verses 16,17

This is not a General resurrection. There is a first and a second resurrection.

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This is the first resurrection and it is for the saved. Rev. 20:5,6
How do we know this to be true? Paul gives us the answer in verses 14,15

1. The Incomparable Work of our Lord (v 14) *“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.”*

The proof of our resurrection is in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

2. The Infallible Word of our Lord (v. 15) *“For this we say to you by the word of the Lord.”* 1/3 of the Bible deals with the 2nd Coming of Christ.

The first and last promise in the Old Testament and New Testament deals with the 2nd Coming of Christ.

3. WHEN? A SUDDEN MOMENT THAT IS BOTH CLOSE AND CERTAIN

1. Close – the Time is Near
No one can set the date but we know the date is coming.
Matt. 24:26-27, 42,44
2. Certain – I Cor. 15:51
Moment – “atom” (an individual unit)

4. WHY? A STRATEGIC MOTIVE OF RESCUE, REUNION AND RECEPTION

1. Rescue
I Thess 1:9,10
I Thess 5:9-11
Rev. 3:10
2. Reunion
I Thess 4:17 – *“caught up together ...”*
3. Reception
John 14:1-3

5. WHERE? A SECLUDED MEETING OF THE BRIDE AND BRIDEGROOM

v. 17 – *“...meet the Lord in the clouds...”*
Bride – a Symbol of the Church
Bridegroom – a Symbol of Jesus Christ

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6. WHEREFORE? SWEET MESSAGE OF COMFORT AND CONSOLATION

v. 18

1. Learn of His Coming v. 13 “...*would not have you to be ignorant...*”
- ignorance leads to hopelessness and hopelessness leads to sorrow
2. Live for His Coming v.17 “...*in the clouds to meet the Lord ...*”
3. Look for his Coming v. 17 “...*Then we who are alive and remain ...*”
4. Long for His Coming v. 18 “*Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*”

Song of Solomon 2:10 *Rise up my love, my fair one and come away...*”