

“THE GREAT (RAPTURE) RESCUE”
(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) pt 1

Review

- Thessalonica was a _____ Church – they were patiently waiting for Jesus to return from heaven for them, as he would _____ them from the _____!
(1 Thess. 1:9-10) (What wrath?)

*What is **The Day of the Lord**? - Renald Showers says: “The day of the Lord refers to God’s special _____ in the course of world events, to _____ His enemies, accomplish His _____ for history, thereby _____ who He is – the _____ of the universe.”

Zechariah 14:1-5

- **The Day of the Lord** is also set forth in *two senses*:
 - 1) In a *broad sense* - it is a future _____ year period of time involving _____ (tribulation) & _____ (Millennium) for the people of the world, as God _____ in the affairs of men!
 - 2) In a *narrow sense* - it is the _____ of Christ to earth who will personally come to intervene in human history: 1) to _____ what was lost in the Garden of Eden, 2) to _____ & _____ His enemies 3) to rescue His chosen people _____ and 4) to _____ His covenant Promises to them in the _____ to come!
- What is the rapture?
- a sudden _____ of believers _____ when He _____ at the close of the present age.
- What are the *purposes* of the rapture?
 - 1) To bring an end to the _____
 - 2) To provide _____ for the Bride of Christ – His Church:
 - a. New _____ resurrected _____ (Rom. 8:23-25)
 - b. Finally meeting the _____ we have _____ to see (1 Thess. 4:17)
 - c. A time of _____ with believers gone to heaven _____ (1 Thess. 4:16-17)
 - d. Receive earned _____ at the Bema (Rev. 22:12)
 - e. Being united in _____ to The _____ (Rev19:6-8)

- 3) To _____ the church from the _____ & open the door for Daniel's _____ (1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9; Rev.3:10)

D. Exhortations concerning THE RAPTURE of the Church. (4:13-18)

1. Paul's INTRODUCTION concerning these INSTRUCTIONS. (4:13)

- a. The **recipients** of these instructions are _____.... "brethren"
- b. The **initial intent** in these instructions is to eliminate their _____ and put them in the _____ through biblical _____... "I do not want you to be ignorant...(vs 13)"
- c. The **issue** in these instructions concerns "those who have _____" and Jesus Christ's "_____".

- Who does the term "*fallen asleep*" refer to?

to _____ before the rapture of the church.

- What is "*soul sleep*"?

It's the *false teaching* that the souls of the dead are in a state of _____ some future day.

- d. The **primary purpose** of these instructions was to keep believer's eyes on the _____ that the _____ promises, ... "*lest you _____ as others who have _____.*"

* For the Christian, what does "*hope*" mean? - _____.

- This hope (of the rapture) is *imminent!* = meaning - _____.

2. The CONTENT of these INSTRUCTIONS (4:14-17)

- a. The **assurance** regarding our hope (4:14)

- 1) The sole condition for the Christian's hope is explained by the words... "if we _____..."

- What *always* is the bottom line issue before God?

- 2) The basis for the Christian's hope is that Jesus _____ and _____ again."

- a) Christ's death was:

- b) Christ's resurrection: