

Summer Prophecy Series
Ready for the Rapture

Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:16–18

- There will be a generation of Christians who will escape death because they will be caught up in the air with Christ at the Rapture.

Three Truths:

I. The _____ Nature

- The Rapture is only for born-again believers.

- Jesus promised His people that He would come again.

Two phases:

The Rapture (Jesus coming _____ His saints, _____ the clouds)

The Revelation (Jesus coming _____ His saints, _____ the clouds to the earth)

- The Church does not take part in the Tribulation.

How do we know?

1. No Old Testament passage about the Tribulation mentions the Church.

2. No New Testament passage about the Tribulation mentions the Church.

3. The Church is not _____ unto God's wrath.

(1 Thessalonians 1:9–10, 5:9)

4. There is a pattern in Scripture that God protects His people from severe impending judgment.

- Enoch, Noah and his family, Lot, the Israelites in Egypt, Rahab, etc.

- In 1 Corinthians 15:51–52, Paul calls this event a “*mystery*.”

“*mystery*”: a previously _____ truth or teaching

- The Pre-wrath Rapture proponents wrongly interpret Revelation 6:17.
- The phrase *"is come"* is translated from an aorist active indicative verb in the Greek. In modern English we could say, "is here," meaning that they were experiencing it already.

II. The _____ Nature

- “Rapture” comes from the Latin meaning “_____” or “snatch up” and “catch away.”
- The Greek equivalent is found in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 and is translated *"caught up."*

The Rapture is an imminent event.

- Imminent – from Latin meaning _____ or hanging over your head.
 - Our salvation is *"ready to be revealed in the last time."* (1 Peter 1:5).
- There are no signs preceding the Rapture.

James 5:7–9

- The verb phrases *"draweth nigh"* and *"standeth before the door"* are translated from Greek words that are in the perfect tense and indicative mood speaking of an action completed in the past with ongoing results. In other words, His coming was near, and it still is.

Revelation 22:7, 12 *"Behold, I come quickly (_____, not soon)."*

- The immanency of the Rapture is a purifying and motivating doctrine. 1 John 3:3 says that *"Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself."*

III. The _____ Nature

- *"The Lord himself shall descend from heaven . . ."* (1 Thess. 4:16)
 - Titus 2:13, *"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ."*
- General Douglas MacArthur said, *"I shall return,"* and he did.
 - **Jesus said, *"I will come again,"* and He will. Will we be ready?**