

LOOKING FOR JESUS
"Understanding the Rapture" part 1
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

INTRODUCTION:

1. Where do we get the term "**Rapture**"?

a) **1 Thessalonians 4:17**

1) *"will be caught up"*

b) The term "Rapture" is Latin for the phrase "*caught up*"

2. So what's the difference between the "Rapture" and the "Second Coming"?

(Here are some differences)

a) The "Place" where Christ comes.

1) In the **Rapture**, Christ comes in the clouds.

a. **4:17**

2) In the **Second Coming**, Christ comes to earth on the Mount of Olives.

a. **Zechariah 14:2-4**

b) The "Timing" of these events.

1) The **Rapture** takes place Before the Tribulation. Daniel's 70th week.

a. **Revelation 3:10**

b. **1 Thessalonians 1:10**

c. **1 Thessalonians 5:9**

2) In the **Second Coming**, Christ comes after the Tribulation.

a. **Matthew 24:29-30**

b. **Daniel 9:26-27**

c) The "Resurrection" of Believers

1) **The Church Saints**

a. **1 Thessalonians 4:16-18**

2) **The Tribulation Saints**

a. **Revelation 20:1-5**

d) The "Execution" of Judgment

1) **The Rapture**

a. **1 Corinthians 3:10-15**

b. Christ does not judge the earth.

2) **The Second Coming**

- a. **2 Thessalonians 1:1-8**
- b. Jesus comes in vengeance

3. WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIBULATION.

4. **Daniel 9:24-27**

5. **Vs 24**

- a) **"70 weeks"** - 70 units of 7 or 490 years
- b) **"are determined"** - means fixed and cannot be altered
- c) **"on thy people"** - Israel
- d) **"thy holy city"** - Jerusalem
- e) **"to finish the transgression"** - rebellion and remove apostasy
- f) **"to make an end of sin"** - That is the forgiveness of sin.
 - 1) The Jewish people must embrace the Cross.
 - 2) **Romans 11:20-27**
- g) **"to make reconciliation"** - to make peace
- h) **"to bring in everlasting righteousness"** - in the millennial kingdom
 - 1) **Isaiah 60:21**
 - 2) **Jeremiah 23:5-6**
- i) **"to seal up the vision and prophecy"** - the fulfillment of all prophecy
- j) **"to anoint the most holy"** - Christ on the throne

6. **Vs 25** (The Division of the Weeks)

- a) **"Know therefore and understand"**
- b) **"that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one a prince"**
- c) **"there shall be seven weeks"**
 - 1) **"seven weeks"**
 - a. **49 years** - 7 units of 7
- d) **"then for 62 weeks it shall be built again"**

7. So we have 7 weeks + 62 weeks = 69 weeks of years = 483 years

8. The decree to rebuild Jerusalem happened on **March 14, 445 BC.**

a) *Nehemiah 2:1-8*

9. Therefore **483 years from March 14, 445 BC Christ was crucified.**

10. **69 weeks** have been fulfilled with **1 week left** (Daniel's 70th week) still yet to be fulfilled.

11. **70 weeks are determined upon thy people!!!! Israel**

I. A PREVIEW OF THE RAPTURE

A. INFORMING THE UNINFORMED

1. Vs 13

a) *"But we do not want you to be uninformed (ignorant)"*

B. A DISCRIPTION OF DEATH FOR THE BELIEVER

1. Vs 13

a) *"about those who are asleep"*

1) *"sleep" - gk. Koimas - metaphorical*

2) *John 11:11*

3) *Acts 7:6*

4) *Acts 13:36*

2. Our word "**cemetery**" is taken from the gk. Word "**koimeteria**" which means sleeping place.

3. **2 Corinthians 5:8**

4. For those who are "**in Christ**" @ the Rapture their bodies will be resurrected "**awakened**" and united with their souls.

5. The Greek term "**koimao**" is never used for sleep of the soul, only the body.

6. Vs 13

a) *"that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope"*

7. **1 Corinthians 15:51-58**