

THE UNVEILING OF JESUS CHRIST

"What's Next?"

John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

INTRODUCTION:

1. The term **Revelation** = *apokalypsis*-which means the unveiling or uncovering of something that was previously hidden. Previously hidden truth!!
2. **Revelation 1:1-3** comprise the Preface to the Book.
 - a) So that all begins in 2 weeks!!!
3. The next thing to happen on God's prophetic calendar is the Rapture of the Church.
 - a) The word "**Rapture**" means to seize, grab or grab. To snatch away.

I. JESUS PROMISE

A. I AM LEAVING

1. **John 13:33-35**
2. Jesus told His Disciples "*He was leaving*"..
3. Jesus told His Disciples "*You can't come with me now*" but "*Don't worry, I will come back and get you.*"
4. When the disciples heard this they were traumatized to say the least!!!
 - a) And now...."*I'm leaving*"
 - b) And "*I'm coming back*"

B. I AM COMING BACK

1. **John 14:1-3**
 - a) That is the first specific reference to the Rapture.
 - 1) "*and I will receive you to myself*"
 - b) But in the interim "*I'm preparing a place for you.*"
 - 1) Which means to construct something, to make preparations.
 - c) The dilemma is Jesus didn't say when.
2. It is important for us to understand this event, and how it affects you and me, and that an understanding of this event **SHOULD CHANGE OUR WORLD.**
3. In **1 Thessalonians 4:13**

a) We see here that Paul gives a detailed explanation of this event called the "catching up" or the "snatching away" - The Rapture!

4. Vs 13

a) "But we do not want you to be uninformed brothers about those who are asleep"

II. THE REASON'S FOR THIS EVENT

(Paul is getting ready to explain what is going to happen.)

A. REASON #1 - TO FULFILL JESUS PROMISE

1. Vs 13

a) "I don't want you to be uninformed brothers about those who are asleep."

2. "Sleep" for a Christian is that when you die your body takes a nap.

3. **SO HERE IT IS:** While they are waiting for Jesus to come back some of their loved ones who were Christians died!!!

4. So that leads to another question:

a) "Suppose I die, am I gonna miss out on the Rapture?"

5. So the question was "Are the folks who died missing out on the PROMISE?"

a) Paul says, "We do not want you to be uninformed (or ignorant) about that".

B. REASON #2 - IS BECAUSE FLESH AND BLOOD CANNOT INHERIT HEAVEN

1. 1 Corinthians 15:50

2. Which means we can't go to heaven like we are now.

a) Because the environment of Heaven doesn't fit our make-up!! (Flesh and Blood)

C. REASON #3 - THE RAPTURE IS IMPORTANT IS TO REMOVE US BEFORE ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE ON EARTH

1. 1 Thessalonians 1:10

2. Paul's not talking about Hell here.

a) He's talking about the Tribulation Period.

b) He's talking about Hell breaking loose on earth.

3. **WOW!!!** Listen to me: No matter how bad things are right now - you ain't seen nothing yet!!!

4. So before all Hell breaks loose (wrath to come).

a) He's going to come to RETRIEVE His people before the Wrath breaks loose.

5. **SOME EXAMPLES:**

a) **God retrieved Lot** from Sodom and Gomora before God rained down Fire and Brimstone on Sodom and Gomora.

b) **God retrieved Noah** into the ark before He flooded the world.

c) **God retrieved Rehab** into her house with her family before the walls of Jericho came tumbling down.

D. REASON #4 - Why the Rapture is so important - SO WE DO NOT GRIEVE AS THOSE WHO HAVE NO HOPE

1. 1 Thessalonians 4:13

2. I affects your emotional well-being.

3. THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF GRIEVING

a) **Hopeless Grieving** - "I will never see this person again."

b) **Hopeful Grieving** - "I will see this person again."

III. THE TERM JESUS USES FOR DEATH

1. Vs 14

a) Those who have "*fallen asleep*"

2. That's the term Jesus uses for what you and I call "*death*".

3. But if you are asleep that means you are not dead.

a) It means you are in a temporary shift in a state of consciousness.

b) You're not dead, you are asleep.

4. Vs 14

5. **So here it is:** Jesus is coming down from Heaven, bringing somebody with Him and the somebody who He's bringing with Him is asleep.

6. When God made Adam, He created a body.
 - a) When God created the body, the body had no life, meaning it did not function.
 - b) Until **Genesis 2:7**

7. When God breathed into the man, the breath of life, the Bible says "**He became a living soul**"
 - a) Which means his body didn't become active or function until a soul was deposited in it.

8. **2 Corinthians 5:8**

9. **1 Thessalonians 4:15**

10. **Vs 16**

12. So at the point of the Rapture.
 - a) Jesus will leave Heaven and there's going to be a shout.
 - b) "**Get up**"
 - 1) There's going to be "**a cry of command**"

13. **1 John 3:2-3**

14. **1 Corinthians 15:51**

CONCLUSION:

1. **1 Thessalonians 4:17-18**

FOR THE BELIEVER

- #1 - When your dead you're not dead.
- a) The thing you fear most you will never experience.
 - b) Because for the believer you will never be more alive.
- #2 - It ought to make us tell someone.
- a) So we don't have loved ones left behind.
 - b) We should want to share the Gospel.
 - c) So people won't experience The tribulation or Hell

FOR THE UNBELIEVER - 2 things can happen

- #1 - You can die
- #2 - The Rapture could happen
- a) "For whosoever will" - Don't wait another minute