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Jesus Christ Second Coming – Lesson 04

Rapture - Promise

You will not find this word '**Rapture**' in your bible like Trinity. But in your Latin bible you will find them in 1 Thessalonians 4-16. Greek word Rapture is 'Parousia' and for Tribulation is 'Apokalupsis'

The Latin equivalent of the Greek *Harpazo* is the Latin verb *rapio*, "to take away by force." In the Latin Vulgate, one of the oldest Bibles in existence, the appropriate tense of *rapio* appears in verse 17. (*Raptus* is the past participle of *rapio*, and our English words "rapt" and "rapture" stem from this past participle.)

Parousia and Apokalupsis

Those who believe in a rapture say that the Greek word "parousia" refers to the secret coming of Jesus with the rapturing of the church and that the Greek word "apokalupsis" refers to the visible glorious coming of Jesus in power seven years later.

So, they believe from these Greek words that Christ will return in two phases, separated by the 7-year tribulation. But let us take a look at "parousia" and "apokalupsis", and we will understand that BOTH are used to describe the SAME second coming, not two comings.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, ¹³ *But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.* ¹⁴ *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.* ¹⁵ *For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.* ¹⁶ *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.* ¹⁷ *Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.* ¹⁸ *Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

In verse 17, the English phrase "caught up" translates the Greek word *Harpazo*, which means "to seize upon with force" or "to snatch up."

At the Rapture those who are living believers will be "caught up" in the air, translated into the clouds, in a moment in time, to join the Lord in the air.

1. The Promise

1 Thessalonians 1:10, *and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.*

Titus 2:13, *looking for the **blessed hope** and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ,*

Hope!

What is hope?

What do you hope for as a Christian?

As a Christian what is your hope?

- Going to be with the Lord in heaven?
- Or your salvation?
- Or to have eternal life?
- Or to run your race faithfully while living on earth?
- or one day all my pain will vanish away?
- Or one day I will die?
- Leaving this painful life into the arms of Jesus?

Let us see what is not hope?

Romans 8:24-25, *For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is **seen is not hope**; for **why does one still hope for what he sees?**²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.*

So, we don't wait for eagerly what we have seen, we need hope to see something which we have not seen!

Paul writes to the church in Corinth about Hope!

1 Corinthians 13:13, *And now abide faith, **hope**, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

God said that there are three great virtues in Christian life in which is Hope.

But we don't have a good idea about what is hope?

Many think salvation is hope! That I will be saved to have eternal life.

John 5:24, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he **who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life**, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.*

John 17:3, And *this is eternal life*, that they may know You, the *only true God, and Jesus Christ* whom You have sent.

So here in these words Jesus says that when you accept His word and believe in Him then you have eternal life... it's not a hope... it's not a future tense... it is NOW!!

1 John 3:2, Beloved, *now we are children of God*; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

We are children of God... when? Now

So, we have got our salvation when Jesus died on the cross, it happened in the past. Also, now we are sons of God.

This hope is not a dead one but a living one.

1 Peter 1:3-4, Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a *living hope* through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, *reserved in heaven* for you,

Apostle Peter says two things about the hope.

- Living
- Reserved in Heaven

God says it again through Apostle Paul that this hope laid up in heaven in

Colossians 1:5, because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,

So, the hope is

- Living
- Reserved in Heaven
- Laid up in Heaven

What is this hope?

Apostle Paul prayed to the church in Ephesus in

Ephesians 1:18, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

God may reveal to you the hope of your calling!

Romans 5:1-2, Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom also we have access by faith into

this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Let me summarise this what we have seen so far about hope,

- Living
- Reserved in Heaven
- Laid up in Heaven
- Rejoices

Ephesians 4:4, *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;*

So, we have one hope of calling!

What is this hope which is,

- Living
- Reserved in Heaven
- Laid up in Heaven
- Rejoices
- One hope of your calling

This hope is a good one too! This good hope is given by grace!

2 Thessalonians 2:16, *Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace,*

- Living
- Reserved in Heaven
- Laid up in Heaven
- Rejoices
- One hope of your calling
- Good hope
- Given by grace

This hope we can't earn it.

We don't deserve it.

Let us see what is hope?

Hebrews 6:18-20, ¹⁸ that by **two immutable things**, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have **strong consolation**, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. ¹⁹ This hope we have as **an anchor of the soul**, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, ²⁰ where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

V 18 we see God has guaranteed our hope. His promise and His oath. Our hope is a guaranteed thing.

V 19, The hope that anchors us and it's inside the veil in the holy of holies, the heavenly place where God dwells.

My dear brothers and sisters, Our hope is not salvation.
It's not eternal life. It's not death. It's not heaven.

It's whom?

It's Jesus.

- Jesus is Living
- Jesus is Reserved in Heaven
- Jesus is Laid up in Heaven
- Jesus is our Joy
- Jesus is One hope of our calling
- Jesus is our Good hope
- Jesus is Given to us by grace

Jesus is our hope, He is alive, this causes us to rejoice and this comes to us by grace. There's only one of Him. He is reserved in heaven for us. It is in the future that we're going to see Him. He is presently now invisible. **He is our hope.**

Titus 2:11-13, ¹¹ For the **grace of God that brings salvation** has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ **looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ,**

1 Timothy 1:1, *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Saviour and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope,*

What clearer we can get than this that Jesus is our hope!

When Jesus becomes your hope, the blessed hope then there is another dimension we can get from the scripture.

1 John 3:2, *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*

When Jesus is being revealed you and me will become like Him... glorious... I hope this promise thrills you to the highest possible way in you!!

The hope of every Christian is the appearing of Jesus Christ and at that moment when we become like Him. That is our hope.

So, let us come back to our Promise which was given at church in Thessaloniki.

1 Thessalonians 1:10, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

This church is waiting for the son from heaven.

We also as a church should be waiting for the son to come... so that we can become like Him!

Under this promise heading let us look at our Lord Jesus Christ promise.

The promise our Lord confirmed at the Last Supper in John 14.

John 14:1-3, *“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*

This thrilling promise wasn't given only to His believers.

First let us look at the background of the promise given by our Lord.

John 13:1, *Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart*

from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

We can see from the passage that Jesus knew He is going to go to be with the Father and also, He knew His time had come. But His love for His disciples was making bit concerned. As the scripture says He loved them to the end.

Jesus takes the very humble act of washing the feet of disciples and thus showing His love and care for them. After that He shares about the New Covenant to them. But before serving them He starts telling them about His death.

John 13:21, *When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me."*

Jesus shows such love and then He says one of you is going to betray Me. After He served the communion Judas leaves to betray Him.

John 13:31, *So, when he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him."*

Jesus says this is the moment that I am going to be glorified. He waited for eternity to come and die for our sins and in physical form for 33 years.

See the contrast, the excruciation on the cross was about to happen but Jesus saw it as His own glorification. Amazing!

V 32, If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately.

Jesus saw not just the glory of the cross, but the glory of the resurrection and the glory of the ascension and the glory of His place at the right hand of the Father.

Jesus was saying all the struggles are getting over, the wait is over and now I am going to be glorified yet He had to leave His disciples. They had left everything and followed Him for the last three years. He loved them so much. He showed such a great love, with that same love he speaks to them in verse 33,

V33, Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot come,' so now I say to you.

What a tender love... calling them as little children.

What did he say to the Jews. We saw in last week Sunday message in **John 8:21**, *Then Jesus said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin. Where I go you cannot come."*

Notice the difference, Jesus spoke the same thing that they can't follow Him where He is going but when He addressed to the Jews He said that *"you will die in your sin"*

But when He spoke to His disciples he just said you can't come where I am going now.

But when Peter said he will follow Him to the point of death, Jesus replied in V36,

V36, *Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow Me afterward."*

What a great savior we have!! Hallelujah!!!

They were perplexed...

One of them is going to betray Him, they knew its Judas.

They had left everything to follow Him

Left their family, business, work etc.,

Now He is saying that HE is going to die

HE tells the Disciples that they can't follow Him now but later

Imagine the scene now, how they would have felt at that very moment...

Now Jesus tells them this glorious promise,

John 14:1-3, *"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."*

Wonderful!

Let your heart not be troubled... I am sure they were terrified.

He tells them that you believe in God now believe in ME also.

I am going to prepare a place for you.

There is only one mansion, because of this translation there are many erroneous theories have emerged.

Revelation 21:16, *The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal.*

The city is 1,500 miles on all the four sides each which 2,250,000 square miles. Will that be enough to accommodate all the people?

Our greater London is 605 Square miles, its estimated that this 2.2million square miles is enough to accommodate 100 Billion people. Please do remember the way to heaven is narrow so the people who rejected Lord Jesus Christ won't make it too.

Jesus is NOT sending anyone else, not the angels or archangels or any other messenger.

He is coming!

When He is coming He is going to take us with Him. He says, "I will receive you to Myself!"

Remember in the second coming everyone is coming down from heaven no one is going up but in the Rapture, we will go up to heaven to be with Him!

Second coming of Christ, nobody goes up to heaven. But here it is very clear that everybody's going to go up, who are a disciple of Christ. Therefore, the rapture and the return must be two different things.

Well the disciples had no idea of the Kingdom of Heaven, all they knew was that the Messiah will come and deliver

them from their enemies and set up a kingdom on the Earth. So, when Jesus said I am going away they had no clue what Jesus was saying.

That is why Thomas asked Jesus we don't know what you are saying and where you are going. Jesus said in **John14:6, Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

Lord Jesus Christ then in John 14 announces an entirely different hope than that which was promised to Israel.

- The promise to Israel was the kingdom on earth.
- The promise to the church is taking them out of the world into the Father's house.

That's never been promised anywhere in the Old Testament to Israel. They are going to have their millennial kingdom on the earth.

- So, the hope of Israel, a kingdom on earth.
- The hope of the church, rapture to the Father's house.

Two different things.

This is the reason when Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Philippi that when he leaves the earth the next moment he will be with the Lord.

Philippians 1:23, *For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.*

2 Corinthians 5:8, *We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.*

The minute at that instant, the split-second that a believer dies, his spirit enters the presence of God, the presence of Jesus Christ. His body does not go to the presence of God rather it goes to the grave. What you have then is for all the church age until the rapture, spirits of believers will be in Paradise without their glorified bodies.

We are awaiting the rapture because that's when the spirit gets joined with the glorified bodies, that are going to come out of the graves.

In John 14 Jesus did not give the time when this will happen. No sign was given by the Lord.

What are the signs before Rapture takes place?

Nothing!

- Only the shout,
- the voice of the archangel,
- the trumpet of God and
- then we go up to with Him to Our Father.

Once again let us hold to this Promise of God,

1 Thessalonians 1:10, and to *wait for His Son from heaven*, whom He raised from the dead, even *Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.*

Let us be confident of

Waiting for the Lord Jesus to appear on the sky since

HE has delivered us from the wrath to Come!

Amen!!