

Appendix: The *Rapture The Catching Up of the Church

All the Bible is for the Church, but not all the Bible is about the Church. Some is about other people. (1 Cor. 10:32.) The part of the Bible that is to, for, and about the Church is the New Testament Letters. The present and the future of the Church are revealed in the Letters.

The Church was hidden in the O.T. And even in the Four Gospels. The mystery of the church was first revealed to Paul. It came over a period of at least 17 years (Gal. 1:11-2:2).

The first letters written to the Body of Christ were First and Second Thessalonians. A troubling concern had arisen. Believers were dying and Jesus had not come. After Jesus arose, He walked upon the earth 40 days (Acts 1:3). Then when He ascended, Heavenly attendants announced that *"This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven"* (Acts 1:8). Early believers expected Him back within a short time. When people died, questions arose. So "the Word of the Lord" came as follows:

1Th. 4:13 ¶ But we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning them that fall asleep; that ye sorrow not, even as the rest, who have no hope.
1Th. 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also that are fallen asleep in Jesus will God bring with him.
1Th. 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we that are alive, that are left unto the coming of the Lord, shall in no wise precede them that are fallen asleep.
1Th. 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first;
1Th. 4:17 then we that are alive, that are left, shall together with them be caught up in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.
1Th. 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words. (ASV)

Prior to the "catching up" the Holy Spirit would have completed His work of preparing the Body to be a habitation of God's Glory. The Glorious Church.)
(See: Ephesians, 2:20-22; 5:25-27, 30, 32; 2 Cor. 3:18.)

Man is tripartite. He is a **spirit**, like His Creator. He has a **soul** (mind, will, and emotions). He lives in a **body**. (2 Thess. 5:23).

The New Testament does not use death in association with believers. It speaks of departure (Gr: exodus) from ones tent (house).

The spirit of man departs to be with the Lord, the soul accompanies the spirit; the body is buried awaiting the redemption, the glorification, of the body.

2Cor. 5:8 we are of good courage, I say, and are willing rather to be **absent** from the body, and to be at home with the Lord. (ASV).

At the catching up of the Church, the spirits who have been at home with the Lord, come with Him to receive their glorified bodies.

At the rapture:

The Lord will meet His Body "in the air."

At the end of the 7-years,

He will come and put His feet down upon the earth at the same place of His Ascension. The Mount of Olives. (Acts 1:12; Zech. 14:4.)

The Judgment Seat of Christ

After the "catching away" the Body of Christ will appear at the only judgment seat she will ever face. The Lord has already met judgment for her. Yet she has an appointment to receive her rewards. (And the shedding of anything that could not go with her as she is presented to the Lord.)

2Cor. 5:10 For we must all be made manifest before the judgment-seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad. (ASV)

At the new birth from above, one becomes a brand new species. A new creation that has never before existed. Saved by grace through faith, and not of works. However from that point, one is "ordained unto good works." And for all that is accomplished in the body, man will receive reward. And rank in resurrection. Then comes...

The Presentation

2Cor. 11:2 For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy: for I espoused you to one husband, that I might present you *as* a pure virgin to Christ.
(See also: 2 Cor. 4:14; Eph. 5:27; 2 Cor. 4:14.)

*The word rapture is not in the Bible. However it is in common use for "caught up together in clouds to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thess. 4:17)."