

Eschatology

Part 2:

The Rapture: The subject of the Rapture has caused much division and controversy. The Greek word is *harpaz*, which mean: “to be snatched up” or “taken away”. Bottom line, this view is by far one of the most strange things that we believe as followers of Christ.

Our Blessed Hope:

Part 1 – The first three chapters of 1 Thessalonians review things that Paul had already taught them: the conversion, evangelism & after care. The he looked ahead - the comfort of our calling and the challenge of our calling. But there was concern from the followers of Christ that the ones that had died would miss the second coming of Jesus. **(Read 1Thessalonians 4:13-15)**

The He explains how this is going to Happen. **(Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16 & 17)**

This idea didn't begin in 1 Thessalonians. Remember what Jesus announced to the disciples in the Upper Room that last night before Gethsemane. **(Read John 14:1-3)**

Now read **1 Thessalonians 5:1-9**

Paul is talking about the children of darkness: Jesus will come as a thief in the night *the children of the night*. The children of the day will know the season: they won't be caught by surprise!

Key verse 9: *“We are not appointed unto wrath.”* There is a time of Gods wrath coming, which the Lord Jesus Christ Himself labels as the Great Tribulation, which the Church will not be subject to. Does that mean that we as the Church won't experience some tribulation? No that does not mean that, but the “Great Tribulation”, no.

Part 2- The first letter to the Thessalonians alleviated their concerns for a while. But then another letter was being circulated in Thessalonica, a forgery claiming to be from Paul. Paul wrote 2 Thessalonians in response to that upsetting letter.

Let's Read 2 Thessalonians 2

- 1) 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2
- 2) 2 Thessalonians 2:3-5

Interesting to realize that these topics were issues that Paul had already taught them in those few brief weeks when he first founded the church. Paul is actually reminding them of the issues that he had taught out of Daniel 9.

Let no man deceive you by any means, for that day shall not come except first there come a falling away...

The easiest assumption is that this is referring to a general apostasy in the church.

...and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition...

This person will oppose *"and exalt himself above that is called God,"* including Allah and any other name.

...so that he as God sitteh in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God...

This is how we know the temple will be rebuilt: Refer to **Matthew 24:25**, **2 Thessalonians 2:4** and **Revelation 11:1-2**

Who is "The Man of Sin" or "Son of Perdition"?

What is another name for him?

The Antichrist will be the ecumenical world leader. He will be accepted by the Jews as their Messiah; he'll be accepted as the Twelfth Imam by the Muslims; he'll be the Leader of the World for a time. He will be extremely attractive in every respect, and the whole world will worship him. But something else has to happen first.

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:6-8

Who is the Restariner? The Holy Spirit

When the Restrainer is removed, then the Wicked One will be revealed, which is a condition of the Day of the Lord. The order in which it will all happen: 1)The Apostacy, 2)Rapture, 3)Man of Sin, 4)Day of the Lord. **Read 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11**

The Great Lie will be accepted by the ones who reject the Gospel. Today is the day for Salvation.