

“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: Then we which are alive and remain Shall Be Caught Up Together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 KJV



The word “rapture” does not appear in Scripture. The word itself is circa 1600, “the act of carrying off,” from Middle French “rapture,” and from Latin “raptus;” a carrying off, abduction, or snatching away. Webster’s 1828 dictionary defines rapture; transport; ecstasy; violence of a pleasing passion; extreme joy or pleasure. In the believer’s terminology it is derived from the two words in our passage, “caught up.” For our purposes we will adhere to the act of the Church being physically removed from the earth while at the same time our bodies are being transformed from earthly to Heavenly. “*In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the Last Trump: for the Trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality (see 1 Cor. 15:35-49). Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM; for we shall see Him as He is.*” This event is not the “Day of the Lord” spoken of throughout Scripture; this happens first; “*in the air.*” The Day of the Lord is clearly defined in Zechariah chapter 14; “*Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when He fought in the day of battle. And HIS FEET SHALL STAND IN THAT DAY UPON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES, which is before Jerusalem on the east.*” In that Day God will come down and STAND on the earth and believers will accompany Him! “*And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, ‘Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His Saints (Jude 1:14).*” This prophecy begs the question, “How can we come with Him if we are still on earth?” The obvious answer is: We WILL be with Him. All the prophecies in the book of Revelation, which details Daniel’s 70th week of prophecy, continue after the Church is removed. “*For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only He (the Holy Spirit) Who now letteth will let, until He be taken out of the way.*” The “He” spoken of here is the Blessed Holy Spirit, and when He is removed, believers will go with Him. I believe Scripture supports that believers will instantly change and then like Christ rise into the clouds while unbelievers stand with open mouths not believing what they see! This will give rise to the “*great delusion*” which will be given them. Since they have already denied the Truth, they will believe the first lie that appeals to human reason. The question remains, “Have you warned your loved ones and friends and are you living in such a way that lends credibility to your warnings?” Are you ready to be “*caught up?*” Perhaps today!

Caught away in Heavenly Throng,
To join the Everlasting Song,
Might be today; it won’t be long,
Til we are where we do belong! –CGP

When the “Second Coming” occurs God will bring His own with Him! Are you one of His?

“And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, ‘Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His Saints, To execute Judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.’ Jude 1:14-15 KJV