

The Rapture And What the Bible Teaches

A. Some Allege the Rapture is Taught in 1 Thes. 4:13-17.

- a. Some allege that the Rapture will be silent and invisible unless you are raptured.
- b. That event will trigger the 7 years of tribulation followed by the battle of Armageddon.
- c. Then Christ will return with His saints to reign in Jerusalem for 1000 years.
- d. The word “rapture” comes from the Latin “lapio” which means to “seize or snatch.”
- e. It’s not used in 1 Thes. 4:13-17.
- f. Thought the word is not found some believe that Paul alludes to it here when he mentions the saints will be “caught up” (Harpagesometha).
- g. To them, it is significant that the unrighteous dead are not mentioned here.
- h. Chaos will break forth, when people in the middle of activity, will suddenly be missing. Considering how many people are in the air flying at any given moment, many people will simply vanish off planes, including pilots!

B. Weaknesses of the View.

- a. It is not naturally in the text, but forced upon it by those looking to see it.
- b. According to Paul, the return of Christ, in this passage is anything but silent and invisible.
 - i. 1 Thes. 4:16 has been called “the noisiest verse in the Bible!”
 - ii. 2 Peter 3:10 – “A great noise.”
 - iii. His return will be just as visible as His ascension (Acts 1:11).
- c. True indeed, the unrighteous are not mentioned in this passage, but contextually speaking they are not under consideration.
 - i. Paul **is not** contrasting the righteous and the unrighteous here.
 - ii. He **is** contrasting the dead in Christ and the living in Christ, so the unrighteous being unmentioned should not alarm us.
- d. According to the words of Christ Himself, the righteous and unrighteous will be raised at the same hour, on the last day
 - i. John 5:28-29 – “same hour”
 - ii. John 6:39,40,44,54 – “last day.”
 - iii. Were premillennialism true, the resurrection of the righteous would take place at least 1008 years before the resurrection of the unrighteous. How do we get that number?
 1. Righteous raised at the beginning of the Rapture (7 years)
 2. They come with Jesus back to Jerusalem (1000 years).
 3. Still raised when Satan is loosed for a “little while” (Rev. 20:3).