



# What is the Rapture?

Peter Doseck

# WHAT IS THE RAPTURE?

*by*  
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# WHAT IS THE RAPTURE?

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# WHAT IS THE RAPTURE?

## CHAPTER ONE

### TIME TO BE CARRIED AWAY

The old man waited impatiently for the return of his trusted friend, a matchmaker who had traveled to another part of the city in search of a wife for his eldest son. Days had passed, and still no word.

After the evening meal a knock on the door invaded the silence, and there stood the friend with a big grin on his face. He had done it. A bride had been found, and the traditional marriage ritual was about to begin. It was a great day for the old man and his son.

Soon the two families had worked out the details of the ketubah. This marriage contract spelled out the requirements for the bride and bridegroom. The young man vowed to care for his bride in every way, and the bride's family promised a dowry would be given for her household. The bride price was agreed upon, at great cost to the old man, and the entire deal awaited the response of the chosen young woman.

A formal meeting of the couple was arranged where the ketubah was presented. The contract was signed in the presence of witnesses, and it was given to the bride's father. Now came the most significant part of the betrothal ceremony.

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The bride and bridegroom stood under the traditional huppah canopy, and the bridegroom lifted a cup of wine and took a sip from it. He then slowly offered it to the bride.

The old man held his breath until the young woman lifted the cup to her lips and took her own sip, signifying that she formally accepted the proposal. The espousal was complete, and they were now legally bound to one another, though they would not complete the marriage ceremony for one full year.

Before leaving, the bridegroom made a pledge to his bride that he would return for her, and he gave her a gift as a token of his love. This was to serve as a reminder of his devotion during the long months of separation they would face before the wedding day.

### *The Waiting*

The bridegroom immediately returned home to build an addition to his father's house that would serve as a wedding chamber for the new couple. This was an enormous task for the young man, and he had to work very hard to make it happen.

While the bridegroom worked on the wedding chamber, the bride was busy preparing herself for the wedding day. She immediately participated in a mikveh ritual for her spiritual cleansing. This immersion in living water symbolized cutting off the past and beginning a new life with her beloved.

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She and her bridesmaids worked fervently to make sure she was poised and beautiful for the bridegroom's return. They sewed new garments for the wedding, and she kept herself separated and consecrated, awaiting the return of her true love.

The bridegroom could not come back for his bride until every inch of the wedding chamber was meticulously prepared. His father was charged with deciding when it was ready, so although everyone knew approximately when the wedding would take place, no one knew the exact day and hour.

### *The Carrying Away*

The last step on this joyful journey was the nissuin ceremony, know as the "carrying away". It could not begin until the bridegroom's father had studied his son's construction work block by block and announced that it was complete.

When the announcement came, the young man's heart skipped a beat, and he shouted to his friends to get ready, for the day had come. Now was the time to return for his bride, and he immediately set out to do just that.

He sent his groomsmen before him with strict instructions for their every move. His best friend led the pack, and he ran ahead of the rest shouting, "Behold, the bridegroom comes!" A shofar sounded, and the wedding processional made their way through

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the streets of the city toward the home of the bride.

Ever ready, the bride sent her bridesmaids into the streets with radiant lamps to show the bridegroom the way. She dressed in her beautiful wedding garments, including a veil, and her eyes filled with tears of joy for what was about to happen.

When the bridegroom arrived he literally swept his bride off her feet, and together they returned to his father's house with the bride's family celebrating along the way. Arriving at their new home, the couple stepped under the huppah once again. Seven blessings were spoken over them, and they drank from another cup of wine to seal the covenant.

Then off they went to the wedding chamber for some well-deserved privacy. After months of separation and hard work, the marriage was finally consummated, and the long-awaited wedding feast began.

### *Espoused to Christ*

I tell this story because you and I are in the midst of awaiting our own wedding day. The clock is ticking, and we are all wondering the same thing. What time is it? When will our bridegroom return to carry us away?

Jesus is our bridegroom, and He is espoused to us, the church. We are the body of Christ, and as

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believers we share in this betrothal. (See John 3:29; Ephesians 5:25-32; & Revelation 19:7.)

We have been promised to Jesus as pure virgins, and we are to live as such while we await His return. (See 2 Corinthians 11:1-2.) Though we do not yet have the full expression of our union with Him, we have the Holy Spirit as the earnest of our inheritance and the firstfruits of our heritage in Heaven. (See Romans 8:15-23 & Ephesians 1:13-14.)

Do you see the parallels? God chose us to be the bride of Christ before time began, and we are in the midst of our espousal period. God made a covenant, a ketubah of sorts, where all requirements for our marriage were laid out.

The blood of Jesus was our bride price, and we have been baptized into the body of Christ for our spiritual cleansing. The Holy Spirit was Jesus' final gift to us before He left, a reminder of His love for us during our long separation.

Now we are all busy putting things in order for our wedding day. Jesus is preparing a place for us in His Father's house, and things are nearly ready in Heaven. We can sense that the time of His approach is at hand, but no one knows when the Father will release His Son to come for His bride.

The question is, are we ready? Will our wedding garments be in order upon His return? Have we been



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living as chaste virgins, consecrated to Him and separated from the world? When the shout comes and the trumpet blows, will we slip into our garments fully prepared, or will we look around the room and realize we have let things slip?

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## CHAPTER TWO TIME FOR A WEDDING

Before He left Jesus said: “Let not your heart be troubled: you believe in God, believe also in Me. In 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. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” (John 14:1-3)

The word “receive” here carries the connotation of one coming to seize something. This is Christ’s nissuin, His carrying away. Jesus is preparing to come and seize us quickly so that we may return to Heaven with Him for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 describes it this way: “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.”

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On that great and notable day Jesus will send an angel ahead of Him to shout, “Behold, the bridegroom comes!” The trumpet will sound, and He will hurry quickly toward us. We will be swept up and carried away with Him in the clouds, and soon our marriage will be complete.

Today we refer to this seizing as the rapture. This is the carrying away that the young bridegroom in our story anticipated so much. Just as the young man ran for his bride, so Jesus is racing back for us in one glorious catching away.

Jesus will return to seize us with a passion that has grown stronger over time. He is coming to take that which belongs to Him back to His Father’s house. We are His possession, His espoused bride, and He paid a heavy price for us with His own blood. He will not leave us behind.

### *Expectancy*

I believe the time has come, and we are rapidly approaching the hour of our wedding day. We are experiencing a heartfelt longing to be with Jesus, to be transformed from this mortal unto immortality, from this corruption into an incorruptible, sinless individual who will stand in the presence of an awesome God.

We are living for this glorious moment in time, when Jesus shall return to carry us away. We may

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not understand every detail of how it will happen, and like the bridegroom, we do not know when it will happen specifically, but we are convinced that it most assuredly will happen.

1 Corinthians 15:51 says: “Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.” The rapture is a great mystery. Its appointed time is shrouded in secrecy, for Jesus said: “But of that day and that hour knows no man, no, not the angels which are in Heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.” (Mark 13:32)

Peter wrote of our time when he said: “There shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation’.” (2 Peter 3:3-4)

Too many in the body of Christ spend much of their time trying to prove when Jesus will snatch us away, when what they should be concerned about is that He is coming. We would all do well to be more concerned about our own preparation than about God’s timing. Are you ready for the trip?

This may shock some, but if the Father does not release Jesus in my generation, I will have no concern over it. My expectancy keeps me pure. It keeps me on target, and it keeps me looking forward instead of looking behind.

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The truth is, every generation must believe His return is imminent, otherwise they will drift from righteousness. Paul looked for the day of the Lord in his time. John the revelator said: “Come quickly, Lord!” Every generation up to now thought they might see the Lord coming in the clouds at any moment, and for that moment they diligently prepared. Let us not be any different.

We must cultivate an expectancy that will see us through the dark days ahead. We must not give up our skyward gaze, because if we do, we will drift.

I truly believe the time has come, and I am preparing with more zeal and dedication than ever before, but if I do not live to see the day on earth, I know I will participate from my place of rest in Heaven.

The day is coming. The trumpet will blow. The shout will come. The procession will take place. He’s coming sooner than you think. Are you ready?

### *Face to Face*

The wedding ceremony is always a face to face event. There is nothing between the bride and the groom when the pronouncement of marriage is made. The veil is lifted, and they see one another face to face.

It will be the same for us on our wedding day.

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We live behind a veil right now, according to 1 Corinthians 13:12 which says: “For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.”

One day our veil will be lifted, and we will no longer see a shadowy figure of Jesus, but we will clearly see the One who loved us so much He gave His life as a ransom for our espousal. We will see Him face to face, and we will know Him as we are known.

I await this revelation with great joy. To see Him face to face will be the ultimate reward. Who needs a crown when you can look in the eyes of Jesus? Who needs a mansion when you can hear His words fall gently on your ears? I cannot wait, and I feel less and less attached to this earth and more and more a part of Heaven every day.

In preparation for His return, I encourage you to begin and end each day with this prayer: “I pray the very God of peace will sanctify me wholly; and I pray God my whole spirit and soul and body will be preserved blameless unto the coming of my Lord Jesus Christ.” (See 1 Thessalonians 5:23.)

Don't miss your own wedding because you were too busy to pray. Don't miss it because you did not have time to engraft the Word in your heart. Don't miss the most important day of your life because you

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let offense or sin steal you away from His presence.

Stay clean. Sanctify yourself, and keep your garments at the door.

### *That Perfect Day*

Think back to your wedding day and the months of preparation that came before it. You and your fiancé picked out wedding bands, confirmed a date, rented a hall, found the perfect wedding dress and the finest tuxedo, ordered flowers and a big wedding cake, asked your best friends to join you in the wedding party, and on and on the list goes.

When the day arrived you both got up well before dawn to make sure you had time to become the beautiful bride and the handsome groom you each knew the other expected to see later in the day.

Standing with your best man, you nearly passed out when you saw her and realized she was walking down that aisle just for you. And clinging to your father's arm, shaking a bit when you crossed the threshold, you looked straight at your groom and locked eyes for support as you suddenly realized you were transitioning from a life you knew well to one you knew nothing about.

The months of fussing with in-laws over insignificant details disappeared in an instant when you saw him, and the dollar bills you saw flying out

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the window every day faded into the sunset when you gazed upon your beautiful bride.

It's funny how difficult it is to prepare for a wedding, and yet how quickly we forget the pain and suffering when the perfect day arrives. With all that we are willing to do, pay for, and put up with to be married in this vapor we call life, how much more should we be willing to invest to prepare for our wedding day with Christ?

How much more time and treasure should we be willing to spend to be ready to walk down the aisle with Jesus? How much more sacrifice should we be willing to offer to make sure every inch of our garments are pressed, pure, and white as snow?

He's coming, and when He arrives He has a certain expectation for what He will find. He expects to find faith, and a faithful, spotless bride awaiting His arrival. Let us work while it is yet day, preparing for our perfect union, because the dark of night will come when no man will be able to work anymore.

I'd say "Wake up!", but it has been said before. It's not enough to be awake on your wedding day; you must be flawless, pristine, purified, consecrated, and dedicated to what lies ahead. Let's get ready.



## CHAPTER THREE

### TIME TO PREPARE

Jesus promised His return over 2,000 years ago, and He has not rescinded His pledge. He said, “I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” (John 14:2-3)

Ephesians 5:27 shows us what we will look like when He returns. It says: “That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

To be without spot or blemish in the church, we obviously must be without spot or blemish as individuals. How can we ever reach such a goal? Ephesians 5:26 tells us. It says: “That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word.”

This verse gives me great consolation because I see that I will not be left alone during the time of preparation for the rapture, but Jesus Himself will be working with me to help me sanctify myself and stay pure as I await His return.

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Jesus said: “I must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day: the night comes, when no man can work.” (John 9:4) We must work diligently while our day of preparation continues, knowing that night is about to fall upon us. We must shout to one another above the noise of the world and say:

“Let’s get to work! Let’s be about the Father’s business. Let’s make sure our garments are in order and our lamps are full. Let’s set ourselves apart as chaste virgins, pure and waiting for our Bridegroom. Let’s allow Jesus to wash us with His Word, transforming our minds and cleansing our hearts. Let’s lay aside every sin and get ready!”

### *Comfort One Another*

We catch a glimpse of what we can do to cooperate with this cleansing process in 1 Thessalonians 4:18, the final verse in the passage that tells us about the rapture. After giving us all of the details about the great catching away, it says: “Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”

When we think of comforting someone, we often turn our thoughts toward the last time we were comforted. Maybe it was a pat on the shoulder or a word of encouragement during a time of loss. Whatever it was, it made us feel better for a moment, but it was probably not a life-changing event.

The word comfort in this scripture has a much

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more powerful meaning. According to Vine's Expository Dictionary the word "comfort" in this verse means "to call to one's side". It can also be translated as "to exhort".

It's not just a matter of patting each other on the back and saying, "Don't worry, everything will be okay", but it's more a matter of pushing one another to prepare for what lies ahead. It's not, "It will be okay. Just hang on by a thread 'til Jesus comes", but "It will be okay! Jesus is coming! You better get ready, and I'll help you!"

Remember Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled." (See John 14:1.) Problems in these last days will try to drive you away from God and destroy your faith, which is why it is more important than ever for us to comfort one another by exhorting and provoking each other to acts of faith as we approach our reunion with Christ.

During this time we ought to help one another draw closer to Jesus, not for the emotional benefits only, but because He is coming back for a church that is alive in Him. "For in Him we live, and move, and have our being." (See Acts 17:28.)

### *Hold Fast*

I am alive in Him, and my hope is in His coming to carry us away. I don't worry about a better life or home, more peace of mind, healing for my body, or

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even joy for my soul. These are all things given to me through Christ Jesus now, but my greatest aspiration is to remain steadfast and secure no matter what I go through down here, so that I will be able to push those around me to hold fast with me.

We will be caught up together as the body of Christ, not just as individuals. While we should each be getting ready in our own way for the rapture, we must also be pushing, exhorting, admonishing, rebuking, and instructing one another in preparation for His return.

The bride in our opening story did not prepare herself alone. She gathered her friends around her, and they worked together to make sure they were all ready for the day of the nissuin, the great catching away.

Let's prepare as Hebrews 10:25 says: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as you see the day approaching."

The day is coming soon! We should gather together more, not less, as we await the rapture. We should be going out in the streets together, compelling the lost to come and share our shelter from the storm. We should be praying together and bearing one another's burdens.

From this moment on things will not get better

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in the world, but they will grow worse. This is not “doom and gloom” thinking; it’s just the reality of the times in which we live. The shaking has only begun, and we need to help one another stand firm in the face of trouble.

Gather yourself. Don’t let petty offenses drive you away, but make yourself get in church more and more as the dark of night approaches.

Christians have a bad habit of trying to be lone wolves or islands unto themselves. One of my wife’s favorite sayings is, “The banana away from the bunch is the first one to get peeled.” It’s absolutely true.

Don’t be an isolated banana in these last days. Get connected with other men and women of like faith in your local church, and stay put as you await the return of Jesus. Get busy with them, and stay busy until He comes.

There’s nothing more frustrating for an employer than to discover one of his employees is goofing off on the job. Don’t be that guy. Don’t be that gal. Work hard so that when Jesus comes He can say without reservation, “Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Lord.” (See Matthew 25:21.)

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## CHAPTER FOUR TIME FOR A TRUMPET

1 Corinthians 15:52 says: “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.”

What does it mean, “the last trump?” This verse refers to a feast in Israel that we learn about in Leviticus 23:24-25. It’s called the Feast of Trumpets, and it took place on the first day of the seventh month every year.

This feast was unique in that it took place on a day that was declared by God to be treated as a sabbath, though it did not literally take place on a sabbath day. The first day of the seventh month would fall on a different day of the week each year, but no matter when it occurred, it was to be treated as a high sabbath.

The Feast of Trumpets was not a required feast where all the men of Israel were mandated to go to Jerusalem. It was optional for those who desired to participate, but it was of great significance.

This feast was set aside as a time for the people to cease from their labors and gather to make an offering

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of fire to the Lord. Those who were of a willing heart were to come together for what God called, “a holy convocation.” A convocation is an assembly, and a holy convocation was a time of separation from the world and a time of renewed dedication to God.

The blowing of the trumpet on this special day marked the beginning of a sabbath that did not exist except by God’s call. Weekly sabbaths were normal for Israel, but a sabbath that may occur in the middle of the week was unusual for them. It was at God’s discretion, not man’s.

### *The Last Trump*

In the same way the rapture will take place at a time of God’s calling. He will declare the time has come, and the last trumpet will sound; the last trumpet, indicating there will be no other. There will be no second chances.

Now, when the Feast of Trumpets came the people would begin their day as usual, working in the fields and such. At a certain time, which no one knew, the priest would blow the trumpet, signifying the beginning of the feast and the conclusion of all labor.

When the trumpet blew, you had to respond to the call immediately. There was no time for last minute preparation. Either you were ready, or you were left out. (Remember the parable of the virgins,

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some whose lamps were prepared, and some whose lamps went out. - Matthew 25:1-13)

Those who heard the trumpet, who were ready, and who were of a mind to respond would drop whatever they were doing, run to put on their garments of white, and scurry to the temple. Nothing was more important to them at this moment than the obedience they knew God expected, and the time of rest He offered them in return.

It was possible to miss it if you were too busy or too distracted with your work. You could forfeit the blessing of the day if you were not paying attention. Only those who were looking for the moment, those who were prepared and in tune with the times and seasons, and those who were ready in heart and in mind would respond and enjoy the special day.

### *One Shall Be Taken*

What has this feast got to do with us? Well, it makes Matthew 24:40-42 a lot clearer for one. Here's what Jesus said:

“Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for you know not what hour your Lord comes.”

The feast began while the people were at work,



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some in the fields, and some grinding at the mill as they did every day. Just as only those prepared went up to the feast when the trumpet blew, so only those of us who are ready will go up in the rapture when that final trumpet blows.

When the trumpet sounds, we will be standing among the ungodly. We will even be among those who say they are Christians but who are not prepared, who are not cleansed, and who are not waiting for the bridegroom. One will be taken, and one will be left.

Someone may say, “You’re scaring me.” Good. Get scared. Don’t accept a fear that drives you from God, but do embrace the kind of fear that will drive you from sin and prepare you for that great and notable day of the Lord.

We have nothing to fear if we are looking for His return. God has not given us a spirit of fear, but we are focused on the hope of our redemption.

Still, we must be watching. We must be alert for the sound of the trumpet because it will mark the beginning of a new sabbath, one that is not listed on any calendar.

We must be ready to go at a moment’s notice. We must be prepared to lay down whatever we are doing and submit to the call of God. The bridegroom will be on His way, and there will be no looking back.

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A great feast will lie ahead of us, and all of our labor will fade away behind us. The pain will be gone, every tear will be wiped away, and a time of joy unspeakable and full of glory will begin.

### *Into Our Inheritance*

The things that happened in Israel are symbolic of the things that have happened and will happen in the body of Christ. For instance, they were redeemed at the time of Passover by the blood of an innocent lamb. We were redeemed by the shed blood of Jesus at the time of the Passover celebration.

Israel went through the Red Sea, symbolic of us being baptized into the body of Christ. They spent an entire generation in the wilderness, which is symbolic of us spending time in the natural world in which we live.

They had a promise of an inheritance as sons and daughters of Abraham, but they could not quite make it across the river. We have our inheritance, sealed by the Holy Spirit as the firstfruits of that promise, but we have not made it to the other side just yet.

After the generation of unbelief in the wilderness finally died, Israel walked across the Jordan. The first thing they encountered was Jericho. They stood upon the threshold of their inheritance, but a door remained to be opened before they could claim their promised land.

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What opened that door? The sound of a trumpet. Remember they encircled the city and marched around it for six days, and then on the seventh day, that great and notable day, they blew the trumpet and let out a shout. The walls came tumbling down, and the people ascended into the city.

This is wonderful symbolism, showing us that when the last trumpet sounds for us, when we are ushered out by force and enter into the city of our King, God will position us to ascend to our final inheritance. This is the rapture of the church

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## CHAPTER FIVE TIME FOR VICTORY

Truthfully, today is the easiest day for you to be a Christian. Tomorrow will be a little harder, and the next day a littler harder yet because of increasing evils. (See 2 Timothy 3:1-7.) But take heart, for the Word of God tells us how it will all end:

“Behold, I show you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed; 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. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?

“The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the

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Lord, forasmuch as you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 15:51-58)

How great this victory will be, but notice the last verse. Because the rapture is such a mystery, and because the consequences are so significant, we ought to live our lives every day as if it might be our last day, knowing our labor is not in vain. That’s pretty bold.

“Be steadfast.” In other words, do not back down from your labor in the Lord, but rather kick it up a notch. Work hard for the Kingdom, and do what’s right.

“Be immovable.” Do not allow the shaking all around you to move you. Do not give in to the sin that so easily besets you. Do not give offense an open door, or let hardships weaken your resolve. Don’t move a muscle.

“Always abounding in the work of the Lord.” Abounding means increasing and moving forward. Never look back at what you did, good or bad, because it wastes time. Look ahead, and keep yourself motivated by the sight of the finish line. It’s just over the next hill, and Jesus is waiting to greet you there.

We can rest assured that God will give us victory no matter what we face. We will be spared the tragedies that come upon the earth during the tribulation period, and instead we will be with Jesus

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at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. What is there to fear, but our own laziness?

Today could be the last day on earth as we know it. When Jesus carries us away, it will never be the same. We will revel in His presence, but the time to witness will be gone. It will be too late, and many will be left behind. Let's never forget. Let's never fail to do what God has called us to do.

### *Worth It All*

Which brings us back to the wedding day. Remember how all the pain and suffering of preparing for the ceremony vanished the moment you saw your spouse? It will be the same when the rapture comes.

The hours of reading the Word so that it might sanctify and cleanse you will suddenly seem like a small price to have paid. The days of fasting will recede into the background, no more than a passing thought.

The hours on your knees interceding for your loved ones will seem so miniscule in comparison to the vastness of eternity. The witnessing day after day will suddenly seem priceless, because though some rejected you, many believed, and they will be with you in Heaven. The trouble you endured will not matter anymore when you are swept away to see Jesus face to face.

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Whatever you give up, take on, or covenant to do in order to prepare your heart for this great and glorious day, it will be worth it all. You will rejoice with a joy unspeakable and full of glory, for your time will have come, and your Lord will have carried you to your heavenly home.

### *The Coming Harvest*

Jeremiah 8:20 says: “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.”

As Christians we are born of incorruptible seed, and we are the planting of God. Harvest is coming soon. While we wait for it, a season of blessing and increase is passing men by every day. It’s called summer, the time of growth and preparation.

Be alert, and do not let the last four words of this verse be true in your life: “we are not saved.” The word “saved” means to call Him Lord and to do everything that He asks of you. Don’t ever let your salvation slip.

You must sanctify yourself wholly - spirit, soul, and body. When you marry someone, you get the whole package - spirit, soul, and body. Jesus expects no less from His bride.

The sabbath of the last great feast, leading to the fullness of Christ, is upon us. This is the hope of the church, that we will be taken out, to be taken

## WHAT IS THE RAPTURE?

in; that we will be swept away to meet our beloved Bridegroom, our Lord and Savior in the air.

Let nothing stand in your way. Let nothing be more important than preparing for the rapture, your nissuin, your great carrying away. Do not let your garments lie unkempt, but keep them at the ready, pure, pressed, and white as snow. And above all, do not be left standing in the field.

Behold, the Bridegroom comes! I'll ask it again, "Are you ready?" Prepare to meet your God in the air!