

I. “Raptures” in history

a. Enoch –

Genesis 5:24 ²⁴ And ^aEnoch walked with God; and he was not, for God ^btook him.

Hebrews 11:5 By faith ^aEnoch was taken up so that he should not ^bsee death; and he was not found because God took him up; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God.

b. Elijah –

2 Kings 2:1 And it came about when the LORD was about to ^atake up Elijah by a ¹whirlwind to heaven, that Elijah went with ^bElisha from ^cGilgal. **2 Kings 2:11** ¹¹ Then it came about as they were going along and talking, that behold, *there appeared* ^aa chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a ¹whirlwind to heaven.

II. Jesus said He would come back for us.

John 14:1 ^aLet not your heart be troubled; ¹believe in God, believe also in Me. ² "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for ^aI go to prepare a place for you. ³ "And if I go and prepare a place for you, ^aI will come again, and receive you to Myself; that ^bwhere I am, *there* you may be also.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 ¹³ But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. ¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 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: ¹⁷ 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.

a. Comparing Jesus' and Paul's words on the rapture

John 14:1-3	1 Thess 4:13-18
V1 – trouble	v13 – sorrow
V1 – believe	v14 – believe
V1 – God, me	v14 – Jesus, God
V2 – told you	v15 – say to you by the word of the Lord
V3 – come again	v15 – coming of the Lord
V3 – receive you	v17 – caught up
V3 – to myself	v17 – to meet the Lord
V3 – be where I am	v17 – ever be with the Lord

III. Different perspectives regarding The Return of Christ.

- a. What is God's plan for Israel?
- b. Do you read the Bible literally (observing literary devices and genres, or allegorically?)

IV. The Return of Christ can be described as ONE EVENT with 2 phases.

- a. His first coming was His birth
- b. His second coming has 2 phases.
 1. Rapture
 2. Glorious Appearing

V. What happens at Rapture?

- a. a shout
- b. the voice of the archangel
- c. the sound of a trumpet.

Numbers 10:2-6 ² "Make two trumpets of hammered silver to summon the community^a and have the camps set out. ³ When both are sounded in long blasts, the entire community is to gather before you at the entrance to the tent of meeting. ⁴ However, if one is sounded, only the leaders, the heads of Israel's clans,^a are to gather before you. ⁵ "When you sound short blasts, the camps pitched on the east^a are to set out. ⁶ When you sound short blasts a second time, the camps pitched on the south^a are to set out. Short blasts are to be sounded for them to set out. ⁷ When calling the assembly together, you are to sound long blasts, not short ones.

- d. clouds in the air.

VI. What happens next?

- a. Glorious body
- b. Jesus receives us to Himself.
- c. He presents us to the Father

1 Thessalonians 3:13 (NIV)...that He may ^aestablish your hearts blameless in holiness before ^cour God and Father at the ^{1d}coming of our Lord Jesus ^ewith all His ²saints.

d. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

1. THE CONCEPT:

1 Corinthians 3:12-15 ¹² Now if any man builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, ¹precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ ^aeach man's work will become evident; for ^bthe day will show it, because it is *to be* revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test ¹the quality of each man's work. ¹⁴ If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall ^areceive a reward. ¹⁵ If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet ^aso as through fire.

^{NIV} **1 Corinthians 4:5** Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 ⁹ Therefore also we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be ^apleasing to Him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before ^athe judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for ¹his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

2. THE TIMING:

Luke 14:12-14 ¹³ "But when you give a ¹reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be ¹blessed, since they ²do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at ^athe resurrection of the righteous."

^{NIV} **1 Peter 5:4** And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

^{CSB} **2 Timothy 4:8** In the future, there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me, but to all those who have loved His appearing

^{NAS} **Revelation 19:7** "Let us rejoice and be glad and ^agive the glory to Him, for ^bthe marriage of the Lamb has come and His ¹cbride has made herself ready." ⁸ And it was given to her to clothe herself in ^afine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the ^brighteous acts of the ¹saints.

3. THE PLACE: *the bema seat*

^{CSB} **Psalms 11:4** The LORD is in His holy temple; the LORD's throne is in heaven. His eyes watch; He examines ¹everyone.

Revelation 4:10-11 ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ¹¹ "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

4. THE JUDGE

John 5:22 The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son,

John 5:27 And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

1 Corinthians 4:5 ⁵ Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

5. THE JUDGMENT:

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

a. Good - *agathos*

b. Bad - *phaulos*

1 Corinthians 3:12-15 ¹² If anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, ¹³ each one's work will become obvious, for the day¹ will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire; the fire will test the quality of each one's work. ¹⁴ If anyone's work that he has built survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned up, it will be lost, but he will be saved; yet it will be like an escape through fire.¹

Galatians 3:3 Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? The purpose of this evaluation is not for judging sin, but for rewarding faithful service done in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

John 15:5 "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

6. THE LOSS:

a. Forfeit

b. Shame

1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him, so that when He appears we may have confidence and not shrink from Him in shame at His coming.

c. Joy that is greater than sorrow

1 Peter 4:13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

Jude 1:24-25 ²⁴ Now to Him who is able to protect you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless and with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God our Savior...

7. THE REWARDS

^{CSB} **1 Corinthians 3:8** Now the one who plants and the one who waters are equal, and each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

1. Praise –

1 Corinthians 4:5 ⁵ Therefore don't judge anything prematurely, before the Lord comes, who will both bring to light what is hidden in darkness and reveal the intentions of the hearts. And then praise will come to each one from God.

2. Honor –

^{NET} **1 Peter 1:7** Such trials show the proven character of your faith,¹³ which is much more valuable than gold – gold that is tested by fire, even though it is passing away¹⁴ – and will bring praise¹⁵ and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.¹⁶

Romans 2:6-7 ⁶ He will repay each one according to his works:^a ⁷ eternal life to those who by patiently doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; **Romans 2:10** glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does good, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek.

3. Glory –

4. Reigning with Christ –

^{NIV} **Matthew 19:28** Jesus said to (his disciples) them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

: ^{CSB} **2 Timothy 2:12** if we endure, we will also reign with Him.

When Jesus returns to earth to establish His millennial kingdom, Christians who have been faithful in this life will share in His reign and given positions of authority in the kingdom.

5. Service to our King -

Revelation 22:1-4 Then he showed me the river¹ of living water, sparkling like crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb^a ² down the middle of the broad street *of the city*. On both sides of the river was the tree of life¹ bearing 12 kinds of fruit, producing its fruit every month.^a The leaves of the tree are for healing the nations, ³ and there will no longer be any curse.^a The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city,¹ and His servants will serve Him. ⁴ They will see His face,^a and His name will be on their foreheads.^b

6. The incorruptible crown -

1 Corinthians 9:25 ²⁵ Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

7. The crown of rejoicing –

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 ¹⁹ For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? ²⁰ For you are our glory and joy.

8. *The crown of righteousness* -

2 Timothy 4:7-8 ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

9. *The crown of glory* -

1 Peter 5:2-4 ² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight,¹ not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you;² not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

10. *The crown of life* -

Revelation 2:10 ¹⁰ Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

James 1:12 ¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

Revelation 22:10-12 ¹⁰ Then he told me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near. ¹¹ Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy." ¹² "*BEHOLD, I AM COMING SOON! MY REWARD IS WITH ME, AND I WILL GIVE TO EVERYONE ACCORDING TO WHAT HE HAS DONE.*"