

## THE RAPTURE IS COMING

Bv: Dr. Hal Webb, Evangelist

*"Let not your heart be troubled; ye 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, ye may be also."* John 14:1-3.

In these last crucial days of God's dealings with man, it is glorious to be expecting His return to take His own to glory. I have been watching for this great event since my boyhood days when I was saved. This great promise of the Saviour is one of the end time prophecies yet to be fulfilled. The Bible is full of events predicted to happen, and careful reports that they did take place. What God says will happen has always occurred. and so His return should be of great interest to mankind. I believe God's next great event will be the Rapture of the saints from this earth. Let's study the event carefully. **(1). The Timing Of It's Occurrence:** *"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."* Matt. 24:36. The exact day and hour no man can predict. Even Jesus knew not the day and hour when He spoke in Mark 13:32. He, however, made it very plain that the timing was in the hand of His Father only. He predicted things would be as they were in the flood. *"But as the days of No'e were, so shall also the coming of the son of man be."* Matt. 24:37. The world will be going on as usual when suddenly He will come for His own. Certainly the end time events are set, and world conditions fit well into the end time prophecies. The final blood bath of 7 years, 1,260 days a horrendous tribulation will come but first *"and except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."* Matt. 24:22. Before the actual full

fury of the tribulation breaks, those of us who have trusted Christ will be lifted into the heavenlies. My question today, dear friend, is are you ready? **(2). The Events:** The latter part of Revelation has catalogued all the events that will occur. A number of churches are mentioned, with the last being the church of Laodicea, which pictures the sad condition of end time churches. They will be lukewarm, satisfied, wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.. Revelation 3:13-22. Certainly sounds like most of today's churches in these final days. There is no mention of the church after Rev. 3 through chapter 19. In Rev. 4 the elders are mentioned as being in heaven, in white robes, and casting their crowns at Jesus' feet. The presence of saints, judgment and rewards follows, so I firmly believe the bulk of the terrible time on earth will begin after the return of Christ for His church. Then only he who now letteth, until he be taken out of the way. *"And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his comin:"* II Thess 2:7&8. The antichrist will be revealed and the terrible end time battles begun. We, the true born again believers, will already be rejoicing in the Heavens above, and will take no part in the battles between man and God. **(3). The Description:** *"He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus."* Rev. 22:20. No one can be sure of the moment He will come for us, but it will be quick. Believers must expect Him at any moment, *"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ."* Phil. 3:20. We must always be ready. *"And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming."* I John 2:28. I love the story of the orphan boy in school who was told to clean his desk because the benefactor was coming. For a week he arrived early saying he wanted it to be

clean early. Next week, he stayed after school to clean so it could be ready for the man. Then he finally got it right. He took care of things at the desk all the time saying, "I don't know when he is coming so I'll keep it ready all the time." That is a great thought for all of us. Be nowhere, and be doing nothing that would bring shame when Jesus comes. The event could very well be yet today. The key is to be always ready. *"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. 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."* I Thess 4: 13-17. Our departure will be a leap into the Heavens with lost friends, and lost loved ones left behind. The bodies of saved loved ones will join us, but the rest of the dead will not move. What a glorious meeting we will have with those whose souls were ready to meet Jesus. We will all be clothed in new eternal bodies, and rejoice at the throne of God. The judgment will follow, and rewards and crowns will be rewarded. We will move into our new eternal homes to dwell forever in the joys of the Lord. Meanwhile, the earth will seethe with battles, and the judgment of God will destroy all the forces of man. God's plan will later unfold with many great things as during those days some 144,000 Jews will believe, and be saved. Later events will put every sinner into Hell to scream and suffer forever. Oh, dear friend make sure you are saved, and a true child of God. When the Rapture happens it will be too late to get right with God. Do it now today, before the opportunity is gone forever. Then you can join us in our heavenly blast off to glory. There are ten decisions that would be great for all of us to make. Please

check out each scripture carefully. Here are a string of ten Be's that would be good further study.

\*\*\*\*\*

- 11). Be Watchful:..... Matt. 24:42.
- (2). Be Diligent:.....I Cor. 15:58.
- (3). Be Faithful:.....I Cor. 10:31.
- (4). Be Separated:.....Titus 2:12&13.
- (5). Be Service Minded:...Mark 16:15
- (6). Be Focused:.....Titus 2: 12&13.
- (7). Be Unwasteful:.....Eph. 5:16.
- (8). Be Loving:..... Matt. 22:37.
- (9). Be Fruitful:.....John 15:4.
- (10). Be Ready:.....Matt. 24:44.

\*\*\*\*\*

My 84 year old heart has caused me to know time is short. I heard of a man who heard a sermon on *"It is appointed unto man once to die."* After being saved he thought it over and the following Sunday told the preacher in the Rapture he would holler, "Cancel that appointment!" You and I can do the same if it happens today. The sad thing about the Rapture, it will be like the days of Noah. They ridiculed as he built a boat in a land that had never flooded. They scoffed as the door was shut by God, but soon they were screaming up the sides, trying to hang on for their very lives. Soon the last one slid back into the water and the ship lifted and sailed away. Dear friend, many of us are about to sail away. It is not too late for you, by faith, to get aboard. The inhabitants of the earth will soon feel the mighty wrath of the God they have ridiculed and refused. The Rapture will remove millions of believers and their bodies from the earth which will face the final wrath of our eternal God. You do not need to join the screams of despair, but prepare to leap with us into the air. There is yet room in the USS Rapture, now loading everywhere all who will believe in Jesus Christ to save, and give them eternal life. Just think of beginning life anew in Heaven with all the redeemed of the ages. Come on, get aboard! Perhaps today! Or tomorrow!

