

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

The Rapture of the Church
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18



SYNOPSIS

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 outlines the blueprint of the Rapture, highlighting Jesus's descent, a commanding voice, an archangel's call, and a trumpet sound, followed by believers being caught up to meet the Lord in the air.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the Rapture of the Church?
2. What will be the sequence of events during the Rapture?

3. How quickly will the Rapture happen?

4. What will be the impact of the Rapture on those left behind?

5. What is the significance of the trumpet call in relation to the Rapture?

6. How should believers respond to the teaching about the Rapture?

FURTHER STUDY

Luke 12:40

John 14:1-3

1 Corinthians 6:14

2 Corinthians 4:14

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

ANSWER KEY

1. The Rapture is a future event described in the Bible where all living Christians, along with those who have died in Christ, will be instantaneously taken up to Heaven. This event is described as happening in "the twinkling of an eye" and will involve believers being caught up to meet the Lord in the air.
2. According to 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a loud command, the voice of the archangel, and the trumpet call of God. The Christians who have died will rise first, and then those who are still alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.
3. The Bible indicates that the Rapture will occur very rapidly, "in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye" (1 Corinthians 15:52). This suddenness is emphasized as a rescue operation, suggesting that it will happen unexpectedly.
4. The departure of all believers from the earth will likely result in massive chaos, confusion, despair, and fear among those who are left behind. The removal of such a significant portion of the global population will undoubtedly lead to unprecedented societal upheaval.
5. The trumpet call mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 4:16 and 1 Corinthians 15:52 is significant as trumpets were historically used to assemble people. In the context of the Rapture, it signals the time for believers to be gathered to the Lord. It is referred to as the "last trumpet" in 1 Corinthians, indicating a final gathering event for the church before another phase of God's plan unfolds.
6. Believers are encouraged to live in a state of readiness, as the Lord's return will be at an unexpected time (Luke 12:40, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2). They are also called to encourage one another with the hope of the Rapture, reminding each other that Jesus is coming soon and to focus on heavenly matters (1 Thessalonians 4:18).