

## RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH (Part Two)

In our [last lesson](#) we studied the Greek word **harpazo** (caught up) used for Rapture in (1 Thess.4:17). We learned that harpazo (f.a.ind.1pl) was transliterated by Latin into **Rapture**.

(1 Thess.4:15) “For this we say, to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain **until the coming (ten parousia) of the Lord** (ten parousia/ asf/ noun) will not precede those who have fallen asleep.”

**This lesson will study five aspects of Rapture of the Church by focusing on the Greek word Parousia.**

### 1. The Greek noun ‘Parousia’ was used to as a theological term to describe the beginning of the event of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

- **Parousia** is a compound Greek noun. This noun consists of preposition **para** (with) plus **ousia** (ptc. form of **eimi**/ asq of existence) of the Lord.
- Therefore, **Parousia** refers to the event of the arrival of the presence of a well-known expected important person.

The anonym of parousia (presence) is apousia (absence) contrasted in (Phil.2:12) - “So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in **my presence (parousia)** only, but now much more in **my absence (apousia)**, work out your salvation with fear and trembling for it is God who is at work in you both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”

### 2. In the Book of 1 Thessalonians, four references are given to the Second Coming (Parousia) of Jesus Christ (1 Thess. 2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:23).

We read (1 Thess.4:15) in our introduction “Until the coming of the Lord.”

- (1 Thess.2:19) “For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord at His coming (te parousia)?”
- (1 Thess.3:13) “So that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness (hagiosune) before our God and Father at **the coming (te parousia) of our Lord Jesus** with all His saints (ton hagios).”
- (1 Thess.5:23) “Now may **the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely**; and may your spirit and soul and body be **presented complete** without blame **at the coming (te parousia) of our Lord Jesus Christ** (phase 3 sanctification in the plan of God for the CAB/ church age believer).”

## SANCTIFICATION

- **Phase I Salvation**
  - (1 Cor.6:11; 2 Thess.2:13-14)
- **Phase II Christian way of life**
  - (2 Tim.2:21; 1 Pet.3:15-16; 1 Thess.4:3-7)
- **Phase III Eternity**
  - (1 Thess.3:13)(1 Thess.5:23) [Sanctify you entirely]

**3. We are told that the Rapture of Church will be a meeting between the Godhead (God the Father; God the Son; and God the Spirit).**

(1 Thess.4:14) “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him (Jesus) those who have fallen asleep.”

**Paul declares this meeting will take place in (2 Thess.2:1-12).**

(2 Thess.2:6) “And you know what restrains him (antichrist of Tribulation) so that in his time he will be revealed.”

**NOTE:** What restrains evil in the world during the Church Age is the Indwelling Holy Spirit in the life of every Church Age believer. (John 16:7-15) “And when He comes, He will convict the world”.

**4. The Parousia event of the Rapture will take place in the atmosphere of the earth (sky, birds, airplanes, clouds, and rainbow).**

(1 Thess.4:17) “Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with the Lord **in the cloud** to meet them **in the air**, and so we shall always be with the Lord.”

**This will fulfill the prophecy given by the two angels at the Ascension of Jesus in (Acts 1:9-11).**

(Acts 1:11) “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up into heaven, **will come in just the same way** as you have watch Him go into heaven.”

**5. The absence of Jesus from the earth during the Church Age was taught by Jesus at the Last Supper in (John 14:1-6).**

**Jesus said to them:**

(John 14:1-2) “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me”.

(John 14:2) “In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you”.

- What’s the purpose?
- Where is the Father’s house? (2 Cor.12:2-4)

(John 14:3) “**If** I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also.”

**NOTE:** “**If** (1 Class Condition = True) “I go and prepare a place for you” (and I do!)

**Thomas said:**

(John 14:5) “We do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?”

**What was His answer?**

**What four promises did Jesus give us (John 14:3-6)?**

“If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas \*said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus \*said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”