****

**LAST DAYS PROPHECY Series (Part 1)**

***“Believe, Be Ready, Be Comforted!”***

**> Embrace three keys in the last days?**

***- Key #1 – BELIEVE that the RAPTURE could happen today!***

# *- Key #2 – Be READY like ENOCH! (Genesis Ch. 5)*

***- Key #3 – Let US be COMFORTED!***

***> Key #1 – BELIEVE that the RAPTURE could happen today!***

**> The RAPTURE is described primarily in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 1 Corinthians 15:50-54; along with supplemental passages in John 14:1-3; Matthew chapters 24 and 25; as well as Revelation 3:7-13.**

**Elsewhere it is used to describe how the Spirit *caught up* Philip near Gaza and brought him to Caesarea (**[**Acts 8:39**](http://net.bible.org/#!bible/Acts+8%3A39)**) and to describe Paul’s experience of being *caught up* into the third heaven (**[**2 Cor. 12:2-4**](http://net.bible.org/#!bible/2+Cor.+12%3A2-4)**). Thus there can be no doubt that the word is used in** [**1 Thessalonians 4:17**](http://net.bible.org/#!bible/1+Thessalonians+4%3A17) **to indicate the actual removal of people from earth to heaven.**

**The word “RAPTURE” is not found in the Bible, however, the Latin translation gives us the word *“rapturo”* for the Greek word *“harpazo”* which is used in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 - *Then we who are alive and remain shall be CAUGHT UP together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*  The “*rapturo / harpazo”*, that is “*caught up”* or *“snatching away”* of the church is the event in which God removes all born again believers, that is the *“bride of Christ”* from the earth in order to make way for His righteous judgment to be poured out on the wicked during the tribulation (commonly call “The Great Tribulation”) period against a godless, unrighteous, Christ rejecting world; also known as the *70th week of Daniel* (Daniel 9:24-27), *“the time of Jacob’s trouble”* (Jer. 30:7). God will once again fight for His people Israel!**

# *> Key #2 – Be READY like ENOCH! (Genesis Ch. 5)*

**- The first “rapture” is found in the Old Testament with Enoch, before God’s wrath was poured out on a fully corrupted world at the time of the flood with Noah (this judgment comes in Genesis Ch. 6 – 7). We notice in verse 23, *“he was not,”* meaning he no longer existed, that is on earth, *“for God took him,”* which means “to take away.” Let us make an important observation, which is after each person’s life we find it says, *“and he died,”* but not so with Enoch, *“he was not, for God took him.”***

**> In the New Testament we find further confirmation of this rapture in Hebrews 11:5-6 - *By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.***

**To *“diligently seek”* is the Greek word ‎*ekzeteo*, which means *to search out, i.e. (figuratively) to investigate, crave, demand, (by Hebraism) worship*.**

**- ENOCH’S name means *“DEDICATED!”***

**- Let us learn from ENOCH’S DEDICATED WALK OF FAITH:**

**#1 - *By FAITH* (*Enoch was taken*) – Our faith is taught in Romans 10:8-13 - *But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."* (cp. Gen. 4:26)**

***-* Romans 10:17 - *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.***

**- Let us receive counsel from Psalm 1.**

**#2 – *ENOCH PLEASED GOD!* – How do we please God? We continue to live by faith in God! - 1 John 5:4-5 - *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?***

**#3 – *ENOCH WALKED WITH GOD!* (Gen. 5:22,23).**

**- Let us walk with God:**

**Galatians 5:16-25 – Walk in the SPIRIT!**

**Ephesians 5:1- – Walk in LOVE! Walk in LIGHT! Walk in WISDOM!**

**#4 – Enoch was a PROPHET of God, are WE?**

**Jude 14-15 - *Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints* (cp. Rev. 19:11-20), *to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."***

**> The church, all believers walking with God, proclaiming the Word of God will be raptured (Mt. 24:36-42; 25:1-13; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-57; Rev. 3:7-13), just like Enoch before the wrath of God is poured out during the Great Tribulation (Mt. 24:21)!**

***> Key #3 – Let US be COMFORTED!***

**- Remember what Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - *But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede***

***those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.***

**- Let US now turn to Revelation 19:1-10 and discover the great comfort we will have forever and ever!**

**- Regarding the *“marriage supper of the Lamb”* Warren Wiersbe gives excellent insight on this momentous event, he writes, "What did the bride wear?" is the usual question asked after a wedding. The Lamb's bride is dressed *"in the righteous acts of the saints"* (literal translation). When the bride arrived in heaven at the judgment Seat of Christ (1 Corinthians 3:12-15; 4: 2 Corinthians 5:10), she was not at all beautiful (in fact, she was covered with *spots, wrinkles, and blemishes* according to Paul in Ephesians 5:25-27 *- Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.)* ; but now she is radiant in her glory. She has "made herself ready" for the public ceremony.**

**Jewish weddings in that day were quite unlike weddings in the Western world. First, there was an engagement, usually made by the parents when the prospective bride and groom were quite young. This engagement was binding and could be broken only by a form of divorce. Any unfaithfulness during the engagement was considered adultery.**

**When the public ceremony was to be enacted, the groom would go to the bride's house and claim her for himself. He would take her to his home for the wedding supper, and all the guests would join the happy couple. This feast could last as long as a week.**

**Today, the church is "engaged" to Jesus Christ; and we love Him even though we have not seen Him (1 Peter 1:8). One day, He will return and take His bride to heaven (John 14:1-6; 1 Thess 4:13-18). At the Judgment Seat of Christ, her works will be judged, and all her spots and blemishes removed. This being completed, the church will be ready to return to earth with her Bridegroom at the close of the Tribulation to reign with Him in glory (see Luke 13:29; Matt 8:11).**