



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – July 6, 2025

Heart to Heart...

The next few weeks I would like to address the doctrine taught and believed by many called "*the rapture*." Why does one believe in this doctrine of "*the rapture*?" It cannot be because they have personally studied it out in Scripture and reached the conclusion that Jesus failed to establish His kingdom on earth. "*The rapture*" teaching involves that Jesus is coming back to establish His kingdom on earth, which He has already done. In Daniel 2, King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream which God allowed Daniel to interpret for him. In this dream there were 5 kingdoms to reign on this earth, the Babylonians, the Medes- Persian with King Cyrus, the Greeks under Alexander the Great and finally Rome, the last ruling kingdom during the life of Jesus. In Daniel 2:44, it says, ***"In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever."*** Did God lie? When the apostles met with Jesus in Matthew 16:19, Jesus promised them the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Did Jesus lie to them? In I Corinthians 15 Paul discusses the notion that some were saying there was no resurrection of Jesus. It was false teaching Paul had to address in the chapter. Paul teaches that in the end all things will be handed over to the God and Father and Jesus will hand the kingdom back over to Him. (I Cor. 15:24) The kingdom of God is already here in existence NOW and the apostles had the keys to it to allow entrance by their teaching of the truth. Why do some teach a doctrine Jesus is come back to establish His kingdom on earth. Jesus taught in Luke 17:21: ***Nor will they say, 'Look here it is!' or 'There it is!' For behold the kingdom of God is already in your midst."*** We can see from these the kingdom of God is already established here and Jesus established it giving the keys to His apostles. The doctrine of "*the rapture*" completely violates all these Scriptures and more speaking that God was not honest nor was Jesus when He established His kingdom on this earth in the first century. It was the Holy Spirit that inspired these apostles that delivered the first sermon after the resurrected Christ that it was all worked

out by the counsel and foreknowledge of God. Just read Acts 2 and Acts 4 and you will see the apostles using the keys to the kingdom allowing those who truly believe entrance to save man.

The term “*rapture*” is derived from the Latin word “*rapture*.” It simply means to be “snatched or caught away.” This doctrine simply teaches that Christians will not be involved in the great seven-year tribulation as described in Revelation because the Lord will come and secretly “snatch them away” from the earth and be with Him during this time period. They further teach that the return of Jesus will be in two phases (which are not found in Scripture). After the seven years of tribulation, Jesus will return and establish His kingdom on earth and reign for one thousand years. This term “*rapture*” is not found in Scripture. We will look at this further next week. Remember, keep Scriptures in context and never overlook what is being discussed. Think about it!!!

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