



"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 13, 2025

Heart to Heart...

The premillennial doctrine called "*the rapture*" is a false concept. The term means "to be snatched or taken away." You may have heard teachings of how cars will be abandoned by their drivers, people vanishing from gatherings suddenly. This doctrine teaches that some will be secretly caught up with the Lord with the rest left behind. They get this teaching from Revelation 16 and 20. The abuse of the book of Revelation is what prompted a lot of this. Most do not realize that Revelation is completed and happened with the defeat of Rome in the 1st century. Revelation 1:1-5 gives us the time frame of the book. Many just overlook this and develop all sorts of doctrines to fit their personal thinking. It was written specifically to the 7 churches in Asia. Their day and time. Being full of symbols, the book explains itself and the meanings of those symbols. It comes with a strict warning to anyone who adds or takes away. This is why I have taught the book of Revelation several times here because of all the false narrative.

Two primary Scripture are used for the doctrine of "*the rapture*." I Thessalonians 4:13-18 and Matthew 24:36-42. The false narrative of "*the rapture*" teaches the return of Jesus will be in two phases. The first phase they teach is 1Thessalonians 4:13-18. But we need to note carefully that Paul is informing the church at Thessalonica that he was teaching them what happened to the believers who died, what is their fate. Paul explains exactly that they were safe: ***"But we do not want you to be uniformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep 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 not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Chris twill rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord."*** Notice there will be no

quietly “snatching” anyone away. A shout. The trumpet of God, it will be evident to all. In the Matthew 24 context, Jesus is discussing the fall of Jerusalem. Just read Matthew 24:1-3 and what Jesus was pointing out to those disciples. In the middle of Matthew 24 Jesus claims, ***“Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.”*** (24:34) Again, the misuse of Scripture to come up with a doctrine.

This premillennialist doctrine says all this will take place at the tribulation mentioned in Revelation. They tie the second phase of Christ’s return to I Corinthians 15:50-55. You need to turn and read it. Paul gives three indicators when all this happens: (1) *At the last trumpet.* (v.52) This is a big problem for *“the rapture”* doctrine. Premillennialists teach that this will happen at the tribulation. The last trumpet they say will not be for another thousand years. When does the apostle Paul teach it will happen? The last trumpet. (2) *When the dead are raised.* There are not two resurrections. This is the one and same as spoken in I Thessalonians 4. Scriptures teach there is only one resurrection of the dead. (3) *When death is swallowed up in victory.* (v.54) *“The rapture”* false doctrine teaches the wicked do not rise until after Jesus thousand-year reign of establishing His kingdom on earth. We showed that last week. His kingdom is here NOW. If Jesus defeats death, why do they teach people stay dead for a thousand years? If the coming of Jesus, death is not conquered, has Paul lied?

Please don’t get taken in by this premillennialist teaching. Read the Scriptures carefully. Think about it!!!

Brent