

WORD OF THE WEEK

The Subject: Rapture and Second Coming: When?

I Corinthians 15:51, 52 -- *we shall all be changed - In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump*

last - Greek: eschatos - farthest; final; Thayer says, "the trumpet after which no other will sound."

Matthew 24:29-31 -- *Immediately "after the tribulation" of those days -- he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*

Matthew 24:27 -- *For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the ~ of the son of man be.*

coming - Greek: parousia - to arrive; physical presence

II Thessalonians 1:7, 8 -- *the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven -- In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

II Thessalonians 2:8 -- (speaking of Christ destroying antichrist/man of sin) -- *the Lord shall consume (the wicked one) with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming (parousia)*

brightness - Greek: Epiphaneia - to shine upon; visible to all

Rapture is a Latin word that means to be carried away with joy. Paul says that those who obey the gospel will all be gathered and caught up to meet the Lord in the air (I Thess. 4:17; II Thess. 2:1) and saved from the fiery destruction of the wrath of God (Rev. 19:12). There will be a brightness (visible presence), as the lightning shineth from east to west, at his coming (parousia). This coming (parousia) will be with a shout (war-cry) (I Thess. 4:15,16) when Jesus declares war on his enemies (Rev. 14:14-20; 19:11-20). Every time this word coming is used in scripture, it speaks of a visible physical presence (Matt. 24:3,27,37,39; I Cor. 15:23; I Thess. 2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:23; II Thess. 2:1,8). John speaks of 7 trumpets of judgment in Rev. 8-10. John says that the "mystery of God" will be finished at the sounding of the 7th trumpet (Rev. 11:7,15). The last (eschatos) trumpet (after which no other will sound) will be this last trumpet of judgment and victory, as with Joshua's 7th trumpet and shout (Josh. 6:16-20). This "mystery of God" in Rev. 10 is defined by Paul: "that the gentiles should be fellow heirs" (The N.T. church - Eph. 3:1-6) with the Jews (The O.T. church - Acts 7:38). The Jew and Gentile will become one body (Col. 3:15; Eph. 3:6) which is the church (Col. 1:18,24). Old Testament Israel is betrothed to Christ (Hosea 2:19,20). (Jewish betrothal was irreversible). The New Testament Church is also betrothed to Christ (Eph. 5:23,24,32). "Wife" is the betrothed title of the Jewish bride (our word fiancée). The wife was not called the bride until the night she was taken away to the house of the bridegroom's father (John 14:1-3). The church is still the "wife" in Rev. 19:7 having made herself ready for the coming of the bridegroom that she may be his bride. These are the keys to the time element of the rapture: The brightness of his coming (parousia), the last (eschatos) trumpet (after the tribulation of those days), when the mystery of God (church) is finished, and the betrothal to Israel and the New Testament church (spiritual Israel - Rom. 2:28, 29; 9:6; 11:7; Gal. 6:16). Church, prepare, we will surely see tribulation.

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