

The 'Discipleship Check List' Transcript

A GV247.TV Programme presented by Stewart Menelaws

DCL No14: Resurrection & Rapture:

This series is for any Christian believer who is either at the very beginning of their journey with Jesus Christ or has been a believer for some years but lacks a sound understanding of the Christian faith. It should also prove to be a helpful aid which interlinks with all our resources for Shepherds, Overseers and Believers reaching out to others.

Resurrection / Rapture - What is it? (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

Jesus Christ died and rose again – He is the first fruits of the resurrection programme (1 Cor 15:20) whereby all who have put their trust in Him have been promised that they will not die, for death has no hold over the disciple of Christ (1 Cor 15:50-58) who will be gathered to Him.

This is our wonderful hope (Titus 2:13) for all those who have trusted in their Saviour Who has gone ahead into the heavenly dimension to prepare a place for His own (John 14:3) whereby He will return to gather all who have trusted in Him (1 Thess 4:16-17) whether their body has long since perished or whether still alive at His coming.

It's at this time that we receive the goal of our faith - the salvation – the rescue of your soul (Heb 9:28 & 1 Pet 1:8-9). Even angels long to look into this stupendous event (1 Pet 1:10-12) What a Saviour – what a promise!

Jesus came for a reason: (John 3:16)

In essence Jesus came to rescue us – that is the meaning of Salvation and if you've not done so already, please go back to DCL 1 and build upon a solid understanding of sound doctrine. DCL 2 covers the doctrine of Salvation.

Jesus explained to His disciples that He was going to prepare a place for them and He would return for them. He made it clear to Pontius Pilate the Roman governor that His Kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36) and in 1 Corinthians 15:50 Paul explains, that flesh and blood cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven therefore you require a new type of body for your soul/spirit – again seen in John 3:3 - you need to be born of the spirit.

Christ's first coming as Saviour was necessary to begin the process that would save our souls/spirits (John 3:16). Christ has made it clear that He alone is the resurrection and the life and whoever puts their trust in Him shall never die (John 11:25).

We also read that upon His crucifixion - Christ entered the spiritual dimension of the dead to speak to the spirits in prison (1 Pet 3:18-20). This is often aligned with Paul's mention of Psalm 68:18 in Ephesians 4:8-9 where it speaks of the Saviour freeing the captives. Once again we are limited in our understanding of these multi-dimensional locations – what we can understand is, that The Lord's dealings with every human soul will be just and true.

The believer in Christ is told that once they depart this world – they are with Christ - in the heavenly dimension known as Paradise where the Tree of Life resides (Luke 23:43 - 2 Cor 12:2-5 – Rev 2:7).

There are various scriptures that make it clear that believers are conscious. Jesus said He is not the God of the dead but of the living (Matt 22:32). Moses and Elijah who had passed away hundreds of years before, met with The Lord on the mountain (Matt 17:1-8). We see the souls in revelation asking The Lord when everything will be fulfilled and they are told to be patient (Rev 6:9-11).

What happens to the body?

Since the fall of mankind and his expulsion from the Garden of Eden (Gen 3:23-24) thereby stopping him from partaking of the Tree of Life that would give him eternal life (Gen 3:22). Mankind has since faced both spiritual and physical death. Spiritual death is a separation from God's heavenly dimension.

The bible tells us that when the human body dies, its soul/spirit remains alive and is held within a dimensional realm awaiting judgement. Either the 'grave' for those who do not know Jesus Christ (Isa 14:9) – they tragically will end up at the Great White Throne Judgement (Rev 20:11-15) and for those who have trusted in Christ – 'paradise / third heaven' (Luke 23:43 & 2 Cor 12:2-5) to await judgement at Christ's seat of mercy (Rom 14:10-12 & 1 Cor 3:10-15 & 2 Cor 5:1-10).

(See also DCL 13 – what is Hell?). We read about the resurrection in Isaiah 14:9 and Isaiah 26:19.

In Daniel 12:2 we read:-

“Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt”

In John's Gospel 5:28-29 - we read:-

“Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment”

A celestial body is given to those whose names are in the Book of Life which Jesus likened to that of an angelic body (Luke 20:35-36) although do not confuse this with actually becoming an angel. We also note that the institution of marriage will no longer be applicable – one may ascertain that there will be no male or female form – or at least as we understand it. It is the Apostle Paul who gives us greater detail on this topic in 1 Corinthians 15:35-58.

In due course our earthly body will perish and while we do not know what we will be, we will be like Him (1 John 3:2-3).

When does this event happen?

For those believers whose bodies have perished, we understand this coming event as the resurrection of the dead-in-Christ and for those believers still alive at His coming to gather both together in the air - we understand this as the rapture or the catching-up.

There are a number of viewpoints regarding this topic – notably around its timing, however scripture only gives a general overview of what we need to know at this point in time. In 1 Thessalonians 4:16 we are told that at some point Christ will return for His people and will gather them in the air (1 Thess 4:17), both those who have passed away and those who are still living. This event is for those whose names are written in His book of life (Rev 3:5). The rest of the dead who stand condemned are held until the Great White Throne Judgement (Rev 20:11-15).

Now, we must not confuse this coming for His own in the air with His physical return to the Earth itself to judge the nations and condemn the Beast and the False prophet (Rev 19:19-21), and to incarcerate Satan for 1000 years (Rev 20:2-3)

When Christ physically returns to Earth, every eye will see Him (Rev 1:7). He will come to the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem (Zech 14:3-9) via Edom and Bozrah which is in Jordan (Isa 63:1-6) and will gather the peoples of the nations into judgement (Matt 25:31-46) in the valley of decision (Joel 3:14) generally considered to be The Kidron Valley which separates the Mt. of Olives and The Temple Mt. In Jerusalem.

This topic is covered in greater detail when undertaking the study of Eschatology – The end of Things.

What is this rapture?

The Greek word used (Harpazo) means to be 'caught-up' (1 Thess 4:17) and the English translation (rapture is not actually used in the Bible) denotes that this is an event that is forceful. In 1 Corinthians 15:52 we read that it's in a flash - the twinkling of an eye – so in other words extremely quick.

Events that have a similarity and shed a little light on this subject can be seen with Enoch, who walked with God and then was no more because God took him away (Gen 5:24). Or where Elijah was taken away on a chariot (2 Kings 2:11-12). We see at the mount of transfiguration that Moses and Elijah appeared and disappeared (Matt 17:1-8) and of course we see Jesus go up into the sky in Luke 24:51 and Acts 1:9-11.

A word of encouragement:

A word of encouragement. We are told to encourage each other regarding this wonderful hope (1 Thess 4:18) and that when Christ returns He will have by His side His Called, Chosen and Faithful followers (Rev 17:14).

Final word:

May The Lord lead and guide you in your journey with Him.

The 'Discipleship Check List' series has been produced with the sole aim of encouraging the hearer / reader to study the Holy Bible so that faith in Jesus Christ will be built on Him alone. Every human work is fallible and whilst every effort has been made to represent the truths of God Almighty's Holy Words, this series is but an aid to help encourage study so that the Christian disciple of Jesus Christ will go onto maturity in the most Holy faith.

This is a GV247.TV (Global Vision TV) production. While this work may be copied and disseminated freely, under no circumstances can this work be re-edited, misrepresented or sold for financial gain.

All copies should have the credit: ©**Studio Scotland Ltd / Gv247.tv**

This series is a copyrighted work 2018 and unauthorised use of this work will be liable to prosecution.