

2 Peter 3:1-10 Jesus is Coming Back Part 2

Turn to 1 Thessalonians 4 mark – 1 Peter 3

It was an October afternoon in 1982, Badger Stadium in Madison, Wisconsin, was packed full of football fans

More than 60,000 die-hard University of Wisconsin supporters were watching their football team take on the Michigan State Spartans.

But It soon became obvious that Mich. State had the better team that day.

What **seemed odd, however,** as the score became more and more lopsided, there would be **these random bursts of applause and shouts of joy** from the Wisconsin fans.

How could they cheer when their team was losing so badly?

It turns out that 70 miles away the Milwaukee Brewers **were beating the St. Louis Cardinals in game three of the 1982 World Series.**

Many of the fans in the stands were listening to the World series on portable radios--and responding to something other than their immediate circumstances.

Other than what was right in front of them.

Now what those fans were doing that day is what the Bible encourages us to do every day. -

“We do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” 2 Corinthians 4:18

A)The word look in that Passage is Skopeo in the Greek and it means **to Fix your eyes on, to focus upon, to contemplate.**

B)So Paul is saying- We do not fix our eyes that which is seen,
1)because those things are temporary.

C)No we fix our eyes on that which is not seen – because that is eternal.

In other words

D)We view the present World through the prism of what the Bible says will happen in the future.

That is what Peter is reminding the church about here in 2 Peter 3 Beloved I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder),

A)Stir up = to awaken – to stimulate their minds – by way of reminder

B)Reminding them of the 2nd coming of Jesus
2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before **by the holy prophets**, and of the commandment of us, the **apostles** of the Lord and Savior, 3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.” 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. ¹⁰ **But the day of the Lord will come** as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Last week we began looking at the subject of the 2nd coming of Jesus.

A)Three comings – 1st coming to the earth – the lamb

B)2nd coming - to the earth – the Lion

1)Noted – V.3 Scoffers will come in the last days

C)Noted the Last Days began at the 1st coming of Jesus – culminate at the 2nd coming of Jesus

D)The time period between the 1st and 2nd comings of Jesus is known as the last days.

E)Noted 3rd coming – in-between the 1st and 2nd coming of Jesus is an event known as the rapture of the church

F)Jesus comes not to the earth but to the clouds – and his bride the church is caught up

1)Taken to heaven – to be with him – await the 2nd coming.

2) Paul writes about that in 1 Thessalonians 4

Before you turn there – I want you to notice a phrase that Peter mentions in V.10 **The day of the Lord**

A)The Day of the Lord is not talking about a specific day but also a time frame.

B)The Bible mentions this idea of the day of the Lord 86 times

1)Mentioned a lot by the OT prophets in describing a time of intense Judgment that comes upon planet earth

C)Here is what I want you to make note of today – when the Bible talks about the day of Lord

1)This idea of the rapture of the church is closely connected to it – see some examples

D)Many Bible scholars believe: The rapture is the event that starts that time period – the day of the...

Now last week we looked at verses 1-9 – the idea that in the last days – Scoffers will come where.....

A)We talked about the argument of the scoffers Then the rebuttal of the saints.

B)The theme of 2 Peter 3 is the 2nd coming

C)But I mentioned that there are those who like to scoff at the idea of the rapture

1)“You Christians have been talking about that forever and it hasn’t happened not going to happen”

D)Those left behind movies are a joke – washed up Nicolas Cage

In fact there are people I know who came to faith in Jesus during the Jesus people movement.

A)Some of them are no longer walking with the Lord today – because the rapture hasn’t happened.

B)They grew lethargic lost their excitement – became complacent – and then compromising – 1)to the point where today there are no longer even walking with the Lord.

C)A friend of mine summed up their problem this way: **They were very excited about the “coming of the Lord” but not the Lord who was coming**

D))Key: We are to be excited Jesus period – He is King – he is the center/ but he is coming –

1) in the mean time – we are all about him

So there are unbelievers who scoff and those no longer walking who Scoff at the idea of the rapture –

A)But there are also believers who don’t even believe in the rapture

B)I know Pastors who don’t **even believe this is a Biblical idea** – friends- men who love Jesus –

C)This idea is growing in popularity today especially among younger generation of pastors.

So today I want to stir up your mind by way of reminder and talk about the rapture.

A)Why it is a Biblical concept – how the early church was anticipating it

Turn 1 Thessalonians 4

¹³ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, (died) lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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. 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. ¹⁸ **Therefore comfort one another with these words.**

So Paul is describing an event that is going to happen where those who have died knowing Jesus

A) Are going to be joined together with those who are alive and remain

B) I don't have the time to discuss how the dead rise first – there are differing opinions –

1) 1 Thessalonians series on the web or app

C) But I want you to notice V.16 -17 again ¹⁶ **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. 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.**

Here is where this idea of the rapture originates.

A) **V.17 “Caught up” – Greek word Harpazo = to be snatched away.**

B) “to be grabbed by the collar and taken up with force.”

C) V.17 – Those who are alive and remain will be caught up = **snatched away.**

D) The Latin form of the Greek word Harpazo is **raptus** from which we get our English word – **RAPTURE.**

E) So that is where the wording comes from. – **Other uses of Harpazo**

A) Acts 8:38 “the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away....”

B) 2 Corinthians 12:8 **Paul was caught up into the 3rd Heaven**

C) Acts 21 Paul is rescued by the Roman Soldier who grabbed him and pulled him from the mob.

D) Here is what is interesting about these uses –

someone is being taken by someone else

1) Event that is beyond their power and control

The Characteristics of this event V.16

A) The Lord Himself will descend! – Jesus himself is coming

B) He comes to the clouds – there is a shout – from the voice of an archangel and then a trumpet blast

C) Will we hear all of that? – Not sure – but my guess is yes or why would it be mentioned

D) The Trumpet of God – trumpet sounds

E) The Church is caught up to meet Jesus in the air

And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Then as you continue reading into chapter 5 it says

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ² For you yourselves know perfectly that **the day of the Lord** so comes as a thief in the night. ³ For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them,

Paul is describing this day of the Lord that is coming upon planet earth – this day of judgment

A) Mingled in this language is this picture of the rapture – the Lord coming for his church

B) Ch.5:9 The church that is not appointed unto wrath – but to obtain salvation

C) Comfort and edify one another – with these words

This is our Hope this is something to look forward to. This is what we are waiting for.

A) The Lord takes his Church to heaven – wedding feast and celebration

B) Await the 2nd coming – where we come with him from heaven.

C) Now if you have been a part of a Calvary Chapel –

You are very familiar with this idea.

D) But what you may not know is there is controversy surrounding this teaching.

See there are Bible teachers who don't believe this is talking about the rapture as we see it at all –

A) They teach this is talking about the 2nd coming
The analogy of a Roman victory parade

B) The custom was when a Roman general would return from a Victorious battle –

1) The people of the city would come out of the city to welcome the general and his troops home

C) The people of the city would join the parade – and come into the city with the general

So there are good Bible teachers – people who love Jesus – who think this is what this is talking about

A) I wouldn't call them scoffers – although sometimes they can be condescending – “you believe.....

B) Part of the reason they think this is talking about the 2nd coming is this:

1) They say this idea of the rapture is a new concept in the church

C) This is a concept that introduced by a Plymouth Brethren pastor named John Darby in 1830

D) They advocate that prior to 1830 it was never talked about or believed

So they claim Darby introduced the idea and then C.I. Scofield wrote it into the notes of his Scofield study Bible

A) More Popularity

B) Then in the 60's 70's really took off when Pastors like Hal Lindsey – late great planet earth

1) Chuck Smith – John Walvoord made this teaching popular

C) Only Popular in the states – most of the world doesn't believe in this idea of the rapture

So let's consider this theory:

A) First note: the type is different – the Roman victory parade the people knowingly go out to meet..

B) What Paul is describing here is – Christians being snatched – taken by the Lord – surprise

C) Also note Type = celebrating a Victory...parade

1) 2nd coming is War

Another thing to note: Did the early Church believe in the rapture before John Darby introduced the word?

A) Consider the Historic record

B) In 170AD there was a document that was being circulated thru the church “The Shepherd of Hermas”

C) It speaks of the pre-tribulational concept of escaping the tribulation.

“You have escaped from great tribulation on account of your faith, and because you did not doubt in the presence of such a beast.” The Shepherd of Hermas 1.4.2. (170AD)

Then in AD 373 Ephraim the Syrian wrote

“For all the saints and elect of God are gathered prior to the tribulation that is to come and taken up to be with the Lord lest they see the confusion that is to be overwhelming in the world because of sin. Most dearly beloved believe the Holy Spirit who speaks in us – now we have spoken before because the end of the world is near, we ought to understand brothers what is imminent – that is, all saints and the elect of the Lord will be gathered together in the clouds before the tribulation which is about to come and are taken to the Lord in the sky in order that they may not see at any time the confusion in the world which overwhelms this world because of sin.” Ephraim the Syrian - AD 373 – take from “The Book of the Cave Treasure” – Translated by Cameron Rodes of Tydale Theological Seminary

Here are some other examples you can research of early church fathers who spoke of the church being caught up and escaping the tribulation

- Tertullian (145-220AD) in his A Treatise on the Soul
- Treatises of Cyprian (200-258 AD)
- Victorinus – the Bishop of Gatow (270 AD)
- Jerome in the Latin Vulgate (400 AD)

Then later in the Reformation period

- 1600 - Reverend Dolacento
- 1627 – Joseph Matty
- 1627 - Increase Matther
- 1687 - Peter Jarue
- 1700 - John AsGil
- 1748 – John Gill

- 1763 – James McKnight
- 1744 – Morgan Edwards
- 1792 – Thomas Scott
- 1830 – John Darby

So to be accurate John Darby didn't start this idea

A) John Darby is in a long line of guys who believed this to be true

B) Are there other Biblical passages that point to this idea of the rapture

1 Corinthians 15:51-53

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed – { Nursery room slogan }

52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality

A) Note he is Describing a Change that takes place at the sound of a trumpet – **The last trumpet**

1) A Metamorphosis happens **A complete transformation** - Caterpillar becomes a butterfly

B) Corruptible puts on incorruption – new spiritual bodies – made for heaven

C) In a moment in the twinkling of an eye –

Pause here for a moment – Clear up a misconception about this trumpet blast –

A) Christians who believe the rapture will take place at the end of the tribulation –

B) Point to the 7th Trumpet in Revelation 11:15
THE LAST TRUMPET – that is blown in REV.

C) Here is what we need to understand about the Trumpets Blast in Revelation

1) Vs the Trumpet blast mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 4:16 – this one here called **the last trumpet**

The trumpets of Revelation 8–11 are blown by angels

A) The trumpet of 1 Thessalonians 4 is called the trumpet of *God*—

B) This is what Paul refers to in 1 Cor 15 as the last trumpet of God

C) The 1st trumpet of God was in Ex. 19 Voice of God like a Trumpet gathered Israel at Mt. Siani to Receive the Law

D) The Last Trumpet of God will be at the Rapture to gather the church the bride to Jesus
Come up here !!

The trumpet in 1 Corinthians 15 coincides with the one in 1 Thessalonians 4 – rapture passage

A) The reasons: - The audiences are different

B) the trumpets sounded in Revelation – the audience is the wicked world

1) 1 Thessalonians 4 and 1 Cor 15 – the audience is the Church

C) **The results are different:**

- ❖ Revelation it is further judgment upon a godless world.

- ❖ 1 Thess 4 / 1 Cor 15 it is the glorious catching up of the church to be with the Lord;

D) **Important to understand the distinction**

Two places where Jesus taught on the rapture: #1 John 14:1-3

A) Set the scene **LAST NIGHT** – upper room **tough words** – Leaving – Betray forsake Peter Deny.....

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. ~ John 14:1-3

Notice a few things here: Jesus says – I am going to my Father's house to prepare a place = Heaven

A) That is where Jesus ascended to and remains – Preparing for us } 2,000 yrs

B) But then Jesus says – I will come again **to receive** you to myself that where I am, there you may be also.

C) Note that Jesus doesn't say – I will come again and set up my kingdom here on earth **NO! That's the 2ND COMING**

1) **I WILL COME AGAIN – TO TAKE YOU TO this place that I have been preparing for you!**

D) Jesus is clearly talking about coming to take them to Heaven.

Here is where this gets interesting:

A) The word receive that Jesus uses is the word *paralambano* — sounds like **Italian restaurant** - which means to take to one's self

B) That is what the rapture is describing – Jesus is coming in the clouds to take the church to himself

Listen to some of the ways it is used – Matthew 1:20

⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. ²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, **“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife,** for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

B) TAKING A BRIDE

Luke 9:10 – **Jesus disciples come back after a time of mission work**

¹⁰ And the apostles, when they had returned, told Him all that they had done. Then He took them and went aside privately into a deserted place.

Parallel passage in Mark 6:30 **“Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.”**

TAKE TO REST

On the MT or transfiguration Now after six days Jesus took: **{Paralambano}** Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; ² and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

Taken by Jesus up on the MT to see Him in his glory

What happens at Rapture – his bride taken to be with Jesus in Heaven — see him in his glory

With that picture in mind – I want to draw your attention to one more passage Turn to Matthew 24

A) A passage that has great prophetic implications

³ Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, **“Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”**

B) Context – your coming and the end of the age

C) Jesus says – signs, Wars and earthquakes – pestilences and pandemics

1) V.8 Beginning of sorrows birth pangs –

D) Closer more frequent and intense

Then He describes the intensity of the tribulation time – Anti-Christ - Abomination of Desolation

A) Flee to the mountains – pray not on the Sabbath – very Jewish

B) But then he pauses in this description to say this

³⁶ **“But **of that day** and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.** ³⁷ But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and did not know until the flood came and **took them all away,** so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

C) Idea is business as usual doing business – weddings/ party's

D) But then he says this:

⁴⁰ Then two *men* will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two *women* will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left..

What is this talking about? –

A) There are those who believe this is talking about people being taken to Judgment during the tribulation by the Antichrist

B) Makes sense – because that does seem to be The context is the tribulation time –

C) But I believe that this is one of those passages where we see the blending of the events of the day of the Lord. Rapture and Judgment

The reason is the language here is very interesting

A) 1st all notice V. 39

B) In V.39 Jesus describes how the flood came and took them all away.

1) The word took there in the original language is airo = means to be taken to judgment to kill –

C) The Flood was a clearly a time of judgment – business as usual ignoring the preaching of Noah

1) Flood came and took them – airo – destruction

But in V. 40, 41 he uses an entirely different word when he says –

A) Two men in the field and two women grinding – one taken the other left

B) The Word taken in the Greek is once again paralambano – to take to one's self

C) Context V.36 – No one knows the day or the hour of the Lord's coming –

D) That is not true of the 2nd coming – when the Antichrist comes on the scene – start counting 7 yrs

E) 3.5 year mark – Abomination..... counting

No one knows the day or the hour.... Rapture

⁴² Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect

When my Kids were young and my wife was away at a retreat:

A) We would let the house go – kids didn't clean their rooms

B) Dishes would pile up – Until about 2hrs before my wife got home – **MASS SCRAMBLE - CHAOS** –

C) If she came home early – we would be BUSTED.

It would have been so much better if we lived in anticipation of her arrival

A) Picked up as we went along - just ready

B) Well that obviously set a bad example and precedence with my kids

C) When they were in their teens – Home alone – they would do the same thing.

1) In Fact they would call sometimes – when are you guys coming home?

D) I knew what they were thinking – how much time do we have to pick up.

1) Sometimes to mess with them I would say 20 min

Jesus is saying: We need to be ready – we need to be living with an anticipation

A) When the rapture happens – there is not going to be time for a mass scramble –

B) Moment in the twinkling of an eye now you see me now you don't

C) Be right with Jesus now.

Life cannot be business as usual – MIGHT BE TODAY

Jesus proceeds to give 3 illustrations of readiness

A) V. 45-51 Faithful and wise servant who is doing what the master said to be doing

46 Blessed is that servant whom his master, **when he comes, will find so doing.**

B) Staying on MISSION - Being good stewards of what God has put into our hands

Parable of the Ten Virgins Ch.25:1-13

A) 5 had oil in their lamps 5 didn't –

B) Oil is symbolic of the Holy Spirit – 5 really saved and 5 who were not

C) Then a 2nd parable about using what God has given us

D) Parable of the talents

Gifts, talents, resources, are we using them purely for selfish means or eternal ones