

What About the Rapture: It's not what many are teaching! Consider these important points:

1. The key Bible reference: **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** 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 Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ 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.
 - a. Rapture: “caught up” in the Latin Vulgate is “ra-pie’mur” – meaning “to seize and carry off, snatch, tear, pluck, drag, hurry away” (Latin Word Study Tool). “rapiemur” is only used once in the Latin Vulgate.
 - b. Secret: Does anything in the text point to the catching up *being secret*? Y N
2. Some taken and some left: **Luke 17:30-36** “It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed. ³¹ On that day, the one who is on the housetop and whose goods are in the house must not go down to take them out; and likewise the one who is in the field must not turn back. ³² Remember Lot's wife. ³³ Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. ³⁴ I tell you, on that night there will be two in one bed; one will be taken and the other will be left. ³⁵ There will be two women grinding at the same place; one will be taken and the other will be left. ³⁶ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other will be left.”
 - a. The context is Jesus’ return:
 - i. **Luke 17:24** “For just like the lightning, when it flashes out of one part of the sky, shines to the other part of the sky, so will the Son of Man be in His day.”
 - ii. Compare **Matthew 24:17** “For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.”
 - b. Just prior to the text above: **Luke 17:26-29** “And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: ²⁷ they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. ²⁸ It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; ²⁹ but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.” // Think about ***the worldwide flood*** and ***the destruction of Sodom***:
 - i. With each, who was taken? _____
 - ii. With each, who was left? _____
3. There are only two comings: **Hebrews 9:27-28** And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment, ²⁸ so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without *reference to sin*, to those who eagerly await Him.
4. The second coming of Christ: **1 Corinthians 15:51-54** Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep [*physically die*], but we will all be changed, 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 imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, “DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.”
5. When will Jesus raise each believer? **John 6:40** “I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

1. Temporal Death:

- a. What is temporal death? The separation of the soul and the spirit from the body: Jesus “[bowed His head and gave up His spirit](#)” ([John 19:30](#)). When Jesus gave up His spirit (His life), His soul also departed from His body.
- b. What is the cause of temporal death? The fall of Adam and Eve into sin ([Gen. 3:1-7](#)), the sin we have all inherited ([Rom. 5:12](#)), and our own sins – both of commission ([Rom. 3:23](#)) and of omission ([James 4:17](#)).
- c. Who are the subjects of death? All descendants of Adam; no matter how wealthy or healthy, everyone dies: [Ezekiel 18:4](#) “[The soul who sins will die.](#)”
- d. What is true now of dead bodies? [John 11:11-14](#) ...“[Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, so that I may awaken him out of sleep.](#)” The disciples then said to Him, “[Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.](#)” Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep. So Jesus then said to them plainly, “[Lazarus is dead...](#)”
- e. Why should believers have no fear of death?
 - i. [John 5:24](#) [Jesus] “[Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.](#)”
 - ii. [Philippians 1:21](#) [Paul] “[For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.](#)”

2. The Condition of the Soul between Death and the Resurrection:

- a. What are the three parts of each person? [1 Thessalonians 5:23](#) “[Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.](#)”
 - i. Body – physical part.
 - ii. Soul – me, who I am.
 - iii. Spirit – part connecting me to God.
- b. What is the preference of believers as they live on earth? [2 Corinthians 5:6, 8](#) “[...while we *\[our souls and spirits\]* are at home in the body *\[when we are physically alive\]* we are absent from the Lord... we... prefer rather *\[in our souls and spirits\]* to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.](#)”
- c. What happens when the ungodly die? [Luke 16:22-23](#) “[...the rich man also died and was buried. In Hades *\[in his soul\]* he lifted up his eyes, being in torment...](#)”
- d. What happens when believers die?
 - i. They immediately enter paradise: [Luke 23:43](#) “[Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.](#)”
 - ii. They are alive with God: [Matthew 22:31-32](#) “[...have you not read what was spoken to you by God: ‘I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB’? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.](#)”