

The Rapture

Sequence of Events

1. Christ leaves the Throne in the Third Heaven and descends to edge of the First Heaven (1 Thes 4:16).
2. Christ brings with Him the souls and spirits of New Testament saints from Heaven, housed in intermediate bodies (1 Thes. 4:14).
3. Christ shouts a command that designates which bodies shall rise (1 Thes. 4:16; Jn. 5:28-29; 1 Thes. 4:14, 16).
 - 1) All (bodies) that are in grave the will hear His voice (Jn. 5:28).
 - 2) Each in his own rank (1 Cor. 15:23).
 - 3) This is the first type of resurrection (Rev. 20:5-6).
 - 4) A resurrection out from among dead ones (Rom. 6:5, 9).
4. An archangel's voice will sound telling Satan not to interfere with the resurrection or the saints' passage through Satan's domain (Thes. 4:16; Eph.2:2; Mt. 4:8; Lu. 4:5-7; Jn. 14:30 cf. Dan. 12:1; Rev. 12:6-17; Jude 9). Dramatic irony!
5. The Trumps of God announce glorification of New Testament saints (1 Thes. 4:16; 1 Cor. 15:52; Phil. 3:20).
 - 1) At the first trump the dead bodies will rise glorified (1 Thes. 4:16, 15).
 - 2) At the last trump, the second one, the live generation will be changed (1 Cor. 15:51-52). **The Day of Jesus Christ.**
6. Both the bodies which "slept" (1 Thes. 4:13; 1 Cor. 15:52), now reunited with their person and are glorified; both sets of saints will rise glorified in clouds of believers to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thes. 4:15, 17; 2 Thes. 2:1; Rom. 6:8 cf. Heb. 12:1).
7. The Reward Seat of Christ takes place in the Second Heaven prior to entry into the Third Heaven (1 Cor. 3:10-4:5; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10; Phil. 1:10; 2:16) **The Day of Christ.**
 - 1) Good works proven to be rewardable.
 - 2) Unprofitable works burnt away.
 - 3) The saints are saved through the fire.
 - 4) Anything that could be criticized will be gone (1 Cor. 3:15).

The Day of the Lord Jesus

The Oriental Wedding

1. A contract for marriage is made between the parents.
2. The Groom goes to the Brides and takes her to the Fathers house.
3. The marriage is consummated—usually with witnesses.
4. There is a marriage feast celebrating the marriage.
See Matthew 25: 1-13 for example.

8. The Son brings His Bride—the Church to the Throne Room and presents Her to the Father (1 Thes. 3:13; Heb. 2:12; Jude 24; 1 Cor. 1:8; 2 Cor. 4:14). **The Day of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
9. The Son sits down on the Throne and presents the Bride to Himself (Eph. 5:27; Col. 1:22)
10. Crowns?

Note on the term *Rapture*: circa 1600 from Middle French *rapture*, from Medieval Latin *raptura*: "to carry off, kidnap." The phrase "*caught up*" in the KJV (1 Thes. 4:17 is a translation of ἀρπάζω which means to *steal, carry off, drag away, take by force, or snatch away*. Examples: Jn. 10:12—*wolf catches* sheep; Jn. 10:28-29—*pluck*; Acts 23:10—*take by force*. Aside from modern misuse, **Rapture** is a fitting term.