

The Rapture Those that Sleep

- I.** The meeting will be in the air—atmosphere (1 Thes. 4:17).
 1. The New Testament saints that have passed away will be brought by Jesus to a meeting in the air (1 Thes. 4:14).
 - 1) Jesus brings their human spirits (Jam. 2:26).
 - 2) Jesus brings their souls (Acts 5:5, 10; Acts 2:27; I Kings 17:21).
 2. These saints at this point will be housed in intermediate bodies (2 Cor. 5:3).

- II.** Christ shouts a command to designate which bodies are to rise (1 Thes. 4:14, 16).
 1. All bodies in the grave will hear His voice (Jn. 5:28).
 2. The condition of the body does not deter its resurrection (Rev. 20:13).
 3. Lazarus was designated (Jn. 11:43).
 4. The bodies of the saved are pictured as being asleep (1 Thes. 4:13; 1 Cor. 15:20).
 5. Christ became the first-fruit of those that sleep, not of the dead ones (1 Cor. 15:20).
 6. This is the first type of resurrection—out from among dead ones (Dan. 12:2; Rev. 20:4-6).

- III.** The first trumpet announces that the sleeping bodies are glorified (1 Thes. 4:16).