

"Rapture" word study - 1 Thessalonians 4:17

ἔπιρραΐω - ① to make off with someone's property by attacking or seizing - steal, carry off, drag away

② to grab or seize suddenly so as to remove or gain control - to snatch/take away

Matthew 11:12 - the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force

13:19 - ... then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart.

John 6:15 - Therefore Jesus perceived that they were about to come and seize Him.

10:12 - and the wolf snatches the sheep and scatters them.

10:28 - neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

10:29 - and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.

Acts 8:39 - the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more;

1 23:10 - commanded soldiers to go down and take him by force from among them,

2 Corinthians 12:2 - ... such a one was caught up to the third heaven.

12:4 - how he was caught up into Paradise and heard...

1 Thessalonians 4:17 - then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds...

Jude 23 - pulling them out of the fire,

Revelation 12:5 - And her child was caught up to God and His throne

- the English word "Rapture" comes from the Latin word "rapio" which means to "snatch away" or "carry away". Latin translation of the Bible, called the Vulgate translation, uses the word "rapio" to translate the Greek word "ἔπιρραΐω."

3 Main Passages of Scripture to support a "Rapture"

1) John 14:1-3 - Jesus tells disciples that He is going to prepare a place for His disciples. If He goes and prepares these places for His disciples, then He promises that He will come for them again and they will be with Him in the place.

2) 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 - not everyone will "sleep", in other words die, but every one will be changed/transformed. We will be made into something different - from a physical body that dies into an eternal body that never dies. When will this take place? Instantly at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised and people alive will be changed.

This is the main text

3) 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - If we remain until the coming of the Lord, this is what happens when Jesus returns, the Lord will descend from heaven, the dead in Christ will rise first, then the ones who are alive will be caught up with them to meet the Lord in the air.

- In order to understand when the "rapture" takes place we have to use 2 Thessalonians 2:1-16. Paul writes 2 Thessalonians to clear up some confusion of when the coming of the Lord and our gathering together will take place.
verse 3 - will not come unless the falling away, man of lawlessness is revealed