

PREPARATION FOR RAPTURE

Who will partake in the rapture?

Ro. 8:19 The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.

Ro. 8:22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

Ro. 8:23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

1Jn. 3:2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

1Jn. 3:3 Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

Only people who God will adopt as His sons can partake in the rapture. Hence, preparation for rapture is actually striving to be one of the people to be adopted as sons of God. Every adopted son of God will ascend to heaven, just like Jesus the Son of God did.

Lk. 13:23 Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?" He said to them,

Lk. 13:24 "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to.

Lk. 13:25 Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.' "But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.'

Lk. 13:26 "Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.'

Lk. 13:27 "But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!'

Jesus says here that most of the people that think who they will make the rapture will not be able to. The reason simply is that there is some level of evil in their lives. 1Jn. 3:3 says that anyone who hopes to partake in the rapture must become as pure as Jesus is. That is the standard for going to heaven.

The Sign of Revelation 12

Re. 12:1 A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head.

Re. 12:2 She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth.

Re. 12:5 She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron sceptre. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.

The general belief is that no one can know the time of end-time events before they occur. This belief is hinged on only one statement that Jesus made (Mt. 24:36). The

big question is, does that statement hold for all time or does it hold only when Jesus said it? If it holds for all time, what about God's word that God does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets (Am. 3:7)? All I can tell you is that Mt. 24:36 applied only when Jesus said it. Apostle Paul later wrote that the sons of the light will not be taken unawares (1Th. 5:4-5). Finally, Jesus revealed the sign of Revelation 12 to Apostle John. Re. 12:5 refers to the adoption of the sons of God. Re.12:1-2 gives an astronomical sign that will occur when the adoption of the sons of God is very near. The sign has four components: The sun will be in Virgo (the virgin)—one of the 12 signs of the zodiac; the moon will be at the feet or east of Virgo; there will be 12 stars at the head or west of Virgo—at the head of Virgo is constellation Leo; and Virgo will be pregnant—the king planet, Jupiter, will be in Virgo.

It has been scientifically established that all the four components of the sign of Re. 12:1-2 will simultaneously be in the sky on 23rd September, 2017. Astronomy computer simulation (Stellarium) shows that the last time all the four components of the sign of Re. 12:1-2 were simultaneously in the sky was more than 7,000 years ago and it will take more than another 7,000 years before all the four components of the sign of Re. 12:1-2 will simultaneously be in the sky again.

Stellarium shows that Jupiter will exit star constellation Virgo (the woman in the sign of Re. 12:1-2) on 13th November, 2017. It also shows that the star of Bethlehem will appear on 13th November, as Jupiter is exiting Virgo. Re. 12:5 says that shortly after the resurrection of the sons of God, they are snatched up to God and to his throne—the rapture. The coincidence of the star of Bethlehem with Jupiter's exit of Virgo on 13th November seems to suggest that it is a very important day. My thinking is that the adoption of the sons of God will happen on or in the neighbourhood of this date.

Aspiring for Sonship of God

Mt. 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Mt. 6:34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Col. 3:2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

If you have the aspiration to be one of those that God will adopt as His sons, you must focus all your attention on the kingdom and righteousness of God. Actually, as we can see from 2Ti. 2:20-21, the kingdom of God comes into a person who has attained the righteousness of God.

Mt. 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Only those who are as pure in heart as Jesus can see God. They are the ones that God will adopt as His sons. Jesus said that only very few people in the world will be able to make this mark. Contrary to what some modern Christians of today teach as the doctrine of grace, both 2Ti. 2:21 and 1Jn. 3:3 say that the Christian should purify himself. The Christian must work out his salvation (Ph. 2:12).

Purification of the Heart

Ez. 36:25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols.

Ez. 36:27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

Ep. 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

Ep. 5:26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,

Ep. 5:27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Ez. 36:25 shows that both impurities and idols must be cleansed from the heart before the kingdom of God can come into a person. The impurities can be seen in Ga. 5:19-21, with a warning that anyone who has any of the impurities can never inherit the kingdom of God. Ep. 5:26 shows us that the way to cleanse impurities from the heart is by washing with living water (Holy Spirit) through the word. Spiritual cleansing is done by invoking the Holy Spirit through word of faith (Ro. 10:8).

Ro. 9:30 What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith;

Ro. 9:31 but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it.

There are two ways human beings seek to attain righteousness. One way is to work hard to keep a law of righteousness. The other way is to trust God for His divine power to move you to be righteous. When God's power moves a person to live righteously, that is the grace of God in action. Unfortunately, today you hear so many people talking about the grace of God, but who do not live righteously. Grace is in operation only where there is righteousness. Seeking for righteousness by working hard to keep a law of righteousness does not work; that is why the Jews are yet to become the holy nation that God said they should be.

Cleansing from all idols

Lk. 18:18 A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Lk. 18:20 You know the commandments: "Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honour your father and mother." "

Lk. 18:21 "All these I have kept since I was a boy," he said.

Lk. 18:22 When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

Lk. 18:23 When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth.

Lk. 18:24 Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!

Lk. 18:25 Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

“Idols” here refer to fleshly and worldly obsessions. Jesus told the rich young ruler to give up his wealth and become poor in order to become great in the kingdom of God, but the rich young ruler valued his wealth more than the kingdom. Notice that the first thing Jesus told the rich young ruler to do is to keep the commandments of God, which is cleansing from all impurities. Jesus then told the rich young ruler that one thing remained, and that one thing is cleansing from all idols. It is there that the rich young ruler failed.

Remember Lots’ wife! (Lk. 17:32) So many people find it difficult to believe that this world has no more time. They spend all their time strategizing for tomorrow, instead of striving to be adopted as a son of God.

2Pe. 1:3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

Ro. 4:17 As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” [Gen. 17:5] He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed — the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.

God’s divine power is able to give us everything we need, if only we could approach God by faith. The way to approach God by faith is to call things that are not as though they were, through word of faith.

Examples of word of Faith

“Praise be to you the Most High, for you cleanse me from all impurities and idols by your Holy Spirit.” Ez. 36:25.

“I thank you everlasting Father God for you enable me to will and to act according to your good purpose by your divine power through the Holy Spirit, in the name of Jesus Christ.” Ph. 2:13

“By the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, I shall obey all the teachings of Jesus Christ and he will not allow any of the diseases of this world to afflict me. O God, you are my Jehovah rapha—the God who heals me.” Ex. 15:26

“By your grace O God, I shall be careful to obey all that you have commanded us through Jesus Christ; then you will prosper me and make me successful.” Jo. 1:8

"By the grace of the lord Jesus Christ, I shall always seek the LORD; and I will not lack any good thing." Ps. 34:10

"Praise be to the LORD Almighty, who is my sun and my shield. Thank you LORD for you bestow favour and honour on me. By your grace O God, I shall be blameless and you will not withhold from me any good thing. LORD Almighty, I am blessed because I trust in you." Ps. 84:11-12

Finally

1Th. 5:16 Be joyful always;

1Th. 5:17 pray continually;

1Th. 5:18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

As the time for the adoption of the sons of God nears, there will be great trouble in the whole world. Even in the midst of all the tribulations, remember to be joyful always. This can only be possible if the mind is always connected to God in an attitude of prayer and the prayer is full of thanksgiving and praise to God. Instead of worrying about losses in the world, occupy yourself with words of faith.

Re. 3:20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

Jesus is knocking at the door by the promises of God. If we open the door through the word of faith, He will come in and be with us through the Holy Spirit.

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