

THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

Paul charged Timothy with keeping the command (1 Tim.6:12-14) “until the **appearing (ten epiphaneia/ gsf)** of our Lord Jesus Christ which He will bring about at the proper time.” (1 Tim. 6:14-15)

The Greek word for **appearing is** epiphaneia. Our English word, epiphany comes from this Greek word.

Epiphaneia is one of four Greek words used to explain the doctrine of the Rapture of the Church out of the world.

**This lesson will study of these four Greek words and
the doctrinal principles they teach regarding the Rapture of the Church.**

1. We will begin with our Greek word found in our lesson text, epiphaneia.

Epiphaneia teaches the visible manifestation of the Lord Jesus Christ at the time of the Rapture of the Church (1 Tim.6:14).

It is interesting that Paul also used this word with the first advent of Christ.

(2 Tim.1:10) “But now has been revealed by **the appearing** of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”

Paul used this Greek word to discuss both the First and Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

(Titus 2:13-14) “Looking for the blessed hope and **the appearing** of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus; who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.”

It is used with the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and His judgment (2 Tim.4:1, 8; Matt.24:27).

Jesus on the eve of His ascension:

(Acts 1:11) “Men of Galilee. Why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”

In the Rapture of the Church, Jesus Christ will be visibly manifested to living Church Age believers (CAB).

2. This leads us to the second Greek word and doctrine of Rapture of Church, harpazo.

The Greek word, Harpazo means to be caught up, snatched up, or seized.

(1 Thess.4:17) “Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the **Lord** in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

NOTE: The Latin word, raptus, is translated **harpazo** in the Greek and **Rapture** in English.

The idea of the Rapture with harpazo is that it will occur **SUDDENLY** whether expected or unexpected.

(1 Cor.15:51-52) “Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a **moment, in the twinkling of eye an eye**, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.”

3. The third Greek word and doctrinal principle related to the Rapture of the Church is episunagogue.

(2 Thess.2:1) “Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming (tes parousia) of our lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together (episunagoge) to Him.”

(1 Thess.4:17) “Then we **who are alive and remain** shall be caught up (harpazo) together (hama/ at once) **with them** in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall be with the Lord.”

(1 Thess.4:13-18) ¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. ¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Caught up TOGETHER: We who are alive and remain (1 Thess.4:17) - God will bring with Him **those** who have fallen asleep in **Jesus** (1 Thess.4:14).

(1 Thess.4:15) “For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that **we who are alive, and remain** until the coming (parousia) of the Lord, **shall not precede** those who have fallen asleep.” (2 Cor.5:6-8)

Paul talked about the CHANGE:

(1 Cor.15:51-52) “We shall not all sleep but we shall all be changed.”

(1 Cor.15:52b) “And **the dead will be raised imperishable, and we all shall be changed.**”

What is the CHANGE?

(1 Thess.4:15) “According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.”

(1 Cor.15:22) “For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.”

(2 Cor.5:17) “And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins”.

(Phil.1:21) “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain”.

(Eccl.3:20) “All go to the same place; all come from dust, and to dust all return”.

(Gen.2:7) (Phase III) “Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being”.

(1 Cor.15:23) “But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ’s at His coming.” (1 Cor.15:20-23)

4. The fourth Greek word and doctrinal principle related to Rapture of church is Parousia.

(1 Thess.4:15) “According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the **coming of the Lord**, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep”.

(1 Cor.15:23) “But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him”.

Parousia is a compound Greek word (para) [with] **and** (ousia of eimi) [to be or presence - to arrive and be presence with].

(Phil.2:12) “So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my **presence** only, but now much more in my **absence**, work out your salvation with fear and trembling.”

(1 John 2:28) “And now, little children (teknon), abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.” (Gen.3:8-11)

(2 Thess.2:1) “Now we request you, brethren, with regard to **the coming** of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together (episunagogue) to Him.”

(1 Thess.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.”

(1 Thess.4:13) “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope.”