

## **THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH**

The key word from our lesson is “mystery” (musterion)

(1 Cor.15:51) “Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed (allasso).”

The term Musterion is always the object of Divine Revelation.

(Eph.3:3) “That by revelation there was made known to me the **mystery**, as I wrote before in brief.”

**MYSTERY** also refers to a Divine Revelation not yet revealed in previous dispensations (**Gentle Age** or **Jewish Age**). It was designed specifically for the **Church Age**.

(Col.3:4) “**When Christ**, who is our life, **is revealed (phaneroo)**, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.”

**NOTE: The Rapture is one of ten important mystery doctrines of the Church Age (Eph.3:2-6; Col.1:26-27)**

<p><b>The Greek term, Allasso (change), is first of five Greeks words that we will study to explain the Rapture of the Church.</b></p>
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### **1. The Greek word Allasso.**

**Allasso** teaches the change from natural to resurrection body (1 Cor.15:42-54)

Perishable to imperishable and mortal to immortal

After reading ([1 Cor.15:50-58](#)), write the CHANGE that comes with the Rapture of the Church.

\_\_\_\_\_ . Allasso means “to make other than it is” (Vines).

(1 Cor.15:44) “It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.”

(1 Cor.15:49) “Just As we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.”

**The Rapture** will institute the dispensational order of the first resurrection of believers (1 Cor.15:20-23).

### **2. The Greek word Harpazo.**

**Harpazo** means to snatch, seize, or catch away (Vines). Rapture is the Latin translation of Greek harpazo. It is used for Paul's experience recorded in (2 Cor.12:2-4) (**caught up** to the third heaven, Paradise).

**Harpazo** teaches that all living Church Age believers will be raptured, no matter whether spiritual or carnal, a spiritual baby, immature or mature believer. [Every Believer!] (1 John 2:28; 1 Thess.3:13; 5:23).

**The Rapture event:** “**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 be with the Lord.” (1 Thess.4:17; 4:14-15)

### 3. The Greek word Parousia.

**Parousia** is associated with the Rapture. It is a compound Greek word (para) [with] and (ousia/ eimi) [to be or preserve - to arrive and be together with].

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

(1 Cor.15:23) “But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ’s **at His coming (parousia)**.” (1 John 2:28)

(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**, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.” (1 Thess.5:23)

**The term Rapture** carries the idea of sudden, whether expected or unexpected.

(1Cor.15:51-52) “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.” - “And the dead will be raised and we shall be changed.”

### 4. The Greek word Episunagogue.

**Episunagogue** teaches that there will be a gathering together of all Church Age believers, both the living and those who have died (1 Thess.4:15-17; 2 Cor.5:6-8; 12:1-4).

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

(Acts 1:11) “And they also said, ‘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 gave watched Him go into heaven.**”

**The Rapture** will take place in the sky and not upon the earth as in the Second Coming (1 Thess.4:17)

### 5. The Greek word Epiphaneia.

**Epiphaneia** teaches the visible manifestation of the Lord Jesus Christ at the time of the Rapture.

(1 Tim.6:14-15) “That you keep the commandment without stain or reproach **until the appearance (epiphaneia)** of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He will bring about at the proper time – He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords.”

(2 Tim.1:10) “But now has been revealed (phaneroo) by the **appearing (epiphaneia)** of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.” (Titus 2:13-14)

**In the Rapture**, Jesus will be visible only to Church Age believers.