

What to Do If You Are Left Behind When Jesus Comes

By Conrad Barrett

Millions, no doubt, will rise quickly from this earth when Jesus comes. Some will go by a miraculous change (Rapture) while others will experience a reuniting of soul and body (the resurrection) and then suddenly leave the earth. All such redeemed of the Lord will be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air and be forever with Him. (I Thes. 4:13-18)

Imagine the excitement which will be experienced by every individual who will be a part of that rapturous event. Nothing in human history parallels such glory. Two Old Testament men, Enoch and Elijah, had a similar encounter, but they had individual translations which may in part have some characteristics of such rapturous ecstasy.

The Rapture of the church will have world-wide implications and Christians everywhere should look forward to it with both preparation and readiness. For the world it will have grave psychological and social implications, but for the church it simply means speedy deliverance from any and all troubles sustained while living on earth. It's going to be great for the Christian when leaving time comes. Don't miss it!

Being left behind for any reason usually translates into misery. None seem to appreciate being left. This is especially true when we think about the coming of Jesus Christ. There is nothing exciting about being left on planet earth when God's people suddenly make their exit, but many will not go when that special trumpet sounds.

To be left behind simply means trouble and sorrow for the ones who remain on earth. The Bible describes what can be anticipated if left. According to the Bible there will be nothing remaining on earth which will be socially and psychologically encouraging for the person who decides to serve the Lord after the Rapture. The world system will be changed forever and the good times will then be history. The world system will hate and kill Christians. Serving the Lord, even at the expense of death, is the basic hope offered.

The Bible describes the Tribulation saints as being those who "have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." (Revelation 7:14) The exact language of the context referenced here is: "And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, what are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence came they?" And I said unto him, "Sir, thou knowest." And he said unto me, "These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." (Revelation 7:13-14)

Two interpretations have been offered relative to the above scripture. One is that the backslider is described, and, as a result of backsliding, will not make the Rapture. The other interpretation is that only the unsaved are described here. Whatever is right or wrong about our interpretation, one should never chance his or her soul's future to speculation. Eternity is too long and our souls are too precious to leave our earth for an uncertain eternity. A good relationship with Jesus Christ is our only assurance for happiness in this world and the future world. Study the scriptures and pray, then God will give the understanding and security we need. It is His promise.

Should anyone find himself or herself left on earth after Jesus has come and raptured the Christians, then, what must be one's recourse for whatever may happen. Following are things to do:

1. Accept Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord regardless of what is happening on earth

– The message of salvation is predicated on accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. Sins are to be repented of and confessed only to the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no other mediator. Here is the scripture: “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. Who gave Himself a ransom for all to be testified in due time.” (Timothy 2:5-6) Becoming a Christian is special and private; therefore, one should be very careful about expressing personal history and inner thoughts to anyone except the Lord. Our Lord understands and forgives. Sometimes people never forgive.

2. Be baptized in water – Baptism in water is important. Even though it does not save, it is an act of a progressive walk with the Lord as well as an act of obedience. Many scriptures point to the necessity of water baptism; others do not. It is important to follow the Lord in every aspect of scripture as we understand it. Therefore, baptism is very important.

3. Go to Church and become a part – Attend a good spiritual church. One which preaches and teaches the full gospel. We are instructed in the scriptures to preach and teach the whole gospel and are never told to fragment our message. Become a viable part of the Christian community in whatever form it may exist and pray about what God wants you to do and He will show you. Don’t try to be like someone else. Instead, be what the Lord wants you to be. One should be quick to testify about a relationship with Christ both verbally and by example. A good example is, many times, a better testimony.

4. Never become a divisive Christian – Don’t be a party to gossip, backbiting, negative thinking nor any such slanderous and unbecoming behavior. Christians are special and, as such, should be loving and kind because the message of the ten laws of God and that of the prophets, as well as all other writers of scriptures, tell us to do such. It was foremost in the teachings of Jesus, too.

5. Be filled with the Holy Spirit – Be filled with the Holy Spirit who will guide and help. (John Chapters 14 - 17) A fair description of what happens to those who become Christians after the Rapture will be hardships and death. Be prepared to live or die for your faith in Jesus Christ. Revelation describes this time as being a time of great trouble both for Christians and Jews. The main method of death during this period seems to be beheading. Will the old Guillotine or chop block be brought out again for the purpose of executing Christians? It is going to be a serious and terrifying time according to Revelation 20:4. In an educated world, one would think people would have risen above antiquated methods of execution, but people may have educated themselves above their intelligence. A close look at what is happening in the Middle East under the auspices of religion should serve as a grave warning of things to come. Be aware! Be alert! Be prepared! Think! Pray! Study the Bible because it is right and describes future events.

The wise person will not allow procrastination nor neglect in any dimension to rule his/her life. Instead, the words of the Apostle Paul should seriously impact all. Those words are, “Now is the day of salvation. Now is the accepted time.” (II Corinthians 6:2)

No one knows just what form in which the church will be able to exist after the Rapture because it will be a time of great persecutions for Christians everywhere. God’s people, however, will always be victorious, whether in life or death. Paul said “To live is Christ and to die is gain.” (Phil 1:21)

Anyone can become a Christian today and be saved from the wrath to come by asking Jesus to save you. Why not ask Him to save you now by praying this simple prayer and mean it from your heart?

Lord Jesus, please forgive me of my sins and come into my heart. I believe you are the Son of God and the only Saviour. I believe in you and accept you as my Saviour and Lord. In Jesus Name,

Amen

Until Jesus actually comes to get us, please find a good spiritual church and become a part of this end-time spiritual movement. Remember, Jesus loves the church and gave Himself for it. He loves us all and let's love and serve Him now. Nothing is more important.

Christian Chapel Church
4043 Chandler Road
Muskogee, Oklahoma 74403
(918) 687-1606