

THE RAPTURE

Pastor Grant Williams January 10, 2018 Part 1

1 Thessalonians 4:17 KJV

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Tonight we are starting a new series in which we will begin a thorough examination into “The Rapture”, especially as it relates to the pre-tribulation return of Jesus Christ for “The Church”.

Let me ask you a question to begin this series...Why did Jesus make this statement in chapter 24 of Matthew’s Gospel?

Matthew 24:41 KJV

41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Matthew 24:41 GNT

41 Two women will be at a mill grinding meal: one will be taken away, the other will be left behind.

Why did Jesus say keep our lamps trimmed and burning in chapter 25 of Matthew's Gospel?



This is an ancient oil lamp from the time of Jesus Christ. Oil was placed through the opening at the top and a wick was at one end. The oil had to be fresh in the lamp to ensure that you would have light at night.

Matthew 25:1-13 KJV

1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. 12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Why did Jesus make these statements? As we go through this study we are going to answer those questions and many more. But first, let's find out where in the New Testament is there this revelation of Jesus Christ returning for the saints. The Bible says that the dead will be raised and those who are alive will be changed in a moment and caught up together to meet Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 KJV

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

*17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be **caught up together** with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 GNT

*16 There will be the shout of command, the archangel's voice, the sound of God's trumpet, and the Lord himself will come down from heaven. Those who have died believing in Christ will rise to life first; 17 then we who are living at that time will be **gathered up along** with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord. 18 So then, encourage one another with these words.*

This is when the *mashiach* (anointed one) or the *messiah, Jesus Christ*, returns in the air to raise the dead in Christ and the ones who are living.

1 Corinthians 15:52 KJV

*52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, **and we shall be changed.***

The “we” in verse 52 of 1 Corinthians chapter 15 are those who are alive and in Christ or imitators of Christ that will be changed instantly or in a moment. The word *changed* in Greek, is the word *metamorphoo*. We shall be changed from one condition to another or from one state to another.

Metamorphoo defined:

to change into another form, to transform, to transfigure, to translate

Hebrews 11:5 KJV

5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Those who are alive and in Christ shall be transformed and we are then caught up together to meet them, Jesus Christ and the ones who have been raised from the dead and we shall then be forever with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 KJV

*17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be **caught up together with them** in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

The concept of the Messiah is not just a New Testament revelation, it is revealed in the Old Testament or what is also referred to as the First Covenant. God's Word foretells that the seed of the woman will crush the head of the serpent.

Genesis 3:15 KJV

*15 And **I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed;** it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

Genesis 3:15 AMPC

*15 And **I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her Offspring;** He will bruise and tread your head underfoot, and you will lie in wait and bruise His heel.*

Enmity defined:

the state or feeling of being actively opposed or hostile to someone or something; deep-rooted hatred.

derived from the word *enemy*: a person who is actively opposed or hostile to someone or something. a hostile nation or its armed forces or citizens, especially in time of war: a thing that harms or weakens something else:

In Genesis we find that Jacob is giving a prophecy about the coming messiah and the land of Israel at the Time Of The End.

Genesis 49:1-10 KJV

1 And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days.

2 Gather yourselves together, and hear, ye sons of Jacob; and hearken unto Israel your father.

3 Reuben, thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power:

4 Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch.

5 Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations.

6 O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man, and in their selfwill they digged down a wall.

7 Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel. 8 Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee.

9 Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up?

10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

Let's take a closer look at verse 10 of Genesis Chapter 49...

When Jacob was blessing his sons in Genesis 49:10 he said...

Genesis 49:10 KJV

*10 The **sceptre** shall not depart from **Judah**, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.*

Judah was Jacob's son, but he would also become the royal tribe of Israel. The Word sceptre is also very interesting...in Numbers 24:17

Numbers 24:17 KJV

*17 I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come **a Star** out of Jacob, and a **Sceptre** shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.*



This word **sceptre** is a Hebrew idiom meaning messiah. It is talking about royalty, a royal position, the identity of kingship.

A royal king is going to arise in Israel and that **prophecy** goes all the way back to the time of Jacob (4060 years ago) and tells us that He will come from the line of Judah.

In Revelation, John also confirms this Old Testament prophecy...

Revelation 5:5 KJV

*5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the **Lion of the tribe of Judah**, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.*

Revelation 22:16 KJV

16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

“Why are both Jesus and Satan referred to as the Morning Star?”

The first reference to the morning star as an individual is in Isaiah 14:12, “How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!” (NIV). The KJV and NKJV both translate “morning star” as “Lucifer, son of the morning.” It is clear from the rest of the passage that Isaiah is referring to Satan’s fall from heaven (Luke 10:18). So in this case, the morning star refers to Satan. In Revelation 22:16, Jesus unmistakably identifies Himself as the Morning Star.

It is interesting to note that the concept of the “morning star” is not the only concept that is applied to both Jesus and Satan. In Revelation 5:5, Jesus is referred to as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. In 1 Peter 5:8, Satan is compared to a lion, seeking someone to devour. The point is this, both Jesus and Satan, to a certain extent, have similarities to lions. Jesus is similar to a lion in that He is the King, He is royal and majestic. Satan is similar to a lion in that he seeks to devour other creatures. That is where the similarities between Jesus, Satan, and lions end, however. Jesus and Satan are like lions in very different ways.

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The idea of a “bright morning star” is a star that outshines all the others, and Jesus is the One who is called “bright.” Satan was a morning star. Jesus, as God incarnate, the Lord of the universe, is the BRIGHT and Morning Star. Jesus is the most holy and powerful “light” in all the universe. So, while both Jesus and Satan can be described as “morning stars,” in no sense is this equating Jesus and Satan. Satan is a created being. His light only exists to the extent that God created it. Jesus is the light of the world (John 9:5). Only Jesus’ light is “bright” and self-existent. Satan may be a morning star, but he is only a poor imitation of the one true bright morning star, Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Going back to Genesis 49:10, there’s another prophecy given...

Genesis 49:10 KJV

*10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until **Shiloh** come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.*

The second part of this prophecy (the first being the sceptre shall not depart from Judah) is “**until Shiloh comes**”. Shiloh, according to the rabbinical teaching is a title for “The Messiah”.

In Daniel (9:25-27) The word **Messiah** is mentioned 2 times in the King James translation. The Hebrew word for messiah that is used there is **mashiach** which means “the anointed one”.

Daniel 9:25-27 KJV

*25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the **Messiah the Prince** shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.*

*26 And after threescore and two weeks shall **Messiah** be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.*

27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

When you say that Christ is the “Anointed One” in Hebrew, you have to say that “He is the Messiah” because that is how it is interpreted or translated in the book of Daniel. The Messiah, the prince that shall come.

In the New Testament we see “Jesus Christ” or the “Lord Jesus Christ” written. The word Christ is significant because that word in the Greek is Christos. That word Christos also means “the anointed one”.

So, when you hear Christ, or Jesus Christ, it is not referring to God or man but specifically to The Messiah that was spoken of in Daniel and the revelation of the messiah goes back to Jacob.

The revelation of the messiah was known in the Old Testament. It was foretold and taught that this “messiah” would set up a kingdom that would not end. The book of Daniel brings this out in his prophecies. It says that the most high and the saints of the most high would possess a kingdom that would not end.

So it was known unto the Jews that there would be a man coming, *mashiach*, who would be the anointed one. This man would raise the dead, He would be a king and He would have the ability or power to forgive them of their sins. This was told all throughout the Old Testament by the prophets.

When we go to the New Testament we see that Jesus identifies Himself as the Son of Man.

Matthew 9:4-7 KJV

4 And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?

5 For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?

*6 But that ye may know that the **Son of man** hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.*

7 And he arose, and departed to his house.

The phrase “Son of man” is found in the book of Daniel where He is sitting with the Ancient of days.

Daniel 7:13 KJV

*13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the **Ancient of days**, and they brought him near before him.*

The “**Ancient of Days**” in Daniel's visions is God the Father. In Daniel Chapter 7, he describes a succession of kingdoms appearing as various beasts.

These kingdoms are finally overthrown when the ***Ancient of Days*** sits in judgment over them on His glorious throne and gives dominion and an eternal kingdom to ***one like a Son of Man*** whom all peoples are to serve (or worship). This vision is a messianic prophecy in which the ***Ancient of Days*** specifically represents God the Father and the ***one like a Son of Man*** is God the Son, Jesus Christ. Daniel 7:9-10 describes the Ancient of Days as He appears in Daniel's vision.

Daniel 7:9-10 KJV

*9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the **Ancient of days** did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.*

10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

Daniel 7:9-10 AMPC

*9 I kept looking until thrones were placed [for the assessors with the Judge], and the **Ancient of Days** [God, the eternal Father] took His seat, Whose garment was white as snow and the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was like the fiery flame; its wheels were burning fire.*

10 A stream of fire came forth from before Him; a thousand thousands ministered to Him and ten thousand times ten thousand rose up and stood before Him; the Judge was seated [the court was in session] and the books were opened.

A few verses later the passage goes on to explain:

Daniel 7:13-14 AMPC

*13 I saw in the night visions, and behold, on the clouds of the heavens came **One like a Son of man**, and He came to the **Ancient of Days** and was presented before Him.*

14 And there was given Him [the Messiah] dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away, and His kingdom is one which shall not be destroyed.

Daniel 7:13-14 KJV

*13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the **Son of man** came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the **Ancient of days**, and they brought him near before him.*

14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

This scene is closely paralleled by the one described in more lengthy detail in the Book of Revelation (particularly beginning in Chapters 4-5 and progressing through the rest of the book).

Revelation 4:1- 11 KJV

4 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

6 And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.

8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Revelation 5:1-15 KJV

1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: **behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David**, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

10 And hast made us unto our **God kings and priests**: and we shall reign on the earth.

11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; 12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. 14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

God the Father or the Lord is seated gloriously on His throne and is approached by the Lamb who opens a scroll from the Lord's hand and receives the nations as His inheritance. A beast representing a wicked human kingdom is overthrown, and the Lamb rules over all the earth and shares the very throne of God.

In the Gospels, Jesus is also frequently called the "Son of Man", sometimes with direct reference to Daniel 7 and "coming on the clouds." This shows that the New Testament understanding of this passage is that the Ancient of Days is specifically God the Father and that the Son of Man is God the Son.

The Old and New Testaments confirm one another, they do not contradict. From judgment, hell, heaven, love, sin, repentance and The Rapture, God's Word has never changed.

Malachi 3:6 KJV

6 For I am the Lord, I change not;