

## NCC Roots Spring 2020...7 Churches and the Rapture...led by Terry Cooper

### The Rapture Session #2...March 25, 2020

- Last week's session on the Rapture mainly dealt with the dead or sleeping in Christ.
- What happens to them when the shout happens?
- But what about the living, not sleeping believers...when the shout happens.
- I read a pastor survey recently that said that John 14 is the most requested Scripture to be read by people who are dying.

#### **John 14:1-4 (NLT2)**

<sup>1</sup> "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. <sup>2</sup> There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> **When everything is ready, I will come and get you**, so that you will always be with me where I am. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to where I am going."

- Jesus gave us His Word...*when everything is ready, I will come and get you.*
- Do you see the Rapture in that statement?
- There will be a generation that will not experience death.
- Are we that generation?
- Jesus said He was going to prepare a place for us in His Father's house/home.
- Can a person take possession of this new home in heaven in our current human flesh?
- Can Jesus come and snatch us (alive) from this earth and deliver us as we currently are into the eternal Kingdom of Heaven?
- Can we believers enter the Kingdom that has been prepared for us in our current flesh?

#### **1 Corinthians 15:50-58 (NLT2)**

<sup>50</sup> What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that **our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever.** <sup>51</sup> But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. **We will not all die, but we will all be transformed!** <sup>52</sup> It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. **For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed.**

<sup>53</sup> For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies. <sup>54</sup> Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: "Death is swallowed up in victory. <sup>55</sup> O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" <sup>56</sup> For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. <sup>57</sup> But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>58</sup> So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.

- The Bible clearly describes our eternal home as the New Jerusalem...and it will come down to the New Earth at the end of the 1000-year reign of Christ.
- Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us and when everything is ready...He will come and get us and take us to the Father's House called Heaven...caught up to meet the Lord in the air and we will be with Him forevermore.

#### **John 14:1-3 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.

<sup>2</sup> "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to

prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> "If I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again and receive you to Myself**, that where I am, *there* you may be also.

- ***I will come again and receive you to Myself***...does that sound like the Rapture **into the clouds**.
- Jesus will later (after the 7-year Tribulation) return to the earth, but not to receive His bride, but to make war against the lost who have rejected Him as King.
- The Rapture will take us to the place that Jesus referred to in John 4...the New Jerusalem.
- The New Jerusalem is in Heaven now but will be on the New Earth after the 1000-year reign of Christ has been completed.

### **Revelation 21:1-3 (NLT2)**

<sup>1</sup> Then I saw a **new heaven and a new earth**, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. <sup>2</sup> And I saw **the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God** out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.

- The Rapture fulfills "we will all be changed/transformed".

### **1 Corinthians 15:50-52 (NLT2)**

<sup>50</sup> What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that **our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever.** <sup>51</sup> But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. **We will not all die, but we will all be transformed!** <sup>52</sup> It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. **For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed.**

- Our mortal flesh will be replaced with immortal flesh...in the blink of an eye.
- What will happen to believers (still living) who are in wheelchairs, are blind, in ICU?
- Now, I must tell you that this promise of God only applies to believers.
- If you're an unbeliever...all bets are off...you will not rise to meet the Lord in the air.
- Unbelievers will remain on the earth and enter into the Tribulation period.

### **Isaiah 35:5-6 (NLT2)**

<sup>5</sup> And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf.

<sup>6</sup> The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will sing for joy! Springs will gush forth in the wilderness, and streams will water the wasteland.

- You will be you...but in a totally new package...can you imagine this?
- You will be you...but the old order of things will have suddenly passed away.

### **Revelation 21:4 (NLT2)**

<sup>4</sup> He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

- Our resurrected body (that we receive at the Rapture) will be like Jesus' resurrected body.

### **1 John 3:1-3 (NLT2)**

<sup>1</sup> See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know

him.<sup>2</sup> Dear friends, we are already God's children, **but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him**, for we will see him as he really is.

<sup>3</sup> And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure.

- He has not yet shown us everything, but this we do know...we will be like Him.
- Our new body will be tangible/physical and recognizable...you will be you in heaven.
- You will eat food in this new body.
- But this new and glorified body will not age or decay.
- There is some debate about whether we will process food in the same way in this new body.

### **1 Corinthians 6:13-14 (NLT2)**

<sup>13</sup> You say, "**Food was made for the stomach, and the stomach for food.**" (This is true, though **someday God will do away with both of them.**) But you can't say that our bodies were made for sexual immorality. They were made for the Lord, and the Lord cares about our bodies.

<sup>14</sup> And **God will raise us from the dead by his power, just as he raised our Lord from the dead.**

- It is likely that this new glorified body will have capabilities that our current flesh cannot imagine (Jesus walked through a closed door).

### **Philippians 3:21 (NLT2)**

<sup>21</sup> He will take our weak mortal bodies and **change them into glorious bodies like his own**, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

- Listen to this description of Jesus' body after the resurrection...you're going to get one of those one day.
- And maybe you won't have to die to get it...either way is ok, but there will be a generation that will not experience death.
- Could we be that generation?

**Luke 24:35-43 (NLT2)** <sup>35</sup> Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how **they had recognized him as he was breaking the bread.** <sup>36</sup> And just as they were telling about it, Jesus himself was suddenly standing there among them **[Gospel of John says the doors were locked]. "Peace be with you,"** he said. <sup>37</sup> But the whole group was startled and frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost **[same ghost idea from walking on water event]!** <sup>38</sup> **"Why are you frightened?"** he asked. **"Why are your hearts filled with doubt?"** <sup>39</sup> Look at my hands. Look at my feet. You can see that it's really me. **Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don't have bodies, as you see that I do.** <sup>40</sup> As he spoke, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup> Still they stood there in disbelief, filled with joy and wonder. Then he asked them, **"Do you have anything here to eat?"** <sup>42</sup> **They gave him a piece of broiled fish,** <sup>43</sup> **and he ate it as they watched.**

- Do you know why they were filled with joy and unbelief...this is what it means to overcome.
- Jesus' body had overcome the grave, but He was still Jesus.
- These men are witnesses to what it means to find victory in Christ....the flesh will be transformed into immortality.
- Are you filled with joy about this promise of God today?
- There will be a generation that will not experience death...it will happen in a flash, in the blink of the eye (trumpet blast, loud shout and voice of archangel).
- Jesus appears later, but this time he's not in Jerusalem, but beside the Sea of Galilee.

- If we're going to be like Him in the resurrection...let's see what that looks like.

**John 21:1-14 (NLT2)** <sup>1</sup> Later, Jesus appeared again to the disciples beside the Sea of Galilee. This is how it happened. <sup>2</sup> Several of the disciples were there—Simon Peter, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples. <sup>3</sup> Simon Peter said, “I’m going fishing.” “We’ll come, too,” they all said. So they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night. <sup>4</sup> **At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn’t see who he was.** <sup>5</sup> He called out, “**Fellows, have you caught any fish?**” “No,” they replied. <sup>6</sup> Then he said, “**Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you’ll get some!**” So they did, and they couldn’t haul in the net because there were so many fish in it. <sup>7</sup> **Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, “It’s the Lord!”** When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his tunic (for he had stripped for work), jumped into the water, and headed to shore. <sup>8</sup> The others stayed with the boat and pulled the loaded net to the shore, for they were only about a hundred yards from shore. <sup>9</sup> **When they got there, they found breakfast waiting for them—fish cooking over a charcoal fire, and some bread.** <sup>10</sup> **“Bring some of the fish you’ve just caught,” Jesus said.** <sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore. There were 153 large fish, and yet the net hadn’t torn. <sup>12</sup> “Now come and have some breakfast!” Jesus said. **None of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord.** <sup>13</sup> **Then Jesus served them the bread and the fish.** <sup>14</sup> **This was the third time Jesus had appeared to his disciples since he had been raised from the dead.**

### Summary Questions

- I would like to read Paul’s primary Rapture description and then ask some specific questions.

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NLT2)** <sup>13</sup> And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died. <sup>15</sup> We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. <sup>17</sup> Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup> So encourage each other with these words.

- Who are these believers who have died in Paul’s letter?
- **Answer:** The dead in Christ or believers who have died **since the cross of Christ.**
- What does it mean when Paul says Jesus will bring with him the believers who have died?
- **Answer:** **The souls** of the sleeping saints will come back with Jesus to receive their resurrected eternal body.
- What might be the shout of the archangel?
- **Answer:** The Bridegroom is coming (Parable of 10 virgins/bridesmaids)!
- What about the Old Testament saints like King David or Prophet Elijah (before the cross)...what about them?
- **Answer:** These are the church age saints...it looks like the Old Testament saints don’t experience their resurrection until the end of Tribulation when Jesus comes, stand on the earth and becomes King.

**Daniel 12:1-4 (NLT2)** <sup>1</sup> “At that time Michael, the archangel who stands guard over your nation, will arise. **Then there will be a time of anguish greater than any since nations first came into existence.**

**But at that time every one of your people whose name is written in the book will be rescued.**

**<sup>2</sup> Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace.**

<sup>3</sup> Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever.

<sup>4</sup> But you, Daniel, keep this prophecy a secret; seal up the book until the time of the end, when many will rush here and there, and knowledge will increase.”

- The Prophet Ezekiel lived some 500 years after the time of King David and yet Ezekiel prophesies of a future day when resurrected King David will be a prince and shepherd over the people in Jerusalem (the millennial reign of Christ on this present earth).
- As I read this, ask yourself...do you really believe in the Resurrection?

**Ezekiel 34:23-24 (NLT2)** <sup>23</sup> **And I will set over them one shepherd, my servant David.** He will feed them and be a shepherd to them. <sup>24</sup> And I, the LORD, will be their God, and **my servant David will be a prince among my people. I, the LORD, have spoken!**

- Will there be a generation of believers that never experience death?
- **Answer:** Yes, and they too will receive a resurrected and eternal body as they rise to meet the Lord in the air.
- What does it mean, We will all be changed/transformed?
- **Answer:** All believers (dead or alive) will receive a resurrected eternal body at the Rapture.

**1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 (NLT2)** <sup>9</sup> For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, **not to pour out his anger on us.** <sup>10</sup> Christ died for us so that, **whether we are dead or alive when he returns,** we can live with him forever. <sup>11</sup> So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

- And yes, I do believe the Rapture will be before the Great Tribulation...as revealed in verse 9 above.
- Why can't our current mortal bodies enter or inherit the kingdom of heaven...enter the New Jerusalem?
- **Answer:** Flesh and Blood cannot enter because our flesh is sinful, and God is absolute holiness. Our flesh is representative of yeast/sin in. The yeast must be removed. Jesus' body represents a body without yeast, without sin.
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**1 Corinthians 5:6-8 (NLT2)** <sup>6</sup> Your boasting about this is terrible. Don't you realize that **this sin is like a little yeast** that spreads through the whole batch of dough? <sup>7</sup> Get rid of the **old "yeast"** by removing this wicked person from among you. Then you will be like a fresh batch of dough **made without yeast,** which is what you really are. **Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us.** <sup>8</sup> So let us celebrate the festival, not with the old bread of wickedness and evil, but with the **new bread** of sincerity and truth.

- Jesus is the bread of life...the bread without yeast...the body without sin.
- You're going to get one of those one day.
- Does the Bible clearly define the difference between the Rapture and the Second Coming of Christ?
- Next week we will talk about the specific differences between the two.