



# HE'S COMING

*Rapture of the Church and Return of Jesus*

# 3 Comings of Jesus Christ – 1 Past, 2 Future

## Past

1. Jesus came the first time – born as the Christ child

## Future

**2. Jesus will come to get His bride, the Church (Rapture)**

3. Jesus will come with His bride (Second Coming)

# What is the Rapture?

- Latin term *rapio*, which means to “snatch away” or “carry off,” is the source of the English word Rapture
- Greek *harpadzo* ἄρπάζω
- Hebrew *lakakh* לקַח
- English word “rapture” is not found in your Bible
- The rapture event is God’s taking the Church out of the world instantaneously.

# How does Rapture work?

- Rapture is not a hidden idea in scripture.
- “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” Hebrews 13:8
- We can learn about the future Rapture by studying past Raptures.

# 8 Examples of rapture in the Bible

## 6 in the past, 2 in the future

1. Enoch (past)

2. Moses (past)

3. Elijah (past)

4. Jesus (past)

5. Philip (past)

6. Old Testament saints (past)

**7. The Church (future)**

8. The Two Witnesses (future)

# Examples of Rapture in the Bible - Enoch

Enoch lived sixty-five years, and became the father of Methuselah. Then Enoch walked with God three hundred years after he became the father of Methuselah, and he had other sons and daughters. So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. **Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.**

Genesis 5:21-24

# Examples of Rapture in the Bible - Elijah

As they were going along and talking, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them. **And Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven.** Elisha saw it and cried out, “My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw Elijah no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. He also took up the mantle of Elijah that fell from him and returned and stood by the bank of the Jordan.

2 Kings 2:11-13

# What is The Rapture of the Church?

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18



Paul the Apostle wrote in about 50 AD...

“But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.”

1 Thessalonians 4:13-15

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

# Important Questions

- **Who will be “caught up”?**

Those of every nation and language who have repented of sin and surrendered their heart to Jesus Christ as Savior.

- **Who will be “left behind”?**

Those who have never repented of sin and surrendered their heart to Jesus as Savior. It matters not whether they own a Bible, attend a church, live uprightly or pray often.

# The Bride and Groom

- The New Testament portrays the Church as the Bride of Christ in Ephesians 5:22-33.
- Ancient Jewish Weddings
- “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 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. 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.” John 14:1-3

**The Apostle Paul was so sure of this future event that he mentioned it often and encouraged the followers of Jesus to live each day in light of the coming of Jesus.**

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

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Philippians 3:20-21

When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. Colossians 3:4

For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? For you are our glory and joy. 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

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 Thessalonians 5:23

But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ 1 Timothy 6:11-14



# Honoring God Now Before The Rapture

I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

2 Timothy 4:1-8

# Honoring God Now Before The Rapture

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

Titus 2:11-14

# James, Peter, John also wrote about the Coming Rapture

Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door. James 5:7-9

And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 1 Peter 5:4

# James, Peter, John also wrote about the Coming Rapture

Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

1 John 2:28

Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

1 John 3:2

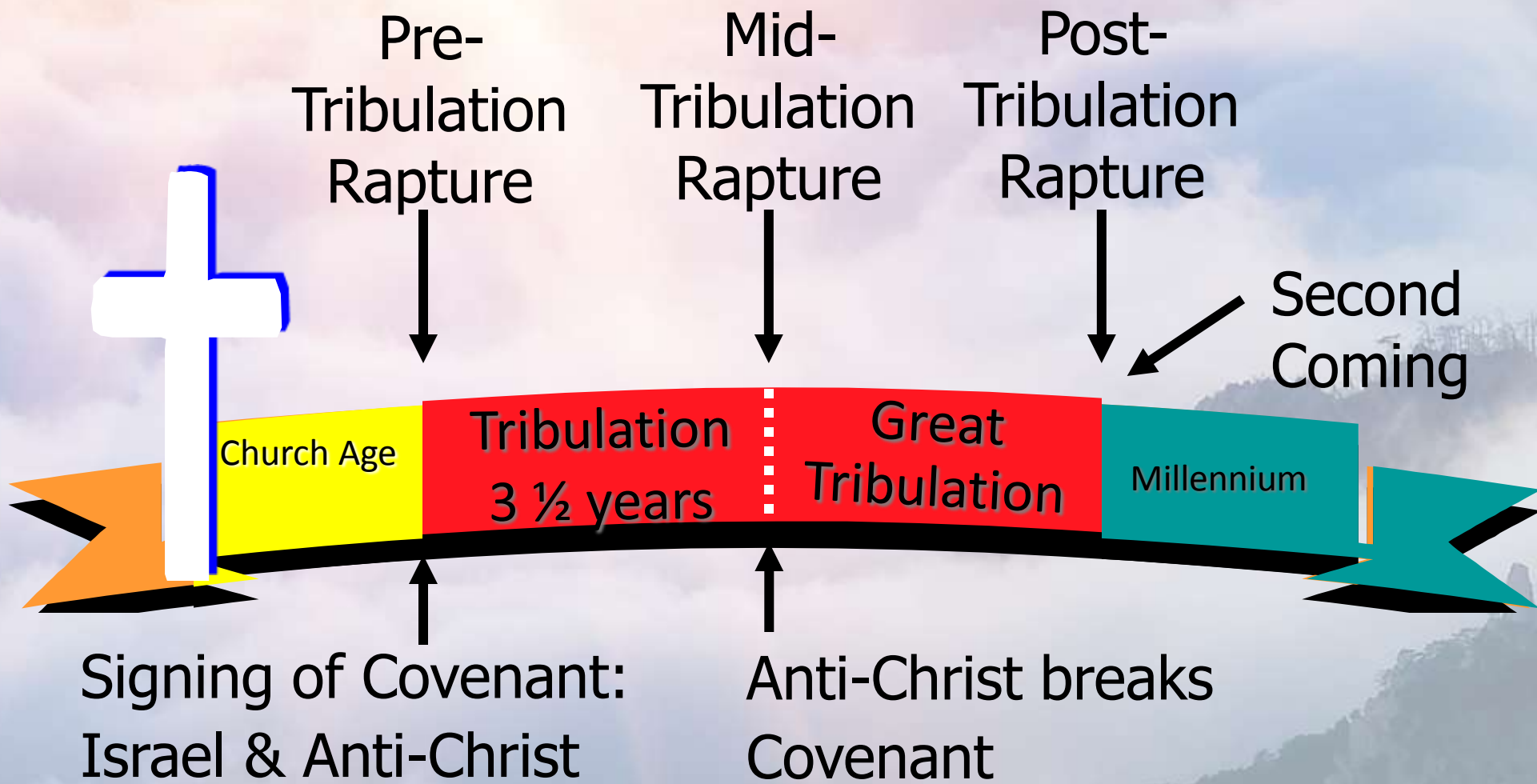
# When is The Rapture going to happen? When will the Groom return for the Bride?

- The Bible teaches that Christ can come at any moment. This is called the doctrine of imminence. Any valid date setting would tend to destroy the doctrine of imminence, and would also have a deleterious effect on our Christian walk. We are to live in the expectation of His any-moment appearance for us. (Dr. Chuck Missler)
- Dr. Gary Frazier: “The next event on God’s prophetic calendar is the Rapture!”

# When is The Rapture going to happen? When will the Groom return for the Bride?

- Jesus said, “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.” Matthew 24:36
- Jesus said, “Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.” Matthew 24:42
- Jesus said, “Therefore, be on the alert—for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep. What I say to you I say to all, ‘Be on the alert!’” Mark 13:35-37

# Various views of when the Rapture occurs



John 14:1-3



Rapture

1 Thess. 4:16-17  
1 Cor. 15:51-58

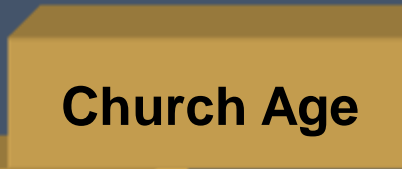


Glorious

Appearing

Matt. 24:30

Rev. 19:11-21

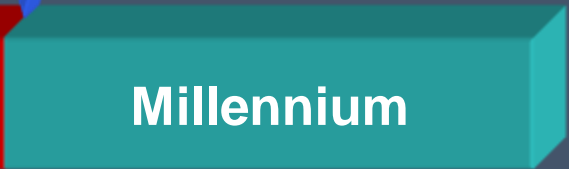


Church Age



3 1/2 years

Great Trib



Millennium

2 Thess. 2:6-10

Future  
Ages

# Pre-Tribulation Rapture View



# The Pre-Tribulation Rapture

- The best inference of Scripture is that the Rapture will occur at the beginning of the Tribulation. The most important reason has to do with the issue of **imminence**. Over and over in Scripture we are told to watch for the appearing of the Lord. We are told "to be ready" (Matt. 24:44), "to be on the alert" (Matt. 24:42), "to be dressed in readiness" (Luke 12:35), and to "keep your lamps alight" (Luke 12:35). The clear force of these persistent warnings is that Jesus can appear at any moment.
- **Only the pre-Tribulation concept of the Rapture allows for the imminence of the Lord's appearing for His Church.** When the Rapture is placed at any other point in time, the imminence of the Lord's appearing is destroyed because other prophetic events must happen first.
- If the Rapture is going to occur in mid-Tribulation, then why should I live looking for the Lord's appearing at any moment? I would be looking instead for an Israeli peace treaty, the rebuilding of the Temple, and the revelation of the Antichrist. Then and only then could the Lord appear.

- Source: Dr. David Reagan

# The Pre-Tribulation Rapture

- Another argument in behalf of a pre-Tribulation Rapture has to do with the promises of God to protect the Church from His wrath. The book of Revelation shows that the wrath of God will be poured out during the entire period of the Tribulation.
- The Bible promises that the Church will be delivered from God's wrath. Romans 5:9 says that "we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him [Jesus]." 1 Thessalonians 1:10 states that we are waiting "for His Son from heaven... who will deliver us from the wrath to come." The promise is repeated in 1 Thessalonians 5:9 — "God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."
- Source: Dr. David Reagan

# The Pre-Tribulation Rapture

- The structure of the Book of Revelation implies a pre-Tribulation Rapture. The first three chapters focus on the Church. Chapter 4 begins with the door of Heaven opening and John being raptured from the isle of Patmos to the throne of God in Heaven. The Church is not mentioned thereafter until Revelation 19:7-9 when it is portrayed as the "bride of Christ" in Heaven with Jesus celebrating the "marriage supper of the Lamb." At Revelation 19:11 the door of Heaven opens again, and Jesus emerges riding a white horse on His way to earth, followed by His Church (Rev. 19:14).
- The rapture of the Apostle John in Revelation 4 appears to be symbolic of the Rapture of the Church. It is initiated by the cry of a voice that sounds like the blowing of a trumpet (Rev. 4:1). The Tribulation does not begin until Revelation 6.
- Source: Dr. David Reagan

# Our New Bodies After The Rapture

- Paul mentions the Rapture in 1 Corinthians 15 — his famous chapter on the resurrection of the dead: “Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet” (verses 51-52).
- Paul’s reference here to being changed is an allusion to the fact that the saints will receive glorified bodies that will be imperishable, immortal, and perfected (1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 50-55 and Isaiah 35:5-6).
- The resurrected body of Jesus is a guide to our new bodies

# Why the Rapture?

## Because God keeps His promises made to His people

- **The Groom always returns for the Bride**

- Jesus said, “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.” John 14:3

- **To complete the Church’s longing and anticipation**

- “looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus” (Titus 2:13)

- **To shield the Church from the wrath to come**

- “having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.” (Romans 5:9)
- “to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.” (1 Thessalonians 1:10)



**Is this really true?**

**HE'S COMING**  
*Rapture of the Church and Return of Jesus*

We believe in this biblical doctrine so much we wrote it into our church's official bylaws

## **ARTICLE XIII OPERATION AND DISSOLUTION**

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ died for the Church and will return soon to receive the body of Christ unto Himself. After the promised Rapture of the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, Titus 2:13, John 14:3, Matthew 24:30-31, 1 Corinthians 15:51-53, Philippians 3:20-21, Mark 14:62) and the taking home spiritually of all born-again followers of Jesus Christ, the assets of this church may be transferred to ministries or charitable organizations seeking to proclaim the saving gospel of Jesus Christ with people of all races and nationalities.

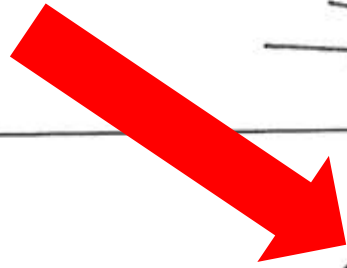
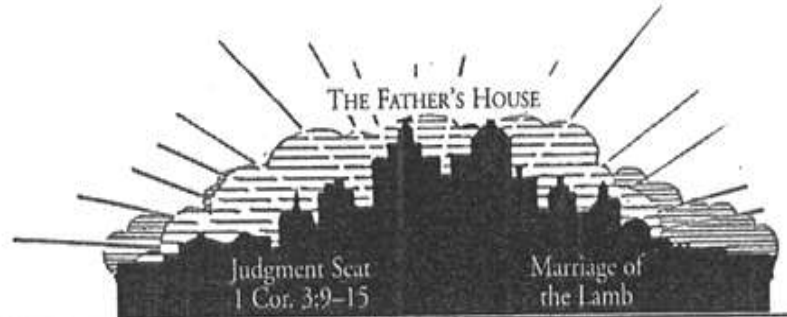


**Will there be a chance for  
salvation after the Rapture?**

HE'S COMING

*Rapture of the Church and Return of Jesus*





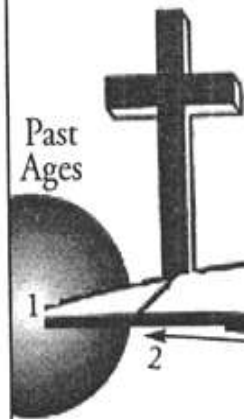
John 14:1-3



Judgment Seat of Christ  
2 Corinthians 5:10  
BELIEVERS' JUDGMENT



GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT



Past Ages

1

2

Church Age

4-5

7-Year Tribulation

Millennium

3 1/2 Years

Great Trib.

3

6-7

8-9

13

16

20

10-12

14-15

17

18

19b

21-22

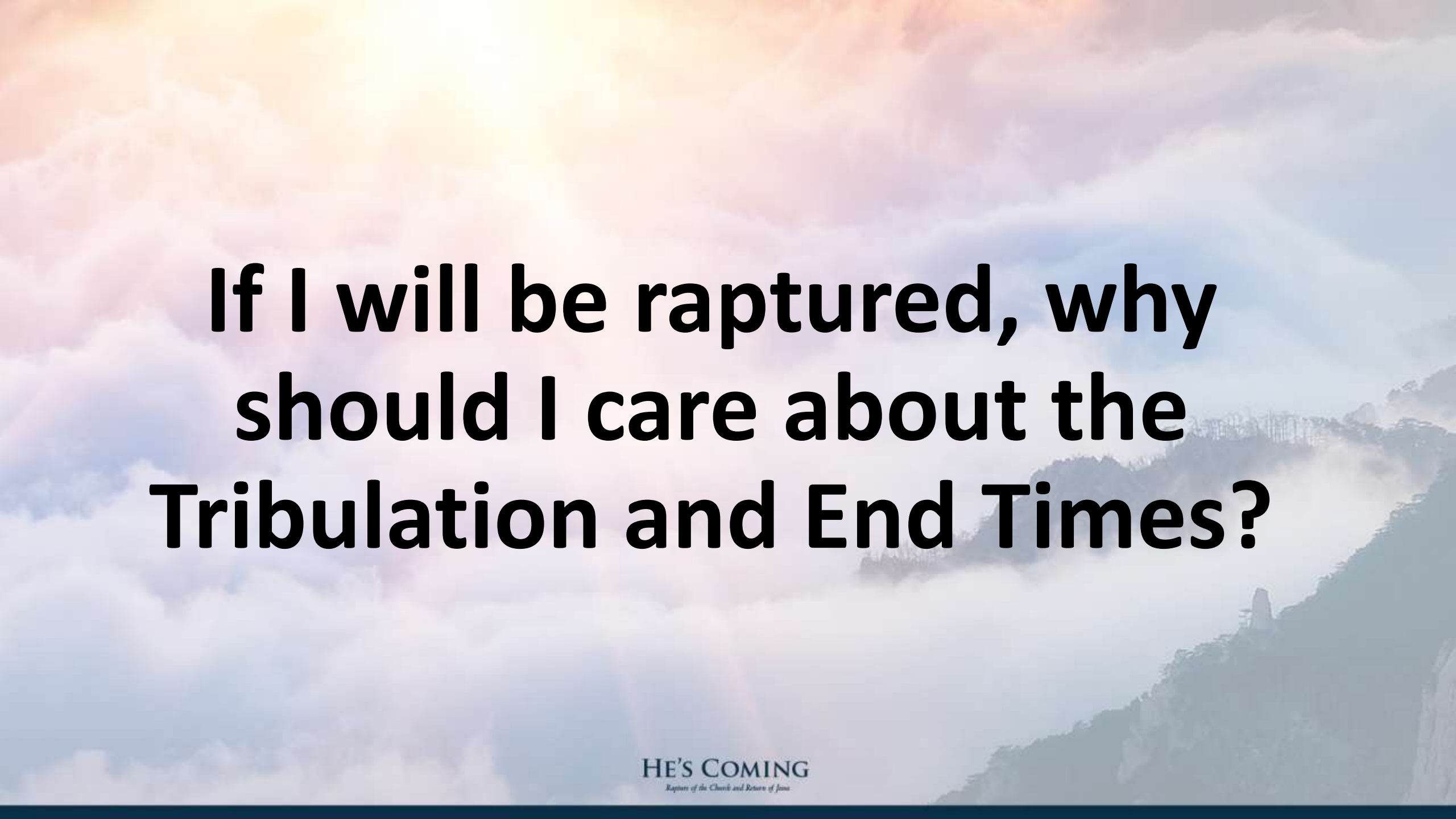
PRE-TRIBULATION IN ONE BOOK: REVELATION

Future Ages

# Will there be a chance for salvation after the Rapture?

There will be many people who come to Christ during the Tribulation. The 144,000 Jewish witnesses (Revelation 7:4) are Jewish believers. If no one can come to Christ during the Tribulation, then why are people being beheaded for their faith (Revelation 20:4)? No passage of Scripture argues against people having a chance to be saved after the Rapture. Many passages indicate the opposite.

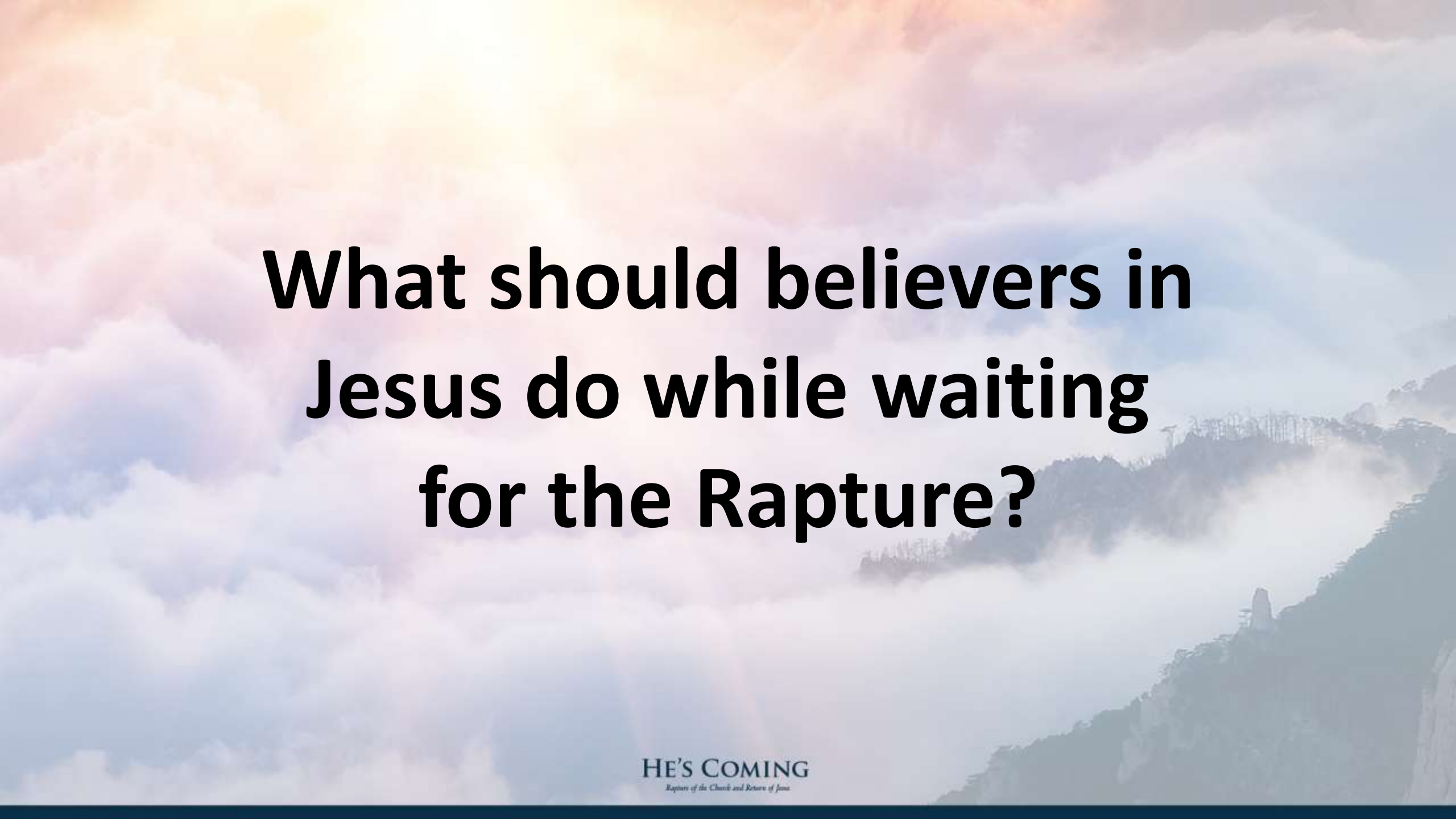
Revelation 6:9-11 speaks of those martyred during the Tribulation “because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained.” These martyrs will correctly interpret what they see during the Tribulation and will believe the gospel themselves and call on others to repent and believe as well. The Antichrist and his followers will not tolerate their evangelism and will kill them. All of these martyrs are people who were alive before the Rapture, but who were not believers until afterward. Therefore, there must be opportunity to come to Christ in faith after the Rapture.



**If I will be raptured, why  
should I care about the  
Tribulation and End Times?**

# If I will be raptured, why should I care about the Tribulation and End Times?

- Are you sure you will be “caught up”? Are you sure you are a Christ-follower? Do you need salvation today?
- If you are saved, why would you not want to share the gift of salvation that you have been given?
- What will you do with the time you have left?
- What will this church do with the time it has left?



**What should believers in  
Jesus do while waiting  
for the Rapture?**

“Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God,(1) let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. (2) Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and (3) let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, (4) not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, (5) but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.” Hebrews 10:19-25