

The Rapture: Our Greatest Hope in the Last Days

Main Bible Verse:

(Matthew 24:30-31) 30 “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. 31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

(Matthew 24:42-44) 42 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

Prayers of Blessing to the New Friends:

Tia Yang, Eva Chu, Yu-Qin He, Jing-Yi Tu, Kai-Cheng Tu, Richard Neal, Xiu-Qi Wang, Tsu-Hsiu Chung, Xin-Yuan Na

List of Healing Prayers Request:

Anne Wang, JT Foo, Winnie Liang, Jian-Hua Wu, Shu-Hui Wang, Ying-An Chen, Mei-Lin Ke, Hui-Xin Lai, Qing-De Ren, Shu-Hui Ye, Cai-Wen Wang, He-Ping Chen, Ping-Yang Li, Shu-Hui Liu, Jia-Yi Ren, Betty Shen, Rosa Huang, Ya-Ping Su, Mandy Zhang, Carter, Nian-Jiao Chen, Henry Qiao, Zhen-Hui Zhu, Joy Chang, Christine Zhang, Zhu-Xian Chen, Feng-Lun Bai, Xue-Hui Bai, Xiu-Lan Wu, Chu-Xian Chen, Jian-Ping Ren, Hui-Mei Liu, Richard Don, Li-Xin Liu, Du-Hua Wang, Bi-Yun Wu, Xiao-Ning Xie, Pin-Tong Meng, Suan-You Hu, Xiu-Ling Chen, Zhen-Gang Gu

Prayers for the Kingdom Commission:

- Monthly Church Fasting and Prayer will be held every last Saturday after Morning Prayer. We encourage brothers and sisters to attend the Morning Prayer at 8:30 and join us for the Fasting and Prayer afterwards.

Date of Fasting and Prayer in December: 12/27.

Summary:

Matthew 24:3-8, 29-31, 37-44

- Christmas is not something that we should only celebrate once a year.
 - Jesus has already redeemed us by dying and going to hell for us.
 - We must learn to pray, praise, and give thanks to God daily, and we will experience joy from the Lord.
- By praise, we can draw closer to God and receive His Holy Spirit.
- In the end times, there are many calamities, but God will save us and deliver us from all of these dangers.
 - In all that we do, we must cooperate with God and follow His plan for us.
- God does not want us to live in ignorance without preparation.
 - (Matthew 24:7-8) 7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.
 - These are the things that Jesus told us would signify the end times.
- The current state of the world resembles these signs that Jesus told us would come.

- We must prepare ourselves
- (Matthew 24:29-31) 29 “Immediately after the distress of those days “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’ 30 “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. 31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.
 - Those who are prepared for the coming of Jesus will rejoice as they have been waiting for that moment.

Genesis 7 | Romans 11:25 | Matthew 24:43 | Psalm 119:164

- Jesus used the days of Noah as an example of what the rapture will be like.
 - At the time, nobody knew what rain was.
 - Jesus was merciful to the people, allowing them the opportunity to change in the 120 years that Noah was building the ark.
 - However, only the 8 members of Noah’s family boarded the ark.
 - A submissive heart allowed those who boarded the ark to be saved.
 - When the flood came, not only were the springs of the earth opened but the floodgates of heaven as well.
- Jesus’ return will be just like the time of Noah, when nobody is aware.
 - Therefore, we must continually come to church and prepare ourselves for Jesus’ arrival.
- Whenever we can, we must come to church to learn the word of God and build our relationship with Him.
 - The more we come before God, the clearer His direction for us will be to us.
 - We must practice obedience in our everyday life, and we will be keener to the Holy Spirit’s guidance.
 - In our obedience, we will be protected.
- God wants us to practice our obedience in small everyday things, and when we do, we will be able to immediately receive instructions from the Spirit in times of emergency.
 - Furthermore, in our obedience, we will receive great blessings.
- The rapture is a single event that will hit the entire world at once.
 - It will arrive like a thief, when nobody expects it.
- (Romans 11:25) I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in,
 - When we come to church, we must invite those around us to come to church as well.
 - We must continue to invite them whether it be the first time or the tenth time.
 - When the Holy Spirit is moving, it will be very easy to take them with us to church.
- Jesus may come in the moment that we decide to take a break, so we must always be alert and continue to pray.
- We must pay the price for those around us by praying for them every day and bringing them to church.
- We mustn’t wait until that moment when those around us have already been raptured to start praying and reading the Bible.
 - We must start now by praying, worshiping, and reading the Bible 7 times throughout the day even if just for a minute.
- We must be careful not to be angry, arguing, or have thoughts that we ought not to have.
- Our fine linen cloak will be created from the righteousness and all that we do for the church.

John 14:1-4

- Especially now in the end times, we must rely not on our own feelings and thoughts but on the word of God.
 - We must praise and pray until we receive our word from God and do accordingly.
- (John 14:1-4) 1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going.”
 - We must look to the Lord and pray for He has provided for us Jesus, our way, truth, and life.
- The place that Jesus is preparing for us is where we will go when we are raptured.
 - As Jesus prepares the place for us, we must prepare our hearts, not allowing anything to affect us.
 - If we are unable to overcome our own frustrations and troubles, we must come to church to worship and pray with others.
 - When we rely on God in all that we do, we will be set free from our thoughts and feelings.
- We must learn to do more work for God in our daily life.
 - We must also share our testimonies to those around us so that they too may get to know God.
 - We must not underestimate our testimony for all of them are God’s great work in our life, displaying His glory.
- With Jesus, we will have great joy in our life regardless of our circumstance.