

# WELCOME TO THE FUTURE -NOW-

[PART 27]

WILL THERE BE A  
SECRET RAPTURE?

Reading: **1 Thessalonians 4:13 - 18**

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## Introduction

- ***'It is important that we have clear understanding with regard to end times.'***
- The ***'blessed hope.'*** The church's belief in the return of the Lord Jesus to earth.
- At the moment of His return, an event referred too as ***'the rapture'*** also takes place.

## 1 What Do We Mean By The Term ***'Rapture?'***

- The word ***'rapture'*** is a coined word to express something taught in the Bible.
- Derived from the Latin word ***'rapio'*** meaning ***'a carrying off'*** or ***'to carry away.'***
- The resurrected saints and the living saints [4:16/17] carried away.
- Why raptured? Answer: to meet the Lord...
- Raptured to where? ***'in the clouds...in the air.'***

**NB.** It does not say, ***'carried away to heaven.'***

## 2 The ***'Futurists'*** Version Of The Rapture

- The ***'Second Coming'*** will be in 2 stages separated by 7 years.
- During this time the believers are in heaven with the Holy Spirit.
- The unsaved left behind puzzled by the Christian's disappearance.
- At the end of the 7 years Jesus returns to earth with the believers as His escort to set up His Kingdom.

### 3 Examples Of Futurism By A Leading Futurist Author and Advocate

- Quotes are from *'The Late Great Planet Earth,'* by Hal Lindsey.
- Disappearing Christians, cars suddenly without drivers.
- The author refers to this event as, *'Project Disappearance.'*

### 4 The Origin Of The *'Secret Rapture'* Theory

- The suggestion of a *'secret'* coming of Jesus came onto the scene in 1830.
- This was via a so-called prophetic utterance by Margaret McDonald in Edward Irving's church in London.
- A secret coming followed later by a visible coming.
- Those *'left behind'* to go through tribulation.
- Some embraced this *'new revelation'* but others like George Muller, William Booth and CH Spurgeon rejected it.

### 6 Do The *'Thief Passages'* Prove A Secret Rapture?

- Futurist say texts such as [1 Thessalonians 5:2], [Revelation 16:15] etc with the motif of a *'thief'* imply secrecy.

**NB.** The eastern thief was not like our western cat burglar.

- More like a Mexican bandit and his gang of thieves and cut throats.
- The only thing secret about Christ's coming is the time of it.
- [2 Peter 3:10] is a thief passage too with lots of noise. Hardly secret.
- A two stage *'second coming'* actually implies 3 comings of Christ to earth.
- Another favourite *'Futurist'* text is [1 Corinthians 15:51/52].
- It is **NOT** the return of Jesus that happens so fast it isn't seen.
- It's the *'glorification'* of the believer that happens in the twinkle of an eye.
- The ungodly will see the coming of Christ for His church and their rapture.

### Danger

- Some are being told if they are not saved at Jesus' rapture of the church, they can be saved during the 7 years.
- This is a false hope. The opportunity of salvation ends with the coming of Christ.
- Now is the accepted time.

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