

Study QUESTIONS

Ep. 1259: Do I Suffer From Rapture Anxiety? (Part I)

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1259-rapture-anxiety/>

See:  CQRewind
SHOW NOTES

1. What is the classic rapture teaching made popular by books and movies? What is “rapture anxiety”? (See 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, Matthew 24:36-41)
2. Why was the Apostle Paul writing this letter to the church at Thessalonica? What two things might Paul have wanted to accomplish with this letter? (See 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, 4:15-18)
3. State the second main variation on the rapture viewpoint. What are two of the interpretations of the millennial kingdom? Explain the beliefs of those who believe in a “social gospel.” (See Revelation 20:1-8)
4. The Apostle Paul exhorts the Thessalonians to what three improvements in their spiritual lives? What were the early Christians’ expectations about Christ’s return? What did they fear? Why was this fear unfounded? How does Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians significantly differ from rapture teachings? (See 1 Thessalonians 4:1,6,11-12)
5. Do the events in 1 Thessalonians 4:14-15 happen simultaneously? At this point, where were Jesus’ faithful followers who died? What had to happen before they could go to heaven? (See 1 Corinthians 15:20-23)
6. When something is “coming,” how is that different from something being “present?” How does “in his day” help to define what is meant by *parousia*? In what way does Jesus talk about his return? Describe how a sunrise is like Jesus’ second presence. (See Matthew 24:27, Luke 17:24)
7. How was the first phase of Jesus’ return, his *parousia*, like the beginning of a sunrise? What was the purpose of it starting this way? How does the second phase, the *epiphaneia*, differ from the beginning? (See 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2, Acts 1:11, 1 Timothy 6:13-14)
8. If Jesus’ return is a process, how does this disprove the rapture? What is the final phase of Jesus’ *parousia*, the *apocalypses*, like? At this point, who will realize Jesus has returned? (See Luke 17:26-30, Revelation 1:7)
9. What are the events in 1 Thessalonians 4:16? How can Jesus return “like a thief in the night” and yet, “with a shout”? Who responds to his shout? Do they all respond at once? Give the order. Why does Jesus speak with “the voice of the archangel”? What happened when Michael, the archangel, arose in the late 1800s? (See John 5:26-29, 1 Corinthians 15:20-23, Daniel 12:1,2, Ezekiel 37)
10. How do the rapture teachings and the scriptural interpretation of the process of Jesus’ return compare? Which shows God’s plan and His compassion to the fullest measure?