



# THE RAPTURE

“Escape all these things [taken together] that will take place” ...Luke 21:36

## Part 2

Pastor Grant Williams

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

### John 1:1 KJV

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

### John 1:1 AMPC

*In the beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself.*

Jesus is the Word - the Word became flesh in verse 14. He showed us how to live the Word.

### Hebrews 13:8 KJV

*8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*

### Malachi 3:6 KJV

*6 For I am the Lord, I change not;*

This is also about reward and not just punishment. God has told us and showed us about His grace, His mercy, His righteousness, His holiness and judgment to come and how to escape eternity in Hell and to spend eternity in Heaven with Him.

**Isaiah 46:9-10 KJV**

**9 Remember the former things of old:** for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,

**10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done,** saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

**Isaiah 46:9-10 AMPC**

**9 [Earnestly] remember the former things, [which I did] of old;** for I am God, and there is no one else; I am God, and there is none like Me,

**10 Declaring the end and the result from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done,** saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure and purpose.

The Word or Jesus has always been. It is the same yesterday today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). He (the Word) has declared and shown us from the beginning what will happen in the end. No revisions, no changes - He or the Word is the same.

From the revelation of the rapture of Enoch in Genesis 5 because he was habitually righteous. The announcement of judgment for almost 1,000 years which was foretold by the birth of Methuselah, Enoch's son. Methuselah's name means: when he dies judgment comes and everyone knew it.

From the preaching of righteousness and judgment by Methuselah and Noah for 120 years prior to the flood and the construction of the signs (the Ark) for 100 years prior to the flood - God wasn't trying to sneak up on anyone.

**2 Peter 3:9 AMPC**

*9 The Lord does not delay and is not tardy or slow about what He promises, according to some people's conception of slowness, but He is long-suffering (extraordinarily patient) toward you, **not desiring that any should perish, but that all should turn to repentance.***

Everyone saw the ark being built especially towards the end of the build, the animals coming on, Methuselah getting up in years - he lived 969 years. So, it all came down to faith. Do you believe that these signs are from God and that judgment is coming?

**James 2:26 KJV**

*26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, **so faith without works is dead also.***

**James 2:26 AMPC**

*26 For as the human body apart from the spirit is lifeless, **so faith apart from [its] works of obedience is also dead.***

The works or ***acts of obedience*** is a physical manifestation of God's commands, His laws...it's not just in word "I love Jesus" or "I am a christian or follower or imitate of christ" it is in actions or deeds.

**Colossians 3:17 KJV**

*17 And **whatsoever ye do in word or deed,** do all in the name of the Lord Jesus*

**Hebrews 11:7 AMPC**

*7 [**Prompted**] by faith Noah, being forewarned by God concerning events of which as yet there was no visible sign, **took heed and diligently and reverently constructed and prepared an ark for the deliverance** of his own family. By this [his faith which relied on God] he passed judgment and sentence on the world's unbelief and became an heir and possessor of righteousness (that relation of being right into which God puts the person who has faith).*

The “Never Wrong” Prophet Isaiah said from the beginning, God has declared the end. We read about the rapture, about judgment in the days of Noah - 2 choices, escape or die. Then, the prophecy from Jacob in Genesis (Old Testament ) about Jesus. The prophecies from the “[Never Wrong” Prophet Daniel we learned about in Part 1 where he saw Jesus coming down from the clouds at the end of Revelation. Paul said Enoch (Old Testament) foretold of 2 judgments the flood and the final by fire. God is not trying to sneak up on anyone.

The never wrong Old Testament Prophets told of where Jesus would be born, where He would flee to (Egypt) and many more details of His birth where it was unmistakable that Jesus was the prophesied Messiah for anyone who wanted to know, to believe and change their conduct. At the age of 30 when Jesus read from Isaiah in the synagogues right after fasting and being tempted for 40 days. He said:

**Luke 4:14-30 AMPC**

*14 Then Jesus went back full of and under the power of the [Holy] Spirit into Galilee, and the fame of Him spread through the whole region round about.*

*15 And He Himself conducted [[a]a course of] teaching in their synagogues, being [b]recognized and honored and praised by all.*

*16 So He came to Nazareth, [[c]that Nazareth] where He had been brought up, and He entered the synagogue, as was His custom on the Sabbath day. And He stood up to read.*

*17 And there was handed to Him [the roll of] the book of the prophet Isaiah. He opened (unrolled) the book and found the place where it was written,*

*18 The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon Me, because He has anointed Me [the Anointed One, the Messiah] to preach the good news (the Gospel) to the poor; He has sent Me to announce release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to send forth as delivered those who are oppressed [who are downtrodden, bruised, crushed, and broken down by calamity],*

*19 To proclaim the accepted and acceptable year of the Lord [the day [d]when salvation and the free favors of God profusely abound].*

*20 Then He rolled up the book and gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were gazing [attentively] at Him.*

*21 And He began to speak to them: Today this Scripture has been fulfilled [e]while you are present and hearing.*

*22 And all spoke well of Him and marveled at the words of grace that came forth from His mouth; and they said, Is not this Joseph's [f]Son?*

*23 So He said to them, You will doubtless quote to Me this proverb: Physician, heal Yourself! What we have learned by hearsay that You did in Capernaum, do here also in Your [own] town.*

*24 Then He said, Solemnly I say to you, no prophet is acceptable and welcome in his [own] town (country).*

*25 But in truth I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were closed up for three years and six months, so that there came a great famine over all the land;*

*26 And yet Elijah was not sent to a single one of them, but only to Zarephath in the country of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow.*

*27 And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and yet not one of them was cleansed [by being healed]—but only Naaman the Syrian.*

*28 When they heard these things, all the people in the synagogue were filled with rage.*

*29 And rising up, they pushed and drove Him out of the town, and [laying hold of Him] they led Him to the [projecting] upper part of the hill on which their town was built, that they might hurl Him headlong down [over the cliff].*

*30 But passing through their midst, He went on His way.*

So, the Word or Jesus fulfills the prophecies of Him coming in the flesh and how did the religions leaders and people receive Him? In Luke 4 and in John 5, they wanted to kill Him.

Instead of being excited about the appearing of Jesus, the long awaited prophecies being checked off, being fulfilled, they saw the Word taking place, speaking in front of them and said - kill Him. He or the Word and the prophecies of His returning is not good for business.

That is what is taking place in the church today with “many” (that is Jesus Words and the NT writers), the pastors preachers and teacher are twisting the truth or saying nothing regarding: sin judgment, righteousness and “things” to come or prophecies that have yet happen that were spoke of in ancient times (Isaiah 46).

**John 5:6-47 AMPC**

6 When Jesus noticed him lying there [helpless], knowing that he had already been a long time in that condition, He said to him, Do you want to become well? [Are you really in earnest about getting well?]

7 The invalid answered, Sir, I have nobody when the water is moving to put me into the pool; but while I am trying to come [into it] myself, somebody else steps down ahead of me.

8 Jesus said to him, Get up! Pick up your bed (sleeping pad) and walk!

9 Instantly the man became well and recovered his strength and picked up his bed and walked. But that happened on the Sabbath.

10 So the Jews kept saying to the man who had been healed, It is the Sabbath, and you have no right to pick up your bed [it is not lawful].

11 He answered them, The [b]Man Who healed me and gave me back my strength, He Himself said to me, Pick up your bed and walk!

12 They asked him, Who is the Man Who told you, Pick up your bed and walk?

13 Now the invalid who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had quietly gone away [had passed on unnoticed], since there was a crowd in the place.

14 Afterward, when Jesus found him in the temple, He said to him, See, you are well! Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.

15 The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus Who had made him well.

16 For this reason the Jews began to persecute (annoy, torment) Jesus [c]and sought to kill Him, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath.

17 But Jesus answered them, My Father has worked [even] until now, [He has never ceased working; He is still working] and I, too, must be at [divine] work.

18 This made the Jews more determined than ever to kill Him [to do away with Him]; because He not only was breaking (weakening, violating) the Sabbath, but He actually was speaking of God as being [in a special sense] His own Father, making Himself equal [putting Himself on a level] with God.

19 So Jesus answered them by saying, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, the Son is able to do nothing of Himself (of His own accord); but He is able to do only what He sees the Father doing, for whatever the Father does is what the Son does in the same way [in His turn].

20 The Father dearly loves the Son and discloses to (shows) Him everything that He Himself does. And He will disclose to Him (let Him see) greater things yet than these, so that you may marvel and be full of wonder and astonishment.

21 Just as the Father raises up the dead and gives them life [makes them live on], even so the Son also gives life to whomever He wills and is pleased to give it.

**22 Even the Father judges no one, for He has given all judgment (the last judgment and the whole business of judging) entirely into the hands of the Son,**

23 So that all men may give honor (reverence, homage) to the Son just as they give honor to the Father. [In fact] whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, Who has sent Him.

24 I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, the person whose ears are open to My words [who listens to My message] and believes and trusts in and clings to and relies on Him Who sent Me has (possesses now) eternal life. And he does not come into judgment [does not incur sentence of judgment, will not come under condemnation], but he has already passed over out of death into life.

**25 Believe Me when I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, the time is coming and is here now when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear it shall live.**

26 For even as the Father has life in Himself and is self-existent, so He has given to the Son to have life in Himself and be self-existent.

**27 And He has given Him authority and granted Him power to execute (exercise, practice) judgment because He is [d]a Son of man [very man].**

**28 Do not be surprised and wonder at this, for the time is coming when all those who are in the tombs shall hear His voice,**

**29 And they shall come out—those who have practiced doing good [will come out] to the resurrection of [new] life, and those who have done evil will be raised for judgment [raised to meet their sentence].**

30 I am able to do nothing from Myself [independently, of My own accord—but only as I am taught by God and as I get His orders]. Even as I hear, I judge [I decide as I am bidden to decide. As the voice comes to Me, so I give a decision], and My judgment is right (just, righteous), because I do not seek or consult My own will [I have no desire to do what is pleasing to Myself, My own aim, My own purpose] but only the will and pleasure of the Father Who sent Me.

31 If I alone testify in My behalf, My testimony is not valid and cannot be worth anything.

**32 There is Another Who testifies concerning Me, and I know and am certain that His evidence on My behalf is true and valid.**

**33 You yourselves have sent [an inquiry] to John and he has been a witness to the truth.**

34 But I do not receive [a mere] human witness [the evidence which I accept on My behalf is not from man]; but I simply mention all these things in order that you may be saved (made and kept safe and sound).

35 John was the lamp that kept on burning and shining [to show you the way], and you were willing for a while to delight (sun) yourselves in his light.

36 But I have as My witness something greater (weightier, higher, better) than that of John; for the works that the Father has appointed Me to accomplish and finish, the very same works that I am now doing, are a witness and proof that the Father has sent Me.

37 And the Father Who sent Me has Himself testified concerning Me. Not one of you has ever given ear to His voice or seen His form (His face—what He is like). [You have always been deaf to His voice and blind to the vision of Him.]

38 And you have not His word (His thought) living in your hearts, because you do not believe and adhere to and trust in and rely on Him Whom He has sent. [That is why you do not keep His message living in you, because you do not believe in the Messenger Whom He has sent.]



39 *You search and investigate and pore over the Scriptures diligently, because you suppose and trust that you have eternal life through them. And these [very Scriptures] testify about Me!*

40 *And still you are not willing [but refuse] to come to Me, so that you might have life.*

41 *I receive not glory from men [I crave no human honor, I look for no mortal fame],*

42 *But I know you and recognize and understand that you have not the love of God in you.*

43 *I have come in My Father's name and with His power, and you do not receive Me [your hearts are not open to Me, you give Me no welcome]; but if another comes in his own name and his own power and with no other authority but himself, you will receive him and give him your approval.*

44 *How is it possible for you to believe [how can you learn to believe], you who [are content to seek and] receive praise and honor and glory from one another, and yet do not seek the praise and honor and glory which come from Him Who alone is God?*

45 *Put out of your minds the thought and do not suppose [as some of you are supposing] that I will accuse you before the Father. There is one who accuses you—it is Moses, the very one on whom you have built your hopes [in whom you trust].*

46 *For if you believed and relied on Moses, you would believe and rely on Me, for he wrote about Me [personally].*

47 *But if you do not believe and trust his writings, how then will you believe and trust My teachings? [How shall you cleave to and rely on My words?]*

When we come to the time of Jesus we discover that He reveals right at the onset of His ministry two vitally important teachings. The first one is how He would “**ascend**” (also known as the Ascension). The second is how He would “**return**” (also known as the Rapture) to meet all the saints in the air, both the living and the dead. (1 Thess. 4:16-17) John Chapter 14 is just one of many passages where you will find this.

**John 14:1-3 KJV**

1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.  
2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. **I go to prepare** a place for you.  
3 And if I **go and prepare** a place for you, **I will come again**, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

**John 14:1-3 AMPC**

1 Do not let your hearts be troubled (distressed, agitated). You believe in and adhere to and trust in and rely on God; believe in and adhere to and trust in and rely also on Me.  
2 In My Father's house there are many dwelling places (homes). If it were not so, I would have told you; for **I am going away** to prepare a place for you. 3 And when (if) **I go and make ready a place** for you, **I will come back again** and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also.

Also, in John Chapter 5 we find...

**John 5:28-29 KJV**

28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,  
29 And shall come forth; **they that have done good**, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

**John 5:28-29 AMPC**

28 Do not be surprised and wonder at this, for the time is coming when all those who are in the tombs shall hear His voice,  
29 And they shall come out—**those who have practiced doing good** [will come out] to the resurrection of [new] life, and those who have done evil will be raised for judgment [raised to meet their sentence].

The word ***good*** in verse 29 translated in Greek is: righteous  
The word ***practiced*** in verse 29 translated in Greek is: habitual

**Genesis 5:21-24 AMPC**

21 When Enoch was 65 years old, Methuselah was born.

22 Enoch walked **[in habitual fellowship]** with God after the birth of Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters.

23 So all the days of Enoch were 365 years.

24 **And Enoch walked [in habitual fellowship] with God; and he was not, for God took him [home with Him].**

**Habitual defined:**

*Webster's Dictionary 1828*

Habitual - *adjective* Formed or acquired by habit, frequent use or custom.

1. Customary; according to habit; as the habitual practice of sin; the habitual exercise of holy affections.
2. Formed by repeated impressions; rendered permanent by continued causes; as an habitual color of the skin.

**Synonyms for Habitual:**

perpetual	repeated	accepted	accustomed	automatic
common	continual	confirmed	conventional	customary
disciplined	star	familiar	fixed	frequent
ingrained	mechanical	natural	normal	ordinary
perfunctory	permanent	persistent	practiced	regular

**John 6:40 AMPC**

40 For this is My Father's will and His purpose, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in and cleaves to and trusts in and relies on Him should have eternal life, and **I will raise him up [from the dead] at the last day.**

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**John 6:40 KJV**

40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and **I will raise him up at the last day.**

Listen to what the angels said to the disciples in Acts 1...

**Acts 1:8-11 KJV**

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, **he was taken up;** and a cloud received him out of their sight.

10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? **this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.**

**Acts 1:6-11 AMPC**

8 But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth.

9 And when He had said this, even as they were looking [at Him], **He was caught up,** and a cloud received and carried Him away out of their sight.

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*10 And while they were gazing intently into heaven as He went, behold, two men [dressed] in white robes suddenly stood beside them,*

*11 Who said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing into heaven? **This same Jesus, Who was caught away and lifted up from among you into heaven, will return in [just] the same way in which you saw Him go into heaven.***

These four passages definitely reveal Jesus Christ is going to return again. There is a revelation later on in the New Testament of the “gathering together” which the words and meaning of these passages parallel regarding the rapture.

The gospels: Matthew, Mark and Luke (the synoptic gospels), John and the book of Acts reveal that Jesus, the *mashiach* or Messiah, would return.

When you come to the time after the day of Pentecost when the Gentiles are grafted into the covenant in Acts something happened... there was a man by the name of Saul of Tarsus we now know as the Apostle Paul that had an encounter with God.

### **Acts 9:1-31 AMPC**

*1 Meanwhile Saul, still drawing his breath hard from threatening and murderous desire against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest*

*2 And requested of him letters to the synagogues at Damascus [authorizing him], so that if he found any men or women belonging to the Way [of life as determined by faith in Jesus Christ], he might bring them bound [with chains] to Jerusalem.*

*3 Now as he traveled on, he came near to Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him,*

*4 And he fell to the ground. Then he heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me [harassing, troubling, and molesting Me]?*

***5 And Saul said, Who are You, Lord? And He said, I am Jesus, Whom you are persecuting. [b]It is dangerous and it will turn out badly for you to keep kicking against the goad [to offer vain and perilous resistance].***

*6 Trembling and astonished he asked, Lord, what do You desire me to do? The Lord said to him, But arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.*

*7 The men who were accompanying him were unable to speak [for terror], hearing the voice but seeing no one.*

*8 Then Saul got up from the ground, but though his eyes were opened, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.9 And he was unable to see for three days, and he neither ate nor drank [anything].*

*10 Now there was **in Damascus a disciple named Ananias.** The Lord said to him in a vision, Ananias. **And he answered, Here am I, Lord.***

*11 And the Lord said to him, Get up and go to the street called Straight and ask at the house of Judas for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying [there].*

*12 And he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias enter and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.*

*13 **But Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard many people tell about this man,** especially how much evil and what great suffering he has brought on Your saints at Jerusalem;*

*14 Now he is here and has authority from the high priests to put in chains all who call upon Your name.*

*15 **But the Lord said to him, Go, for this man is a chosen instrument of Mine to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the descendants of Israel;***

*16 **For I will make clear to him how much he will be afflicted and must endure and suffer for My name's sake.***

*17 So Ananias left and went into the house. And he laid his hands on Saul and said, Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, Who appeared to you along the way by which you came here, has sent me that you may recover your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.*

*18 And instantly something like scales fell from [Saul's] eyes, and he recovered his sight. Then he arose and was baptized,*

19 And after he took some food, he was strengthened. For several days [afterward] he remained with the disciples at Damascus.

20 And immediately in the synagogues he proclaimed Jesus, saying, He is the Son of God!

21 And all who heard him were amazed and said, Is not this the very man who harassed and overthrew and destroyed in Jerusalem those who called upon this Name? And he has come here for the express purpose of arresting them and bringing them in chains before the chief priests.

**22 But Saul increased all the more in strength, and continued to confound and put to confusion the Jews who lived in Damascus by comparing and examining evidence and proving that Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah).**

**23 After considerable time had elapsed, the Jews conspired to put Saul out of the way by slaying him,**

24 But [the knowledge of] their plot was made known to Saul. They were guarding the [city's] gates day and night to kill him,

25 But his disciples took him at night and let him down through the [city's] wall, lowering him in a basket or hamper.

**26 And when he had arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to associate himself with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe he really was a disciple.** 27 However, Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles, and he explained to them how along the way he had seen the Lord, Who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached freely and confidently and courageously in the name of Jesus.

28 So he went in and out [as one] among them at Jerusalem,

29 Preaching freely and confidently and boldly in the name of the Lord. And he spoke and discussed with and disputed against the Hellenists (the Grecian Jews), but they were seeking to slay him.

30 And when the brethren found it out, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus [his home town].

31 So the church throughout the whole of Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was edified [growing in wisdom, virtue, and piety] and walking in the respect and reverential fear of the Lord and in the consolation and exhortation of the Holy Spirit, continued to increase and was multiplied.

Saul who would become Paul reveals what happened in to the church in Galatians...

### **Galatians 1 AMPC**

1 Paul, an apostle—[special messenger appointed and commissioned and sent out] not from [any body of] men nor by or through [a]any man, but by and through Jesus Christ (the Messiah) and God the Father, Who raised Him from among the dead—

2 And all the brethren who are with me, to the churches of Galatia:

3 Grace and spiritual blessing be to you and [soul] peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah),

**4 Who gave (yielded) Himself up [[b]to atone] for our sins [and [c]to save and sanctify us], in order to rescue and deliver us from this present wicked age and world order, in accordance with the will and purpose and plan of our God and Father.**

5 To Him [be ascribed all] the glory through all the ages of the ages and the eternities of the eternities! Amen (so be it).

**6 I am surprised and astonished that you are so quickly [d]turning renegade and deserting Him** Who invited and called you [e]by the grace (unmerited favor) of Christ (the Messiah) [and that you are transferring your allegiance] to a different [even an opposition] gospel.

7 Not that there is [or could be] any other [genuine Gospel], **but there are [obviously] some who are troubling and disturbing and bewildering you [[f]with a different kind of teaching which they offer as a gospel] and want to pervert and distort the Gospel of Christ (the Messiah) [into something which it absolutely is not].**

8 But **even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to and different from that which we preached to you, let him be accursed (anathema, devoted to destruction, doomed to eternal punishment)!**

9 As we said before, so I now say again: **If anyone is preaching to you a gospel different from or contrary to that which you received [from us], let him be accursed (anathema, devoted to destruction, doomed to eternal punishment)!**



**10 Now am I trying to win the favor of men, or of God? Do I seek to please men? If I were still seeking popularity with men, I should not be a bond servant of Christ (the Messiah).**

11 For I want you to know, brethren, that the Gospel which was proclaimed and made known by me is not man's gospel [a human invention, according to or patterned after any human standard].

**12 For indeed I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but [it came to me] through a [direct] revelation [given] by Jesus Christ (the Messiah).**

**13 You have heard of my earlier career and former manner of life in the Jewish religion (Judaism), how I persecuted and abused the church of God furiously and extensively, and [with fanatical zeal did my best] to make havoc of it and destroy it.**

14 And [you have heard how] I outstripped many of the men of my own generation among the people of my race in [my advancement in study and observance of the laws of] Judaism, so extremely enthusiastic and zealous I was for the traditions of my ancestors.

15 But when He, Who had chosen and set me apart [even] before I was born and had called me by His grace (His undeserved favor and blessing), saw fit and was pleased

16 To reveal (unveil, disclose) His Son within me so that I might proclaim Him among the Gentiles (the non-Jewish world) as the glad tidings (Gospel), **immediately I did not confer with flesh and blood [did not consult or counsel with any frail human being or communicate with anyone].**

17 Nor did I [even] go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles (special messengers of Christ) before I was, but I went away and retired into Arabia, and afterward I came back again to Damascus.

18 **Then three years later,** I did go up to Jerusalem to become [personally] acquainted with Cephas (Peter), and remained with him for fifteen days.

19 But I did not see any of the other apostles (the special messengers of Christ) except James the brother of our Lord.

20 Now [note carefully what I am telling you, for it is the truth], I write this as if I were standing before the bar of God; I do not lie.

21 Then I went into the districts (countries, regions) of Syria and Cilicia.

*22 And so far I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Christ in Judea (the country surrounding Jerusalem).*

*23 They were only hearing it said, He who used to persecute us is now proclaiming the very faith he once reviled and which he set out to ruin and tried with all his might to destroy. 24 And they glorified God [as the Author and Source of what had taken place] in me.*

While the Apostle Paul was in Arabia, Gentiles were being grafted into the New Covenant as Peter was preaching at Cornelius' house in Act's chapter 10.

The Gentiles enter into the New Covenant in Acts chapters 10-12 while Paul is getting the revelation (revealing why was already written/spoken) that the Lord would descend from heaven with a shout which He would share with the church in Thessalonica.

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 KJV**

*16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

*17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

Remember, Paul calls this entire event that is going to take place in the future "a mystery"...

**1 Corinthians 15:51-52 KJV**

*51 Behold, **I shew you a mystery**; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*

*52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be **changed**.*

The word changed in Greek, is the word metamorphoo. We shall be changed from one condition to another or from one state to another.

## Metamorphoo defined:

to change into another form, to transform, to transfigure, to translate

### Hebrews 11:5 KJV

5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

According to scholars, Paul wrote about seven different mysteries in the Bible. One of the mysteries is the return of the Lord to resurrect the dead in Christ and the return of the Lord to catch away the living (in Christ). This revelation was given to the Apostle Paul before his ministry began.

Many people think that the books of Bible are written/placed in order. For instance, the New Testament, many believe were placed in chronological order. First, you would think would be Matthew, Mark, Luke then John. Next would be the book of Acts, Romans and then 1st and 2nd Corinthians then Galatians etc... as is it ordered in your Bible. But, the Bible and specifically the New Testament are not in order.

If you were to put the New Testament in order in regards to Paul's writings, you would start with 1st Thessalonians and end with 2nd Timothy (order shown below).

## The Apostle Paul's 14 Letters

1 Thessalonians	2 Thessalonians	1 Corinthians	2 Corinthians
Galatians	Romans	Ephesians	Philippians
Colossians	Philemon	Hebrews	Titus
1 Timothy	2 Timothy		note: (left to right)

The order is important because it reveals the urgency of what Paul was told on Mount Sinai after 3 years with the Lord...

**Galatians 1:18 KJV**

*18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.*

When Paul returns from Mount Sinai in Arabia, he writes to the church of Thessalonica in Greece and writes First Thessalonians. After the revelation he received on the mountain and 3 years by himself learning directly from the Lord, Paul writes about the return of the Lord in every single chapter.

**1 Thessalonians 1:3 AMPC**

*3 Recalling unceasingly before our God and Father your work energized by faith and service motivated by love and unwavering hope in [the return of] our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah).*

**1 Thessalonians 2:19 AMPC**

*19 For what is our hope or happiness or our victor's wreath of exultant triumph when we stand in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? Is it not you?*

**1 Thessalonians 3:13 AMPC**

*13 So that He may strengthen and confirm and establish your hearts faultlessly pure and unblamable in holiness in the sight of our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) with all His saints (the holy and glorified people of God)! Amen, (so be it)!*

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 AMPC**

*16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a loud cry of summons, with the shout of an archangel, and with the blast of the trumpet of God. And those who have departed this life in Christ will rise first.*

*17 Then we, the living ones who remain [on the earth], shall simultaneously be caught up along with [the resurrected dead] in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so always (through the eternity of the eternities) we shall be with the Lord!*

### **1 Thessalonians 5:1-5 AMPC**

*1 But as to the suitable times and the precise seasons and dates, brethren, you have no necessity for anything being written to you.*

*2 For you yourselves know perfectly well that the day of the [return of the] Lord will come [as unexpectedly and suddenly] as a thief in the night.*

*3 When people are saying, All is well and secure, and, There is peace and safety, then in a moment unforeseen destruction (ruin and death) will come upon them as suddenly as labor pains come upon a woman with child; and they shall by no means escape, for there will be no escape.*

*4 But you are not in [given up to the power of] darkness, brethren, for that day to overtake you by surprise like a thief.*

*5 For you are all sons of light and sons of the day; we do not belong either to the night or to darkness*

The first letter that Paul writes is Jesus is coming back to rapture up the saints! It is the first thing that Paul writes to the New Testament Church and it will be the main thing that Paul keeps in front of the Church as the “why” they and we need to change.

The New Testament Church only knew of the rapture of the church from the Word, Jesus Himself and the Old Testament “never wrong” Prophets. They believed that Enoch and Elijah were raptured, they believed that those who were not habitually righteous died in the flood. They believed in what Ezekiel said what it would be like during the Millennium reign, they believed and that is why they asked. They thought they were going through the Tribulation and missed the rapture and wanted to know what they must do in order to be ready for the rapture.

To watch this series online and view and/or download notes go to:  
<https://www.grantwilliamsministry.com/therapturebridgewoodchurch>

For additional Bible Studies, notes and current events go to:  
<https://www.grantwilliamsministry.com>

To join my “End Times In The Headlines” Facebook group go to:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/224722275478393>

This FB group has my Bible studies with links for notes and videos along with articles (current events) taken from the headlines in response to the command by Jesus to know the signs of His return.

This ministry is viewer/listener supported. The Bible Studies, notes for each study, current event videos and articles, information regarding the command to know the signs of Christ return and what we are to do to be ready are all made possible through donations from individuals like you.

To find out more and to donate please go to:  
<https://www.grantwilliamsministry.com/donate>

