

**Rapture References in Scripture**

Reference	Scripture	Comments
John 5:28-29	28 Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice 29 and come out-- those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.	All will be resurrected. The “good” (righteous) rise as part of the first resurrection which occurs at the rapture. (Except for the 144,000 and the GM rise at the end of the tribulation.) The “evil” (unrighteous) rise at the second resurrection at the end of the millennial reign, appear before the Great White Throne, and are thrown into the lake of fire. (See Acts 24:15)
John 11:25	25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"	This passage has a double meaning. First, the simple truth that even though believers may die physically, they will live eternally (i.e. will never die). But second, it's also a rapture reference. Notice the two groups described: 1) those who believe and are dead, who “will live”; 2) those who believe and live, who will “never die”. Cross reference 1 Thess 4:16-17 and 1 Cor 15:51 and we see the same two groups at the rapture: 1) the dead in Christ, who rise; 2) those who are still alive, who are raised and caught up thus never dying.
John 14:1-3	1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. 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.	Looking at John 14:1-3 and 1 Thess 4:13-18 together we see an amazing parallel, demonstrating that John 14:1-3 is clearly a reference to the rapture
		John 14:1-3      1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
		trouble (v1)      Sorrow (v13)
		believe (v1)      Believe (v14)
		God, me (v1)      Jesus, God (v14)
		told you (v2)      say to you (v15)
		come again (v3)      coming of the Lord (v15)
		receive you (v3)      caught up (v17)
		to myself (v3)      to meet the Lord (v17)
		be where I am (v3)      ever be with the Lord (v17)
Acts 24:15	and I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.	See John 5:28-29 above.
Romans 8:23, 29	23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.	As 1 Cor 1:7-8, Phil 3:20, 1 Thes 1:10, and Tit 2:13 also state, we are to be eagerly awaiting the rapture. Here, that day is described as when our bodies will be redeemed (glorified) and we will be conformed to the likeness of Christ (who was the first to be glorified).
1 Cor 1:7-8	7 Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. 8 He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.	The “day of our Lord Jesus Christ” (see also Phil 1:10 and 2:16) is a reference to the rapture, the day when the church (both dead and alive) is presented to Christ as blameless (cf Eph 5:27, Col 1:22). See also 1Thes 3:13, 5:23 below. A day that we are to be eagerly awaiting (see Romans 8:23, 29 above).

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1 Cor 13:9-10	9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.	When perfection comes is a reference to <i>our</i> perfection (our glorification), which happens at the rapture.
1 Cor 15:51-53	51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed-- 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.	The companion verse of 1 Thess 4:16-17, which is the core rapture reference. Keys here are: 1) we will not all die (because believers who are alive at the rapture will be caught up); 2) the dead are raised (resurrected) first, then those who are still alive; 3) this change (to glory) happens in the “twinkling of an eye”; 4) this event happens at the “last trumpet” which corresponds to the “trumpet call of God” from 1 Thess 4:16. [Note: this is not the last of the trumpets judgments (Rev 11:15) or the trumpet which gathers the elect (Israel) at Christ’s 2 <sup>nd</sup> coming (Matt 24:31).]
Philippians 1:10	so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ,	The “day of Christ” (also Phil 2:16) is the same as the “day of our Lord Jesus Christ” (See 1 Cor 1:7-8 above) and is a reference to the rapture.
Philippians 2:16	as you hold out the word of life-- in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.	See Phil 1:10 above.
Philippians 3:20-21	20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.	For those whose citizenship is heaven (believers), we are to eagerly await our Savior when he will “transform our lowly bodies”—which happens at the rapture when we will be “changed” in the “twinkling of an eye”. See also Rom 8:23, 1 Cor 1:7, 1 Thes 1:10, Tit 2:13.
Colossians 3:4	When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.	At the rapture, Christ appears and we appear with him in glory—for we are now glorified. See also 1 Thess 2:19
Hebrews 10:37	For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay.	Here His coming is related to “receiving what he has promised” (v36). See 2 Tim 4:8 below.
1 Thess 1:10	and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead-- Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.	The “coming wrath” is the bowl judgment of Revelation 16, in which the wrath of God is complete (Rev 15:1). See also Rom 8:23, 1 Cor 1:7, Phil 3:20, Tit 2:13.
1 Thess 2:19	For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?	“When our Lord comes” is the rapture, when we shall glory in His presence. See also Col 3:4.
1 Thess 3:13	May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.	Many believe this to be the 2 <sup>nd</sup> coming with the church (and possibly the angels). But the glorified church will be blameless in Christ’s presence at the rapture (see Phil 1:10 above). The “holy ones” Jesus is coming with are the “dead in Christ” who have risen first (1 Thes 4:16) whom we (those still alive) will meet in the air.

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1 Thess 4:16-17	<p>16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.</p> <p>17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.</p>	<p>This is the core rapture passage. In fact, the term ‘rapture’ comes from ‘rapturo’ used in the Latin Vulgate translation for the Greek ‘harpazo’ meaning to seize:--catch (away, up), pluck, pull, take (by force). From this passage we see:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The Lord comes from heaven; but only to the air (not all the way to earth)</li> <li>2) There are three calls: a loud command, the voice of the archangel, and the trumpet call of God (this is the last trumpet of 1 Cor 15:52)</li> <li>3) The dead in Christ rise (i.e. resurrected; receive their glorified bodies) first. (They are already in heaven in spirit.)</li> <li>4) Then believers who are alive on earth are “caught up” (raptured) to the air to meet them (the dead in Christ and Christ). [Note: they will have already been glorified. See 1 Cor 15:51]</li> </ol> <p>Other “raptures” in Scripture (Jesus, two witnesses) imply this rapture will be a bodily, physical, visible ascension into the air.</p>
1 Thess 5:1	<p>1 Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you,</p> <p>2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.</p>	<p>The “day of the Lord” <i>begins</i> at the rapture and lasts through the millennial reign—remember a day is like a thousand years (2Pet 3:8). And that day (the rapture) will come like a thief—unexpectedly. See also 2 Pet 3:10.</p>
1 Thess 5:4	<p>But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief.</p>	<p>This ‘day’ is the rapture. And while we can’t know when it will occur, it won’t surprise us like a thief.</p>
1 Thess 5:23	<p>May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>The “coming of our Lord” is the rapture, which the church is being kept blameless for. See also 1 Cor 1:7-8, 1 Thes 3:13, 5:23 above.</p>
2 Thess 2:1-2	<p>1 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers,</p> <p>2 not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come.</p>	<p>This is clearly a rapture reference, when believers are gathered to Christ—in other words, caught up to the clouds to meet the Lord (1 Thess 4:17). In addition, this passage clearly links the “day of the Lord” with the rapture (see 1 Thes 5:1 above). The Thessalonians had thought they missed the rapture. Paul needed to explain to them they hadn’t.</p>
1 Timothy 6:14	<p>13 ...I charge you</p> <p>14 to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,</p> <p>15 which God will bring about in his own time--</p>	<p>This verse (with parts of v13 and v15) emphasizes that we should be living out our blameless status until that day when we are presented blameless to Christ—at His “appearing”—which is the rapture. See 1 Cor 1:7-8, Phil 1:10, 2:16, 1 Thess 3:13, 5:23 above. Notice that God will bring it about in his own time—the timing of the rapture is not knowable.</p>
2 Timothy 1:12	<p>That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.</p>	<p>The “day” that is referred to here is the rapture.</p>

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2 Timothy 4:8	Now there is in store 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 longed for his appearing.	The “day” on which Christians receive their reward is call the Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Cor 5:10) which takes place in heaven immediately after the rapture. At this Bema Judgment, a believer’s deeds (i.e. “things done while in the body”; “righteous acts”) are tested (1 Cor 3:13). If it survives, the believer is rewarded (1 Cor 3:14). Fortunately for us, all of our bad deeds are simply burned up (1 Cor 3:15) and not counted against us! Thank the Lord. See also Revelation 22:12 below.
Titus 2:13	while we wait for the blessed hope-- the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,	The rapture is our “blessed hope” which we are waiting for. See also Rom 8:23, 1 Cor 1:7, Phil 3:20, 1 Thes 1:10.
James 5:7-9	7 Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. 8 You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. 9 Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!	We are to eagerly await, but with patience, until the Lord’s coming—which for us is the rapture. It is near—at any moment. He is standing at the door, ready to take us in (see Rev 4:1).
1 Peter 1:5, 7, 13	5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 7 ... when Jesus Christ is revealed. 13 ... when Jesus Christ is revealed	“Salvation” has three components: 1) past (salvation) 2) present (sanctification) 3) future (glorification) Even though we are fully saved and secure in salvation, the fullness of salvation will not be realized until glorification—which happens at the rapture. It is at the rapture that Jesus is “revealed”.
1 Peter 5:4	And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.	The Chief Shepherd is Jesus, appearing to give us the crown of glory—our glorification—at the Bema Judgment. This appearing is the rapture. See also 2 Tim 4:8 and 1 Pet 1:5 above.
2 Peter 3:10	But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.	See 1 Thess 5:1 above.
1 John 3:2	Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.	We are made like him (i.e. glorified) when “he appears” at the rapture. See 1 Cor 15:51 above.

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Revelation 4:1-2	<p>1 After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."</p> <p>2 At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.</p>	Comparing this passage with 1 Thess 4:16 we see the amazing parallels (below); which is one of the reasons this passage is symbolic of the rapture.
		Rev 4:1-2      1 Thess 4:16-17
		John      The Church
		On Earth      On Earth
		Heard a voice      Loud command; voice of archangel
		Like a trumpet      With the trumpet call of God
		Come up here      Caught up
		Now in heaven      Be with the Lord forever
Revelation 22:12	Re 22:12 "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.	Jesus comes at the rapture and his reward is with Him. This is the reward to be given to the Church which is rewarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Cor 5:10). See 2 Timothy 4:8 above.
Revelation 22:20	He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.	'Soon' here is the Greek 'tachy' which can mean either shortly, i.e. without delay, soon, or (by surprise) suddenly. This later definition fits perfectly with the rapture happening unexpectedly at any moment—like a thief.