



## Harpazo: The Blessed Hope Part 2

In **Harpazo: The Blessed Hope Part 1**, I taught that the *harpazo* or Rapture is when the Lord will remove every believer in Christ from the earth before the coming judgment of God.

The believer in Christ of today lives in a very unique place in time. It's a unique place in time not just because of modern era's technological, medical, and scientific advances, also for experiencing first-hand the fulfillment of pivotal Biblical prophecies.

As Biblical prophecies continue to come to pass, I believe the Lord will give the wisdom that was only reserved for this generation of believers in Christ to understand and interpret the Biblical prophecies. One of these is the prophecies concerning the Rapture of the Church.

Don't worry; I'm not here to set a date. I believe the Lord will never give out the exact day, month, or year of the Rapture because it pleases Him that we walk by faith. However, I do believe He will tell us the exact season; as the Song of Solomon says, "The season of singing has come," referring to the arrival of the beloved groom in the context.

This article is a call to bring back the forgotten teaching of the Rapture to the Church. Some don't teach it because of fear of producing irresponsibility; others don't teach it because of fear of never happening; and the rest don't teach it because they feel it's not important or practical. Know that all of these are forms of unbelief to one aspect of the grace of God.

### **Titus 2:11-13**

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and that glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Many of us agree that the grace of God came via the person of Jesus Christ; and the Gospel of the grace of Christ is the power of God unto salvation; and it is this believed grace that teaches us from the inside-out to live soberly, righteously, and godly.

However, if you notice the verses above, the grace of God has a 3<sup>rd</sup> dimension that the Church as a whole has forgotten. The 3<sup>rd</sup> dimension of the grace of God is the Rapture of the Church as the appearing of Jesus Christ.

Many would argue that since the blessed hope is the appearing of Jesus Christ, then there is only one event. However, the Rapture is the appearance only to His Church as Beloved Lord and the

Second Coming is an appearance to the world as Judge and to the Jew as Avenger. The majority of the Pauline letters mentioning the Rapture is about the appearing of Jesus to the Church.

A preacher before the Rapture revival by the name of Morgan Edwards said the following:

- “The distance between the first and second resurrection will be somewhat more than a thousand years. I say, somewhat more; because the dead saints will be raised, and the living changed at Christ’s ‘appearing in the air’ (I Thes. iv. 17); and this will be about three years and a half before the millennium, as we shall see hereafter: but will he and they abide in the air all that time? No: they will ascend to paradise, or to some one of those many ‘mansions in the father’s house’ (John xiv. 2), and disappear during the foresaid period of time.” (Edwards, Two Academical Exercises on the Subjects Bearing the Following Titles; Millennium and Last-Novelties, 1744).

The fact is, after the Gospel of Grace doctrine, Paul’s second most mentioned doctrine in all his epistles was the Rapture. Sadly, that is not the case today. In addition, a careful study of the New Testament reveals that the Rapture is mentioned or alluded to in 23 of its 27 books. It is mentioned approximately eight times more frequently than His first coming. In fact, it’s mentioned 318 times in the New Testament alone. It was mentioned 1 out of every 30 verses. All of the nine authors of the New Testament mentions it.

It’s apparent that teaching the Rapture was very important and a priority for the apostle Paul. In fact, it was his first letters to the Church – First & Second Thessalonians – the main theme for the Rapture teaching. If it was important to teach it 2,000 years ago, it is still important to teach it today. If you don’t believe me, then listen to Jesus’s own words.

**Luke 12:45**

But what if that servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk?

In the context, Jesus is speaking in parables to the Jew in regards to His second coming for the Jew. It is safe to say that Jesus is speaking to those Jews who have unbelief in His second coming. Notice that those who say in their heart “my Lord delays His coming” begins to beat his servants instead of walking in love. Why? The Jews didn’t understand that He would one day return for them; thus, did not have intentional hope towards it.

In like manner, I believe Jesus wants to address the issue of unbelief to many believers in Christ in regards to His Rapture. Like the Jews who beat their servants, the leaders in the Church today are also doing the Church a disservice for their unbelief in the Rapture.

Believing the Blessed Hope will cause you to walk in love, hope, and wisdom in this world as we see prophetic world events begin to unfold right before our eyes. By: Joyner Briceño