

**RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH #11**  
**RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH**

1 Corinthians 15:50-57

**THE CHURCH AND THE APOSTLE PAUL**

- Remember that God revealed \_\_\_\_\_ to Paul that are specific to the church.
- Like all mysteries, they were previously unknown, but are now \_\_\_\_\_ through Paul's epistles, and the illustrations of Pauline revelation found throughout the Scriptures (specifically in the Old Testament).
- The rapture of the church was \_\_\_\_\_ known until God revealed it to Paul.

**WHAT IS A RAPTURE?**

- It is a special event that bypasses \_\_\_\_\_!
- It is the rapid \_\_\_\_\_ of a person from this life to heaven.
  - The word "rapture" is derived from the Latin word *raptus* which means "to \_\_\_\_\_" or "to \_\_\_\_\_."
- Man's desire to go UP is good, but the way to UP is through \_\_\_\_\_, NOT by airplane or rocket.

**OTHER RAPTURES IN THE BIBLE**

- \_\_\_\_\_ - cf. **Genesis 5:22, Hebrews 11:5**
- \_\_\_\_\_ - cf. **2 Kings 2:11**
- \_\_\_\_\_ - cf. **Acts 1:9-11**
- \_\_\_\_\_ - cf. **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**
- \_\_\_\_\_ - cf. **Revelation 11:3-12**
- \_\_\_\_\_ - cf. **Matthew 24:30, 31**

Those who do not believe in a pre-tribulation rapture of the church point to Matthew 24 as the rapture of the church, occurring at the end of the Great Tribulation. Here is why the Matthew 24 rapture CANNOT be the rapture of the church:

1. In 1 Corinthians 15:50-57, the rapture revealed to Paul was a \_\_\_\_\_ . It would be impossible for this to be a mystery if it was already revealed in Matthew 24!
  - Since there are \_\_\_\_\_ raptures in the Bible, the rapture in Matthew 24 cannot be the same as the rapture of church age saints as revealed to Paul in 1 Corinthians 15 and 1 Thessalonians 4.
2. God has a history of rescuing the righteous BEFORE His impending judgment:
  - Enoch's translation occurred before the \_\_\_\_\_ of Noah's day. See where the Tribulation is compared to "the days of Noe" in Matthew 24:36-38.
  - Lot (called "just" in 2 Peter 2:7) is rescued by two \_\_\_\_\_ in Genesis 19 just before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.
  - When Israel fled Egypt, they crossed the Red Sea safely on dry ground. That which saved Israel became a \_\_\_\_\_ that drowned the Egyptians.
3. The church is saved from the \_\_\_\_\_ of God according to Romans 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9; 2 Peter 2:9

For a wonderful Old Testament type of the rapture of the church, look at **Song of Solomon 2:8-10**.