
THE BOOK OF
REVELATION

Q1: How does the idea of the Rapture fit into our reading of Revelation?



“We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service, and energetic mission.” (Article IX)

“Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught [raptured] up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. (**1 Thessalonians 4:17**)

1 Thessalonians 4:13 (ESV)

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

1 Thessalonians 4:14-15 (ESV)

14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep.
15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 (ESV)

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 (ESV)

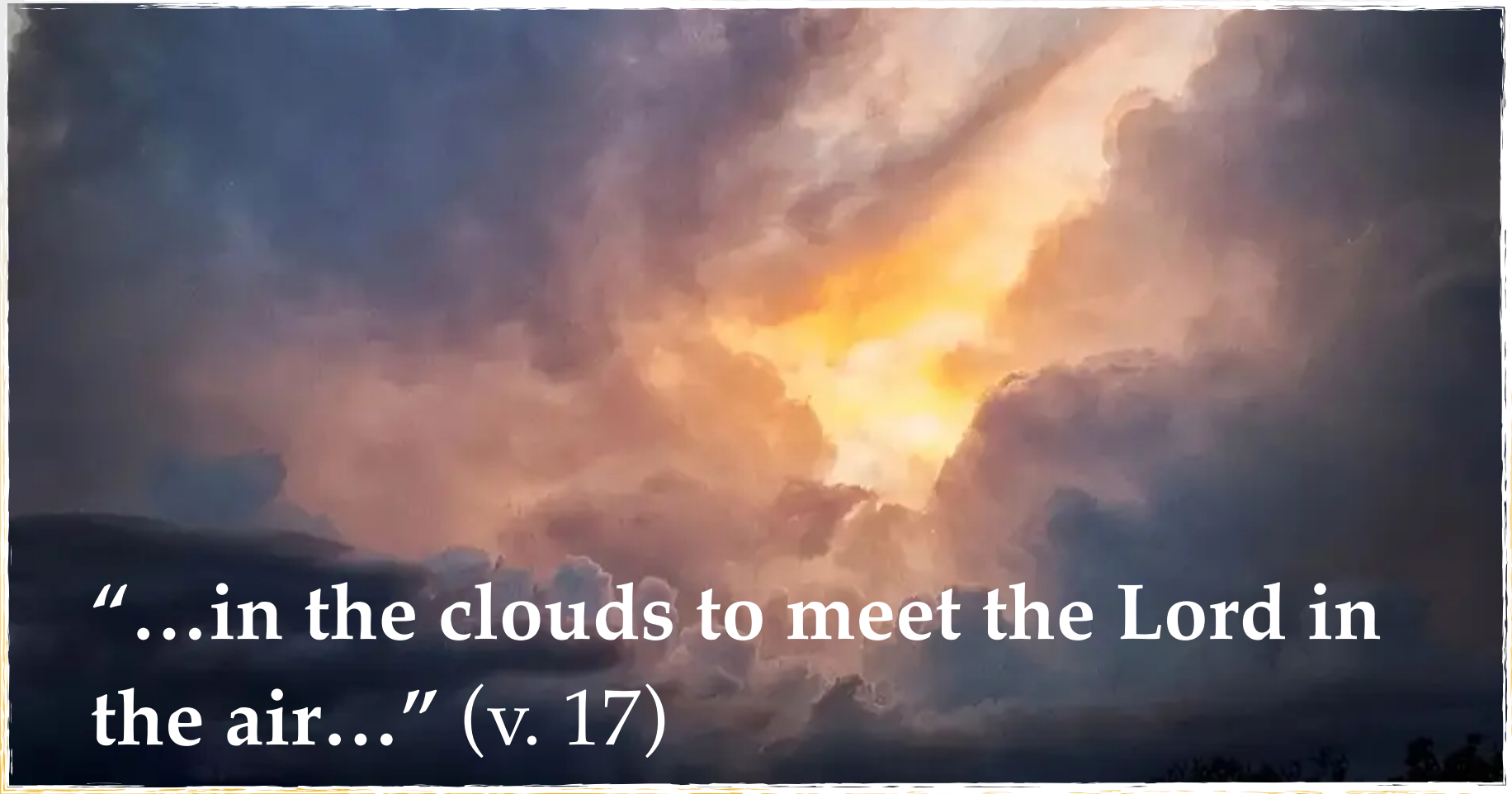
17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 (ESV)

51 Behold! I tell 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
trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the
dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall
be changed. 53 For this perishable body must
put on the imperishable, and this mortal body
must put on immortality.

When will believers be raised?

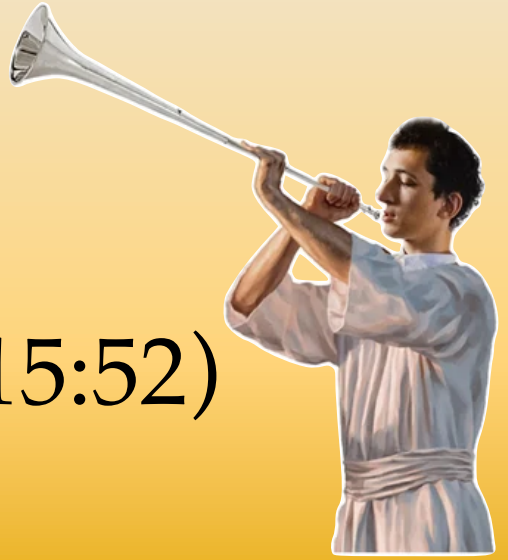
- At *"the coming of the Lord"* (v. 15)
- When *"the Lord Himself will descend from heaven"* (v. 16)


“…in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air…” (v. 17)

“And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as He went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven.’” (**Acts 1:9-11**)

When will believers be raised?

- *"With a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God"* (v. 16)
- *"At the last trumpet"* (1 Cor. 15:52)



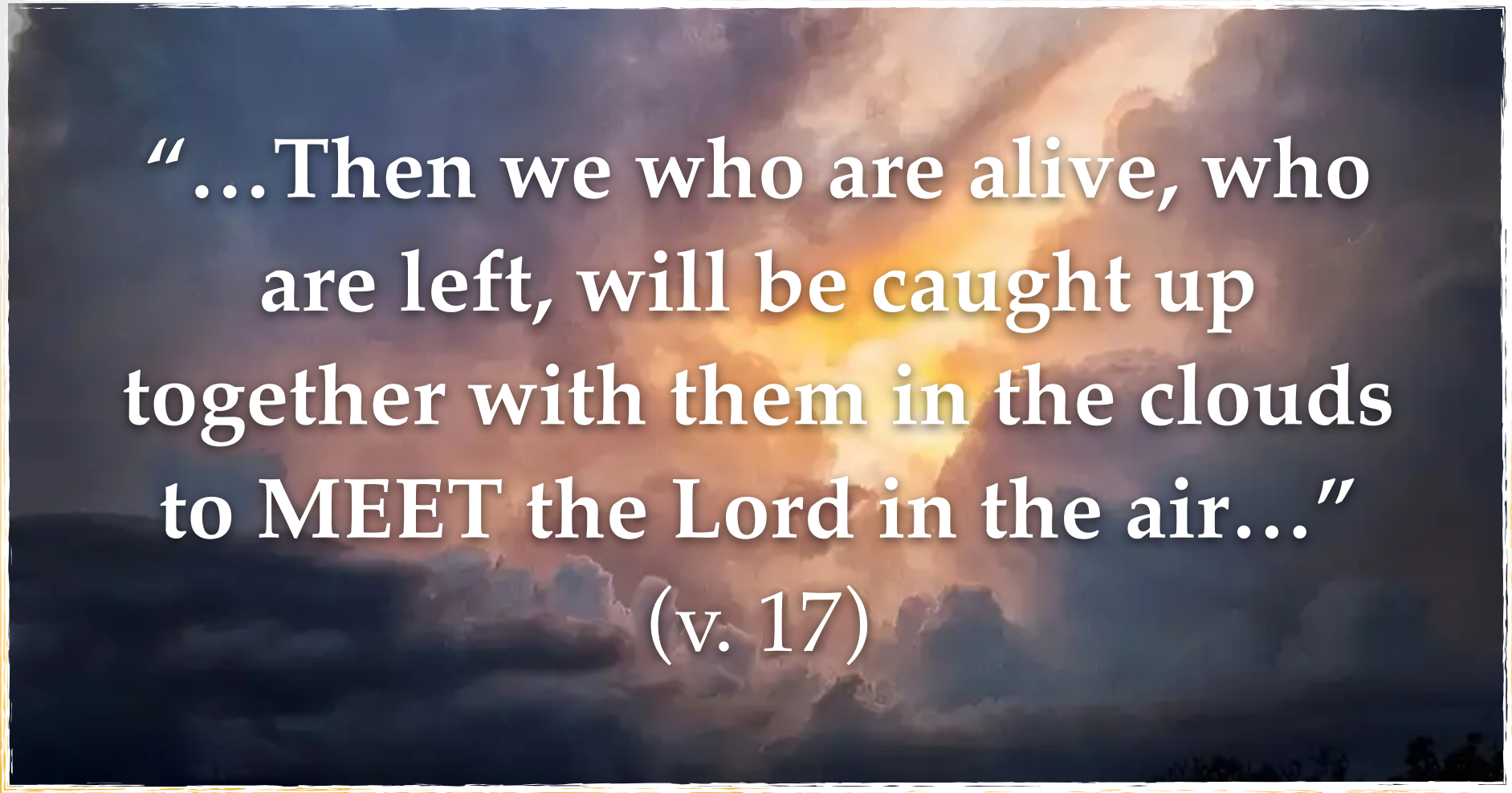
Reading Paul, we have no reason to believe that the resurrection of believers takes place any time other than at **the climactic return of Christ**.

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” (**Matthew 24:29-30**)

“And He will send out His angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” (**Matthew 24:31**)

What is the purpose of the Rapture?

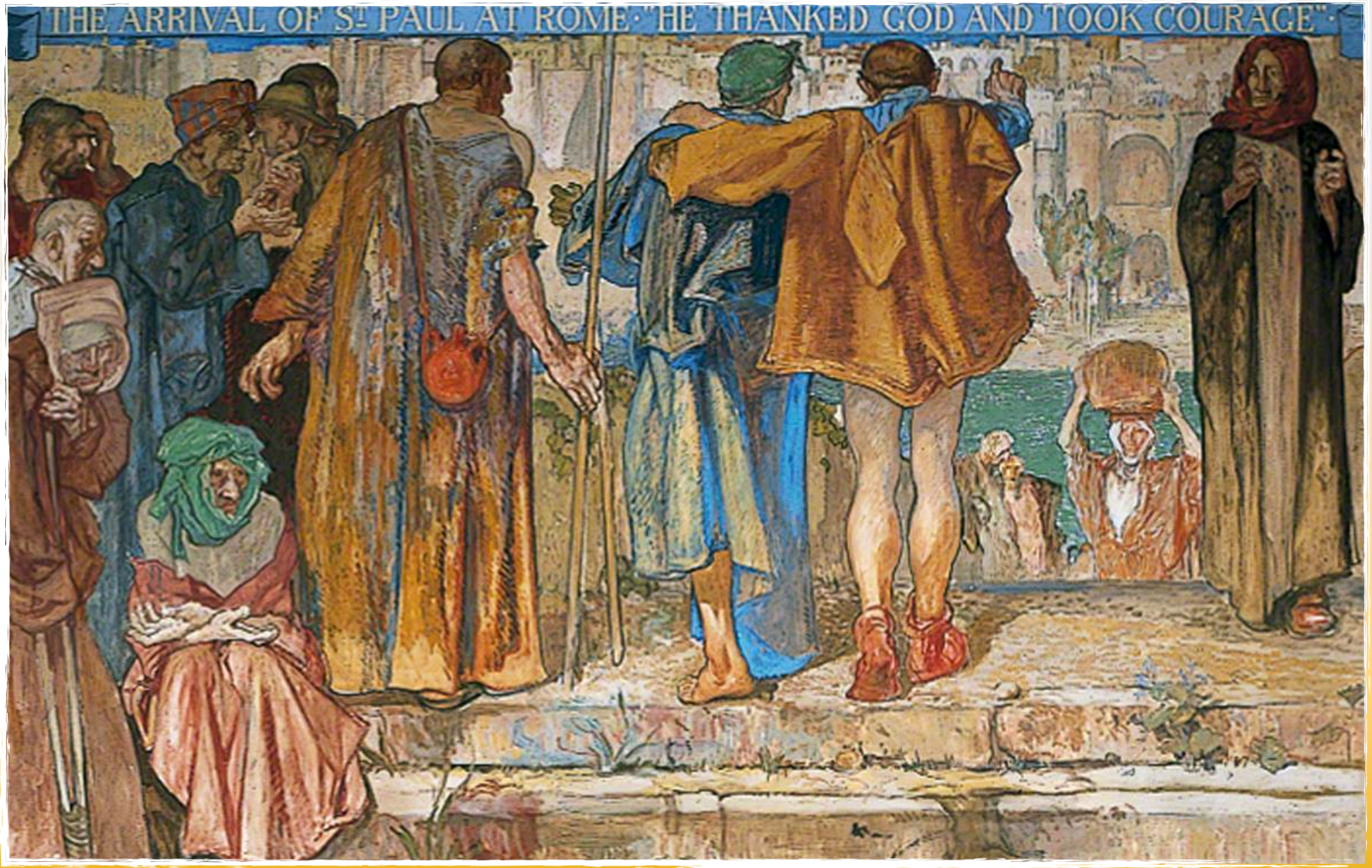
- So that we might *"always be with the Lord"* (v. 15)


"…Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to MEET the Lord in the air…"
(v. 17)

Meet (Greek *apantēsis*; from verb *apantaō*)

- To welcome; meet; encounter
- "The action of going to meet an arrival, especially as a mark of honor"




THE ARRIVAL OF St PAUL AT ROME · "HE THANKED GOD AND TOOK COURAGE"



“The large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, ‘Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!’” (**John 12:12-13**)

At the Rapture, believers are not meeting Jesus in the air to scuttle off somewhere else. They are meeting Him mid-descent to accompany Him as He arrives in power.

Historic Premillennialism
(Post-Tribulation Rapture)

“From the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the world.” (**Revelation 3:10**)

“For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with Him.” (**1 Thessalonians 5:9-10**)

“Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.” (**Revelation 2:9**)

“But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, ‘Come up here!' And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them.” (**Revelation 11:11-12**)

“For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”
(**Colossians 3:3-4**)

Q2: Meditating upon all we have studied so far in Revelation, do we really understand the power of worship?

Revelation shows that we will either worship the Lord and the Lamb in the community of the long-suffering, grace-saved saints

OR

we will worship the Beast and the Dragon in the religion of the False Prophet.

Your heart, mind, and soul will be caught up inevitably in one of two lifestyles of worship.

”Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come, and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.’”

(**Revelation 14:6-7**)

Revelation is training us to sings the songs of heaven in the trenches of the already, but yet of this life.

So when I fight, I'll fight on my knees,
with my hands lifted high.
O God, the battle belongs to you.
Every fear I'll lay at your feet;
I'll sing through the night.
O God, the battle belongs to you.

Q3: Many of us have grown hesitant and nervous about engaging with Revelation. We simply plead ignorance and do our best with the rest of the Bible. Neither of these seem like God's intention for us with His Word. What's your vision for how Elim engages with this book? What do you want us to get out of how you've preached this sermon series?

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.” (**Titus 2:11-14**)