

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

RLJ-861

JOHN S. TORELL

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PART 25: THE CATCHING AWAY

CHAPTER NINETEEN

The bad news is now over for the Christians. God is finally going to step in once and for all and take care of the Devil and all the evil he has created. From now on, it will only be bad news for the Devil and his followers. This is brought out in **verses 1-7**.

There are no more delays, the marriage feast of the Lamb is about to happen, and then the armies of heaven will invade the earth and take total control under the leadership of the Son of God himself. But, before we can look at the marriage feast of the Lamb, there are two events we must study:

THE CATCHING AWAY

The common term of this event is mostly known as “the rapture,” but this word is not found in the New Testament. It is the Apostle Paul who lays out the events for us. None of the other apostle’s deal with the subject, it is not found in the Gospels or in the book of Revelation.

Our first reference is found in **1 Corinthians 15:49-58**. It is important to know that this epistle was written 54 A.D., some 36 years before the book of Revelation was given to the Apostle John. When John received this revelation, Paul had already been executed.

Our second reference is found in **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**. This epistle was written in 52-54 A.D. by the Paul before he wrote to the Corinthians. It is important to understand that Paul never read the book of Revelation while he was living in this world but he says that believers in Christ will be caught up to be with the Lord forever. In **Revelation 19:14**, the armies of heaven follow Jesus back to the earth, and in **verses 1-7**, we find that the believers in Christ are already in heaven awaiting the marriage feast of the Lamb.

The conclusion we can draw is that at some time in the future, believers in Christ will be removed from the earth and be processed in heaven. Paul points out that this day should not come as a surprise for Christians. **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

At this point in history, Paul and the other apostles did not know in detail what the end times would be like. This would be revealed to the last living apostle, John, but not until 90 A.D., which was approximately some 60 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus.

In his second epistle to the Thessalonians, Paul makes it clear that the day of the Lord when He will catch up His church into heaven will not take place until after



the Man of Sin (Antichrist) has come into power on this earth.
2 Thessalonians 2:1-17

There is no timetable set in the Bible, when the great catching away will take place. All we are told is that it will take place before Jesus comes back to this earth to reign. It is futile to speculate when it will occur. God is in total control of the timetable and He has chosen not to let any man know!
Matthew 24:29-36

Do you have an ear to hear with?