

**James 5:8a** You too be patient [ constative aorist active imperative of the verb, μακροθυμέω (*makrothuméō*) ]; strengthen your hearts, ...

41. This is followed by a second prophecy of the Rapture of the Church, first by the causal conjunction, **ὅτι** (*hóti*): “because” which introduces the second mention of the next event to occur in the divine prophetic agenda with the phrase, “for the coming of the Lord is near.”
42. “Coming” is the noun, **παρουσία** (*parousía*) followed by the prepositional phrase, “of the Lord is nigh.” The context of its presence in this verse refers to what is referred to as the Rapture of the Church:

**Of Christ, and nearly always of His Messianic Advent in glory to judge the world at the end of this age [ the Church ] (James 5:7f.).<sup>4</sup>**

43. This event is described by James as “the coming of the Lord” to which he adds the phrase, “is near,” the intensive perfect active indicative of the verb, **ἐγγίζω** (*engízō*).
44. The perfect tense, here, is the imminency of the Rapture of the Church. The verb *engízō* in the perfect tense means, “it keeps getting closer all the time.” Remember, under the doctrine of the imminency of the Rapture, it can occur tonight, tomorrow, the next day.
45. There is no Scripture which must be fulfilled for the Rapture to occur: 1 Corinthians 1:7, 1Thessalonians 5:6, Titus 2:13.
46. This is the doctrine of the imminency of the Rapture, which says, in effect, that there is no prophesy yet to be fulfilled before the Rapture may occur.

**James 5:8** Have patience, all of you have stability in your souls; because the Rapture of the Lord has approached with the result that it keeps on drawing nearer. (EXT)

The phrase, “Rapture of the Lord,” introduces the study of this dramatic event by which all believers, both deceased and presently alive, will follow the Lord into heaven in resurrection bodies.

**(End JAS5-14. See JAS5-15 for continuation of study at p. 141.)**

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<sup>4</sup> *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and other Early Christian Literature*, third ed.; rev. and ed. Frederick William Danker (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2000), 781.



## Doctrine of the Rapture of the Church

### Definition.

1. While the Rapture is defined as the act of being transported, it is also defined as the state of being rapt or carried out of oneself. However, these definitions do not apply here. Rapture is used here in a technical theological sense for the resurrection of the royal family of God.<sup>1</sup>
2. Since the Church or royal family of God is the first spiritual building to be completed, it is resurrected after our Lord. It is the second phase of the first resurrection following the resurrection of Christ.
3. Christ is resurrected, ascended, and seated at the right hand of the Father as part of the strategic victory of the angelic conflict.
4. This is known as our Lord's battlefield royalty. This is His only royalty with no family. Therefore, God interrupted the Jewish Age with the Church Age to call out and provide a royal family of God.
5. Once the royal family of God is completed, the Church is resurrected as the body of Christ to become the bride of Christ.
6. The Church Age is that period of human history when the royal family of God is being formed on earth, Ephesians 1:22–23, 2:16, 4:4–5; Colossians 1:18, 24, 2:19. When the royal family of God is completed, then the Rapture occurs, 1 Thessalonians 4:16–18; 1 Corinthians 15:51–58.
7. During the conclusion of the Jewish Age, the bride is prepared in heaven by receiving a resurrection body exactly like that of the Lord. Then comes the Big Genuflect and acknowledgment of Christ. Then comes the Judgment Seat of Christ when all Church Age believers are evaluated and rewarded.

### B. The Promise of the Rapture:

**John 14:1** “Do not let your hearts be distressed. You believe in God, believe also in Me.

**v. 2** There are many dwelling places in My Father's house. Otherwise, I would have told you, because I am going away to make ready a place for you.

**v. 3** And if I go and make ready a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with Me, so that where I am you may be too. (NET)<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> “Rapture: The final assumption of Christians into heaven according to Christian theology.” (*Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, eleventh edition [Springfield, Mass., Merriam-Webster, 2014], 1031.

<sup>2</sup> Observe footnotes on these three verses in *The NET Bible*: **sn 7 & tn 8 in v. 1; tn 9, sn 10, & tc & tn 11 on pp. 2073-74; and tns 1 & 2 in v. 2; and tns 3, 4, & 5 in v. 3.** (For abbreviations see: *NET Bible* Translators' Note Types on page B.)



### C. The Imminency of the Rapture.

1. Imminency means impending or threatening to occur. It does not mean immediately.
2. Rapture is used technically for the fact that no prophecy must be fulfilled before the Rapture occurs. The Rapture will occur when the last member of the body of Christ is saved.
3. The Church Age is the only dispensation in which there are historical trends and no prophecy. The Church Age began with an event prophesied--the baptism of the Spirit. Our Lord prophesied this in the Upper Room Discourse and just before He ascended. The Church Age terminates with the Rapture, which was also prophesied. There is no prophecy between these two events. This is the dispensation of the mystery doctrine.
4. No prophecy between the baptism of the Spirit and the Rapture means that the Rapture is imminent. It could occur at any time; no one knows the day or the hour.
5. The resurrection of the Church, like our dying, is completely out of our control. Just as we have no control over the time and manner of our death, so we have no control over the time and manner of the Rapture.
6. The resurrection of the Church is totally beyond our control because resurrection is the Lord's victory.

**1 Corinthians 15:57** Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (NASB)

7. While the Rapture is imminent, the Second Advent is not. Before the Second Advent occurs, there are many prophecies which must occur, e.g., the Rapture, the Tribulation, the Judgment Seat of Christ. (Revelation 6–19)
8. The Rapture could have occurred at the time of James or Paul because no prophecy had to be fulfilled before the resurrection occurs.
9. Distortion of the imminency of the Rapture results in instability and foolish explanation or speculation about the time of the Rapture; hence, James gives us an admonition in:

**James 5:7** Therefore, brethren, have patience until the coming of the Lord [ Rapture ]. The farmer waits with anticipation for the valuable production of the soil, constantly being patient until it has received the early and the latter rains.

**James 5:8** Have patience; all of you become stabilized in your hearts because the coming of the Lord [ Rapture ] has approached with the result that it is drawing nearer and nearer. (EXT)

