“I’m outta here!” - The Rapture (1 Thes. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-53)

1. General principles for interpreting Bible prophecy.
2. Accept the source. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21)

***Isaiah 7:14*** – God prophesied that a virgin would conceive a child.

1. Define the words.

***1 Peter 5:8*** – Peter said Satan is a “roaring lion” seeking to devour us.

1. Examine the context.
2. Determine the timing.

***Isaiah 61:1-11 cf. Luke 4:18-21*** – Jesus fulfilled a portion of what Isaiah prophesied. The rest will come later.

***Joel 28-32 cf. Acts 2:17-21*** – The Day of Pentecost fulfilled part but not all of Joel’s prophecy.

1. Explore the requirements.
2. Prophecy teaches us that judgment is coming.
3. We know it’s coming.

***John 16:8*** – God’s Spirit convicts us of sin, shows us what we should be doing, and shows us judgment is coming.

1. We don’t know when it’s coming.

***2 Thess. 2:3; 2 Tim. 3:1-7*** – In the last days, people won’t want to hear the truth. They’ll only want to hear what pleases them.

***Acts 2:17; Heb. 1:2*** – Jesus’ disciples believed they were living in the “last days.” They were correct.

***2 Thess. 3:10*** – Paul told the church that if someone was not willing to work as they waited for Jesus’ return, neither should they eat.

***Mark 13:32*** – Jesus said He did not know the time of His return.

***Matt. 24:37-39*** – People will be doing their normal routine when Jesus returns.

***1 Thess. 5:2-3*** – People won’t be expecting Jesus’ judgment.

*88 Reasons why the Rapture will be in 1988*

1. Prophecy teaches us that Jesus is coming.

***John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11*** – Jesus prophesied His return to earth.

1. There are three different interpretations.
2. Post-Tribulation Rapture

***Matt. 24:31*** – At the end of the Tribulation, Jesus will send His angels to gather believers.

***Matt. 22:30*** – People in their glorified bodies don’t marry and produce children.

***Rev. 19:11-21*** – People will be born during the Millennial Reign of Christ. Many of these will rebel against Him at the conclusion of this reign.

1. Mid-Tribulation Rapture

***Rev. 11:1-12*** – There will be a rapture at the mid-point of the Tribulation. God’s two witnesses will rise up from the ground and rise into Heaven.

***Rev. 6:11*** – The martyrs pictured in Seal #5 cry out for justice. God tells them to wait until the rest of the Christians have arrived in Heaven.

***Matt. 24:29; Rev. 6:12-14*** – Jesus spoke of cataclysmic events at His return.

***Rev. 6:15-17*** – People respond to Seal #6 by asking rocks to fall on them.

***Rev. 11:13*** – People respond to the rapture of the witnesses by giving glory to God.

1. Pre-Tribulation Rapture
2. The Rapture is explained in two passages.

***1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*** – Jesus’ return is noisy. Those Christians who have died will rise first. Then living Christians will rise. All Christians will get new bodies.

***1 Corinthians 15:51-53*** – The events of Jesus’ return will happen quickly. We get glorified bodies that can’t feel pain or die.

1. Prophecy teaches us how to respond to these comings.
2. Encouragement of the people (1 Thess. 4:18)
3. Anticipation of the future (2 Tim. 4:8; 1 Cor. 15:54-57 )
4. Perseverance in the work (2 Cor. 4:16-18; 1 Cor. 15:58)

***Heb. 12:2*** – Jesus put up with the cross and endured to the end recognizing that the cross was His ticket home and that the cross got Him you.

1. Holiness in the lifestyle (Titus 2:12-13)
2. Warning for the rebellious

***2 Thess. 2:7*** – The Holy Spirit’s influence through the Church will be absent.