

## The Inscrutable Question: Third Segment of Eternal Life: The Rapture & the Resurrection Body, Phil 3:11; 1 Cor 15:50-57

- 3) The omnipotence of the Holy Spirit provides a resurrection body for the living believers at the Rapture, replacing their bodies of mortality with resurrection bodies of immortality. This is noted in another resurrection passage, 1 Corinthians 15:53-54.
- 4) There is yet another synonym for “rapture” in Scripture. It is an **ἁπαξ λεγόμενον / hapax legomenon** / found in:

**Philippians 3:11** - If by any means [ **Paul speculates whether he will be physically dead or alive at the moment of the Rapture** ] I shall arrive at my eternal inheritance at the point of the exit resurrection from the dead [ **ἐξανάστασις / exanastasis** / ].

- 5) The Rapture or Exit Resurrection is characterized by the imputation of a resurrection body to every Church Age believer, a transformation described in:

**1 Corinthians 15:50** - Now this I confirm, brethren, that flesh and blood [ **the human body** ] cannot inherit the kingdom of God nor does corruption [ **the genetically formed sinful nature in every cell of the human body** ] inherit incorruption [ **resurrection body** ].

- 6) Biological life was designed by our Lord to function only in time and space. In order for us to function in the eternal state there must be provided a body that has the capacity for eternal life. This is referred to as a body of immortality and incorruption, i.e., it is eternal without the sinful nature.

**v. 51** - Behold, I communicate to you a mystery [ **Church Age doctrine** ]. We shall be changed in a moment,

**v. 52** - in the winking of an eye [ **a chronon of time** ], at the last trumpet [ **Gabriel blows his horn** ]; for the trumpet shall sound [ **resurrection reveille** ], and the dead shall be raised incorruptible [ **a resurrection body** ], and we [ **those alive at the Rapture** ] shall be changed.

- 7) One generation of the Church Age believers will go from a body of corruption to incorruption, from a human body to a resurrection body, without an interim body.

**1 Corinthians 15:53** - For this corruptible [ **human body with a sinful nature** ] must put on incorruption [ **a resurrection body free of the sinful nature** ] and this mortal [ **human body afflicted by the aging process** ] shall put on immortality [ **a body with capacity to exist forever in the eternal state** ].

**v. 54** - Now when this corruption has put on incorruption and this mortal has put on immortality [ **resurrection body plus eternal life** ], then the doctrine that stands written will occur: [ **Isaiah 25:8** ] “He will swallow up death as a result of victory for all time.

**v. 55** - “O, death, where is your sting? O, death, where is your victory?

- 8) God decides the time, manner and place of our death. Nothing can take us out of this life apart from God, not even at the Rapture.
- 9) When we know God’s will for our lives, death has lost its sting and the grave has no victory. And the believer who advances in the double column to spiritual maturity has lost his fear of death.

**v. 56** - The sting of death is sin and the power of sin is the law,

**v. 57** - But thanks be to God, Who gives to us the victory [ **over death** ] through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- 10) During his time on earth, the Church Age believer is left free to use his own volition to advance in God's plan or not. Those who advance will be rewarded while those who do not will lose the conveyance of their rewards.
- 11) In other words, we determine whether we will redeem and invest time or ignore and flout time. But God determines whether we die physical death or are a member of the Rapture generation.
- 12) Only divine sovereignty decides which generation will be the one and only divine omniscience knows when the Rapture will occur.
- 13) Whenever it occurs, believers at the Rapture thus enter into the third and final segment of eternal life: immortal soul plus resurrection body in eternal life that will exist forever in the eternal state.