

# WHAT HAPPENS AT THE RAPTURE?



1. **We will leave earth behind.**
2. **We will be instantaneously changed.**
3. **Our bodies will be transformed from perishable to imperishable.**
4. **In the resurrection and transformation of our bodies we will experience our ultimate victory over and the destruction once and for all of death.**
  - (1 Corinthians 15:50–55 ESV) I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 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. 54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: **“Death is swallowed up in victory.”** 55 “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”
  - (Genesis 2:16–17 ESV) And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, **for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.**”
5. **We will discover that our current bodies are much different than our transformed bodies.**
  - (1 Corinthians 15:35–41 ESV) But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” 36 You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37 **And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel,** perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. 38 But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. 39 For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. 40 There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.
6. **Our entire person (bodies and all) will instantaneously experience the transformation from perishable to imperishable, from dishonor to glory.**
  - (Genesis 3:4 ESV) But the serpent said to the woman, **“You will not surely die.”**
  - (Romans 5:12 ESV) Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, **and so death spread to all men because all sinned.**

7. **We will surely be thrilled when the inexpressible joy that is filled with glory dawns on our consciousness as our genuine faith is found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

- (1 Peter 1:7–8 ESV) So that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—**may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.** 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him **and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory.**

8. **We will experience the completed work of glorification as God instantaneously finishes our transformation into the image of the man of heaven.**

9. **We will experience this work of God that he had planned and chosen for us in eternity past to be conformed to the image of his Son.**

- (1 Corinthians 15:42–49 ESV) **So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. 43 It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.** If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. 47 **The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. 48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven.** 49 **Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.**

- (Romans 8:28–30 ESV) **And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,** for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 **For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son,** in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

10. **Believers who are alive at the time of this event will be caught up together with the saints who previously died to meet the Lord in the air.**

11. **From that moment on we will always be with the Lord.**

- (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 ESV) But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 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. 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. 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.