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The Rapture, A Love Story



By Steven J. Hogan
~ A Saturday Morning Post #6 ~

Jesus Christ is now in heaven, sitting at the right hand of the Father. And do you know what He's thinking about? He's thinking about you and me, His bride on earth, and no doubt longing for that time when He will return to rapture and redeem the believers who are still on earth. But He is not just *"thinking"* about coming back, He's *"excited"* about it, He's *"looking forward"* to it. He *"can't wait"* to come back and take you home to heaven. Jesus' heart is aflame with love for you – He loves you so much more than you know – *"for as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love towards those who fear Him."* Psalm 103:11

But here's a question? Do you love Jesus? I mean do you intensely and passionately love Jesus? Is your heart aflame with love for Him? Are you loving Jesus by living for Him? Are you excited that He's coming back to take you home to heaven? Is this your desire and prayer, and what you spend time thinking about? My concern and fear in this day and age is that many Christians are sleeping, are apathetic, and aren't interested in Christ's return and the rapture. But why? Are they lovers of self? Are

they worldly? Are they *"choked with worries, riches and pleasures of life?"* Luke 8:14. Or are they ignorant, and just don't know about Christ's return?

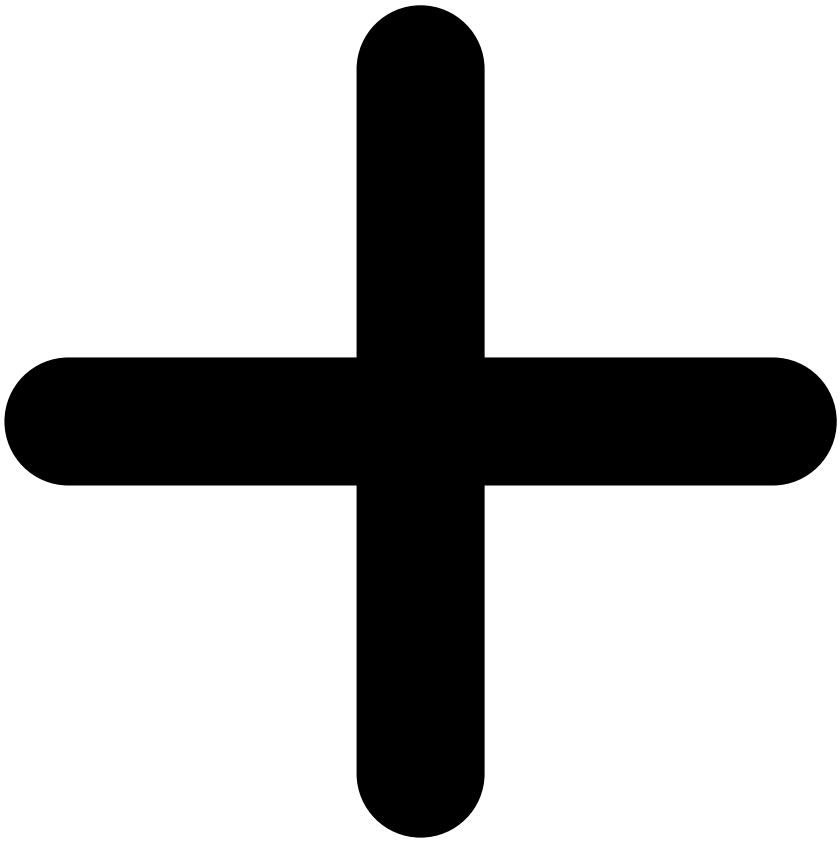
In over 100 verses, God specifically tells you that Jesus is coming back; and 100's of more verses give all kinds of details about His return. Why does God say so much? Why does He keep repeating Himself? Because He loves you, and because Jesus loves you. These verses are Jesus' love letter to you, letting you know, convincing you and reminding you about His coming for you. More than you realize, Jesus longs to see you and be with you, and He wants you to long to see Him and be with Him – and to be ready and waiting for Him.

Think of a serviceman overseas, writing emails and texts to his wife, and he keeps telling her, *"I miss you so much. I can't wait to see you. I'll be home soon. All my love."* Then the day comes and he returns home, and he is in the airport, and he sees his wife, and they are jumping up and down, shouting, crying, hugging and kissing. And their love for one another is quite obvious. For a long time they've been thinking about this, and looking forward to this one moment. And now it's true!

But we are talking about seeing Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and being in love with Him. Now there are many ways to get stirred in your love for Jesus. One way is by taking communion, for this is to remind you of Jesus' love for you so that you then love Him. 1 Corinthians 11:26 says, *"As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."* This church age verse instructs you to stay in love with Jesus *"until He comes."* Jesus' heart is fired up for you, and He wants your heart to be fired up for Him, to be charged up by His love for you. It's that simple. Jesus loves you and He wants you to love Him, and to be longing for that time when you will see Him. Jesus is your Savior, Friend and Husband, and three times at the end of His Revelation love letter, He says to you, *"Behold, I am coming soon!"* Revelation 22:7,12, 20

Your relationship with Jesus is a love story, and undoubtedly the best of all love stories. Jesus has loved you for a long, long time. God chose to save you, and since eternity past Jesus has had you on His heart, has had His eye on you, and then He died for you (Romans 5:8), and then you were physically born, and then He called you, and then you were saved, at which time you first began to love Him. And now you continue to love Him. But sad to say, your heart can get cold. Revelation 2:4 says, *"you have left your first love."* Revelation 3:16 says, *"you are lukewarm."* Today, if your heart is not fervent in your love towards Jesus, then repent, tell Him you are sorry, and *"dine with Him"* and *"do the deeds you did at first".* And keep loving Him *"until He comes".* I still remember and love Pat Terry's song from the 1970's – *"I can't wait to see Jesus in His glory as He bursts from the sky…"*

P.S. I just finished an article, *"An Introduction to the Book of Revelation."* I believe you will find it very helpful, very instructive, and very encouraging.



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