

# Briefing Document: “Where Do Dead Christians Go?” – Lesson 5

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## With Introduction to “The Judgment of the Believers’ Works” – Lesson 1

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This document summarizes the key themes from the transcript-based message, focusing on Christian eschatology—particularly the Rapture and the judgment of believers' works. Grammatical inconsistencies and repeated phrases have been corrected for clarity. All scripture quotations have been aligned with the New King James Version (NKJV). Greek words have been identified and are listed in the footnotes with definitions and phonetic pronunciation.

### I. The Rapture: A Rescue Operation and Glorious Reunion

The Rapture is presented as both a rescue operation and a glorious reunion for believers.

#### Key Concepts

- Pillars of the Rapture
  - The Death of Christ
  - The Resurrection of Christ
  - The Revelation of Christ
- Participants of the Rapture
  - Both dead believers and living believers will take part.
- The Plan of the Rapture
  - Christ’s Descent: "The Lord will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God." (cf. 1 Thessalonians 4:16)
  - Trumpet Sound: This signifies festivals, celebrations, convocations, judgments, and gatherings.
  - The Dead in Christ Rise First: A comforting promise that those who died in Christ will not miss the rapture.
  - The Living Are Caught Up: "Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds." (cf. 1 Thessalonians 4:17)
  - Instant Transformation: Believers' "lowly body" will be "conformed to His glorious body" (cf. Philippians 3:21).

- Heavenward Movement: Described as faster than the speed of light, passing through air ruled by Satan (cf. Ephesians 2:2).
- Perpetual Presence with the Lord: Eternal presence with Christ. (cf. 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Titus 2:14)
- The Church Triumphant and Church Militant
  - Church Triumphant: Believers already in heaven.
  - Church Militant: Believers on earth engaged in spiritual warfare (cf. Ephesians 6:10–18).
- Comfort and Hope
  - Christians never say a final goodbye—it's always "see you later."
- Animal Question (Worldly Concern)
  - Scripture is not definitive, but joy in Christ will eclipse earthly concerns.
- Signs of the Rapture
  - The Rapture will occur suddenly, without warning.

## **II. The Judgment of Believers' Works: The Bema Seat**

### **Key Concepts**

- Purpose of the Bema Seat
  - Evaluates faithfulness, not salvation. Separate from the Great White Throne Judgment (cf. Revelation 20:11–15).
- Timing of the Bema Seat
  - May occur at death, in present heaven, after the Rapture, or after the Millennium (cf. Hebrews 9:27).
- Test by Fire
  - Works tested by fire: gold, silver, precious stones vs. wood, hay, stubble (cf. 1 Corinthians 3:13–15).
- Degrees of Reward
  - As there are degrees of punishment (cf. Luke 12:47–48), so also degrees of reward.
- Motivations for Paul and Believers

- Christ's Return, Glorifying God, Revelation 22:12, 2 Corinthians 5:9–10, 5:14, 5:17, Romans 14:12.
- Old Testament Saints
  - Currently with the Lord in disembodied state. Await glorified bodies at the Rapture.

## **Greek Words and Terms**

1. Bema (βῆμα)
  - Pronunciation: BAY-mah
  - Definition: A raised platform or judgment seat; used in Scripture to describe the place where believers' works are evaluated (2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10).
2. Logos (λόγος)
  - Pronunciation: LOH-goss
  - Definition: Translated as "word" or "account"; used in financial and logical contexts (Romans 14:12).