
THE RAPTURE



The chapter here at—at Yuma, it's a grand privilege to have this invitation to come back again. We had a wonderful time, the last time here. And then when I understood I was to be back again, it made me feel real good, to hear the testimonies and these fine words from the people, and kind of boosts you up a little.

2 Billy told me that the brother from Las Vegas, that wanted a meeting there at the chapter, see him immediately after the service is over here. We have a time, he says, that we can slip in right over in January, before the Phoenix meeting, see to come to Las Vegas. And so we've always wanted to get there.

I believe Brother Art Wilson used to be there a long time ago, or he may still be there. And he—he asked me to go up, he and Sister Wilson. I didn't get the opportunity, so maybe this will be the time I could come.

3 You just see Billy Paul or Brother Roy Borders. I think he's here somewhere. Somebody said Brother Roy was in. Brother Pearry, Lee, or any of them, they'll be able to tell you. Just set the dates for us to come.

4 Now, I seen many ministers here, a while ago, to which I'm very happy to meet my brethren. Wish I had time, go home with you, 'cause I know you got the best cook there is in the country. That's fine.

5 And now, Brother Pearry really got two, tonight, on him. He got two marks against him now. One of them, cutting that microphone in, out there. When, you're—you're held guilty of that, Brother Pearry. I don't think you really were guilty. But you. . . Somebody was fixing to speak. That was a good one.

6 And so then, again, he went out there and was talking. He said, "Say!" Telling Brother Collins or some of them. Said, "The supper was good. But," said, "I'm telling you," said, "that man must be a Spaniard or something, or a Mexican. That was the hottest pepper I ever taste." Going on like that, and he was talking to the chef.

He said, "I'm the chef."

7 That's Texas, for you. We'll get him straightened out, over here in Arizona, after while, (won't we?), if he stay around us.

8 Really nice to be here! And I guess those don't sound like jokes, but sense of humor. Which, the Lord Hissself had a sense of humor,

May the Lord add His blessings to that reading of His Word.

³⁰ Now, today, speaking on this subject, and now some of you may differ, the—the avenues that I take. But how many in here believes that the Bible teaches there will a Rapture of the Church? [Congregation says, “Amen.”—Ed.] Yes, sir. That’s right, exactly, a catching away of the Church. Whether you’re a Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, or whoever you are, Pentecostal, there will be a catching away.

³¹ And I think that, in speaking, I—I just don’t try to get up here to say something that I think would please the people. I’ve never been guilty of that. I want to get up here and say something as I feel led to say it, that I think would be a help to you, something that would further your experience with God, if you are a Christian; and if you’re not a Christian, make you ashamed of yourself that you will become a Christian. And that’s the purpose that I’ve always tried to line up my thoughts, as the Lord would lead me.

³² Now, we are warned, as in the Doctrine of This in the last days will be scorned at. If you would, let’s just read That, just a minute. It’s in Second Peter, the 3rd chapter. Let’s read just a moment on this. The 3rd chapter, and the 3rd and 4th verses. Let’s see if this isn’t right.

Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? . . . since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

For this they willingly are ignorant of that, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and the wa- . . . and in the water:

Whereby the worlds that . . . was, being overflowed with water, perished:

³³ Now we see that, the reason that this subject is so lightened at, is because that the prophet here has said that in this last days these scoffers would come saying these things. See? It’s predicted, the reason the people are acting today the way they’re acting. Why, you certainly are expecting it, because the Bible said that. “In the last days they’d be heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, despisers of those that are good; having a form of godliness, and denying the power thereof: from such turn away.” Can we look for an impersonation of Truth? Certainly.

Seed, brings the Seed to Life. You get it? If that—if that Life is laying in the Seed, and this baptism of the Holy Spirit comes upon It, it's bound to bring that Seed Life.

94 As I told you, here at Phoenix, not long ago. I was talking to Brother John Sharrit. I was out there, and he showed me a tree, a citrus. He—he raised a lot of citrus fruit. And he showed me one tree, it had eight or nine different kinds of fruit on it. And I said, “Brother Sharrit, what kind of tree is that?”

Said, “An orange tree.”

I said, “Why is the lemon, and the tangerine, and tangelo, and grapefruit?”

He said, “It's all citrus fruit. They're grafted!”

“Oh,” I said, “I see. Now, next year, I'll all have oranges, 'cause”

95 “Oh, no. Each tree will bear its own. Each limb will bear its own fruit.”

96 Many of you fruit growers know that, here in this citrus valley. It'll bear its own. You put a lemon branch in an orange tree, it'll bear lemons, 'cause it's the nature of a citrus fruit. Yet, it won't bear the original fruit.

And that's what we've done. We've grafted in, taken in with creeds, and so forth, and grafted in each, Here. How can the Methodists bring forth anything but a Methodist child? How can any denomination bring forth anything but a denominational child?

97 But if that tree ever puts out an original branch, it'll bring forth oranges.

And then if God ever does anything in the Church, it'll be original, back with the Word again. Exactly. It has to be, 'cause the Life is in the Tree, and It bears Its own kind.

98 Now, when we find out, now, there's that big church has moved down, through the ages, bearing its fruit. And as the limbs quit, they prune them off. In Saint John 15, never pruned the Vine out, now. He took the branches off, cut them out, because they wasn't bearing any fruit. And—and we . . .

99 Jesus wants fruit of, for Hisself. His Wife must bring forth the kind of a children that He is.

Then, if it don't bring forth children, Bride children, Word children, then it's the denominational child. Then, her first love, for the world and denomination, she's gone back to that. And it can't bring forth a real, genuine, born-again Christian, 'cause there's nothing there to bring It forth.

Shout: a messenger getting the people ready.

The second is a voice of the resurrection: the same voice, that, a loud voice in Saint John 11:38-44, that called Lazarus from the grave.

Getting the Bride together; and then the resurrection of the dead, see; to be caught up with It. Now watch the three things takes place. The next is what? Was a trumpet. A voice. . . A shout; a voice; a trumpet.

¹⁵³ Now, the third thing, is a trumpet. Which, always, at the feast of trumpets, is calling the people to the feast. And that'll be the Bride's Supper, the Lamb's Supper with the Bride, in the sky. See?

¹⁵⁴ The first thing comes forth is His Message, calling the Bride together. The next thing is a resurrection of the sleeping Bride—the ones died, back in the other ages, they're caught together. And the trumpet, the feast in the heavens, in the sky. Why, that's the thing that takes place, friends.

¹⁵⁵ We're right there, ready now. The only thing, the Church coming out, has got to lay before the Son, to ripen.

The great combine will come by, after while. The wheat will be burned, the stalks, but the grain will be gathered into Its garner. See?

¹⁵⁶ You're not blind people. You're—you're sensible people.

And if I stood here and said those things for prejudice? I say It because It's Life, because I'm responsible to God for saying It. And I must say It, and my Message. All the time, knowing, back there under healing and so forth like that, was just to catch the people's attention, knowing the Message would come. And here It is. And them Seven Seals opened, those mysteries, and showing those things is what's happened. I didn't know it.

¹⁵⁷ But there is men standing right here now, was standing right with me. When, you all heard me preach that sermon: *Sirs, What Time Is It?* That morning, exactly where It said It would be, there stood seven Angels standing right there, from the Heaven. And as They went up, and the whirlwind taking Them up there, we standing, watching as They went away, science took the picture of It, all the way across the nations, down into Mexico.

¹⁵⁸ And there, when I was watching, one day, when I started preach these *Seven Church Ages*. And I called Jack Moore, a great theologian. I said, "Jack, Who is this Person standing there? 'There is One like the Son of man standing there, hair as white as wool.'" I said, "He was a young Man, how could He have hair as white as wool?"

After there, come the soldiers; the—the—the Gold Star mothers. And then there come a float with the . . . on down . . . Well, down there come a float, and on the front of it was a grave, “to the unknown soldier.” And there stood a—a soldier standing there, guard at the grave. There stood a marine on the other side, and a sailor on the other side. And there was a partition drawed. And on the other side set a Gold Star mother. She had lost her boy. There stood a young wife, with her head over on a table, crying. A little ragged boy setting sideways; and the tears running out of his face. He had lost his daddy.

I thought, “What sadness! I stand here and look, see them now, just a few of the soldiers left; marching down there, crippled and old, like that, with their uniforms, but proudly displaying them because they were Americans.”

I thought, “Oh, my God!”

178 One day, there will come a blast from Heaven, “And the dead in Christ shall rise first.” Them Old Testament saints back yonder, who are waiting, will blast forth and come out of there first, and go into the resurrection. We’ll drop right in line, going into the sky; these old mortal bodies changed and made like unto His Own glorious body. What a—what a parade that’ll be when it starts heavenward, some of these days, in that rapturing time that lays ahead, oh, proudly displaying the Blood of Jesus Christ upon their chests, the Message of God in the hour that they lived in. That’s the hour that we’re looking forward to, brother.

179 Looky, just in closing now. The second resurrection, all . . . First one is past. The second one is at hand, right now, will come to hand now.

180 Now, the third one is the two witnesses of Revelations 11:11 and 12. Which, these are the ones that turns back, with the Spirit of Christ, to witness to the Jews, like Joseph did to his brethren. And remember, “Their dead bodies laid in the street, for three days and a half. Then the spirit of life came into them, and they were raptured, taken up into Heaven.”

There is your three raptures of the New Testament.

Three raptures of the Old Testament; all of them past.

181 Now we’re ready, waiting for the raptures, the Rapture of the saints. It’s been spoken, and so shall it be. When God says anything, “All heavens and earth will pass away, but that Word will never fail.”

¹⁸² When God said, back there in Genesis 1, He said, "Let there be light." It might have been hundreds of years before there was any light. He said, "Let there be a palm tree. Let there be a oak tree. Let there be a desert. Let there be a mountain. Let there be *this*." He spoke it, you see. And as long as it went out of His mouth, in a Word, it has to be manifested. It has to be. When . . .

¹⁸³ Then one day, He called His people out. And He had spoke to a man named Moses, by a Pillar of Fire, a Light; Holy, Sacred Fire. And Moses wouldn't. . . The people wouldn't believe Moses, so He said, "Bring them out to this mountain."

¹⁸⁴ That morning, the mountain was all full of Fire, and flashing and thunders like that. And the people said, "Don't let God speak. Let Moses speak, see, lest we perish."

¹⁸⁵ God said, "I'll not spend with them no more like this, but I'll raise them up a prophet. And I'll speak through him, and what he says will come to pass. Then, you hear It, because I am—I am with him." Now, He spoke that. He said that it would come to pass.

¹⁸⁶ Look at this prophet, Isaiah, standing there; a man, intelligent man, a man was thought of, well, by the king, 'cause he had lived with Uzziah. The king, which was a great man, tried to take a preacher's place, one time, and went in, got smitten with leprosy.

And that's what I told the businessmen. Don't never try to take a preacher's place. No, sir. You stay right where you're at. See? You do your work, what God put, told you to do. If you're a finger, you can never be an ear. If you're an ear, you'll never be a nose, nose or eye. See? You stay in your position.

¹⁸⁷ You heard that Message, other day, on the broadcast: *Trying To Do God A Service*. David, anointed king. All the people shouting and screaming, "It was right." But he never consulted God's prophet. And a man died, and the whole thing was marred. Don't try to do God a favor. You wait till it's God's term. Let it come in His way of doing it. "I'll start *this* big thing. It'll do *this*." Be careful, brother.

¹⁸⁸ Now, David knowed better than that. Nathan was in the land, in that day. He wasn't even consulted, at all. See? He consulted captains of hundreds and thousands. All the people shouted, and screamed, and danced. Instead of. . . They had all the religious motion, but it wasn't in the line and order of God's Word, and it failed.

Anything else, is not in the line and order of God's Word, will fail. Only God's Word will stand forever. "Heavens and earth will pass away, but not My Word."

to church, and how loyal you are to church. That's fine; nothing against that. You should go to church. You do that. Keep on going to church. But, whatever, just throw away your traditions, and move right on up into Christ. Cause, it's going to sound one of these days, and you're going to be caught with the mark of the beast on you, and not know what it is until it's too late. That's exactly right.

207 God bless you. I'm sorry to have kept you. And remember. I've kept them too long here. That's right. And the offering that you taken for me. . . Which, I did not ask you to do that, brother. That's my, that's courtesy. Take that and pay this motel the . . . the . . . time, 'cause I kept it. I just had a few things here. I got about eight or ten more pages on that Rapture there, but I . . . I just didn't have time to give it. God bless you.

208 Do you love the Lord Jesus? [Congregation says, "Amen."—Ed.] Let's just stand 'til just a minute now, quietly, reverently, and remember what I've said. Remember, we're in the last hours.

These nations are breaking, Israel's awakening,
The signs that the Bible foretold;
The Gentile days numbered, with harrows
encumbered;
"Return, O dispersed, to your own."

The day of redemption is near,
Men's hearts are failing for fear;
Be filled with the Spirit, your lamps trimmed and
clear,
Look up, your redemption is near.

You know that?

False prophets are lying. God's Truth they're
denying.

We know that all is true. Don't we? [Blank spot on tape—Ed.]

I love Him, I love Him
Because He first loved me
And purchased my salvation
On Calvary's tree.

209 How many really love Him. Raise your hand. Now, I want you, while we sing this again, shake hands with somebody near you. Say, "God bless you, pilgrim." We are pilgrims. Aren't we? [Congregation says, "Amen."—Ed.] Pilgrims and stranger.

I love Him,