

CSI Congregation of Hudson Valley
Youth Fellowship-2005

March Youth Bible Study Synopsis

Topic: "Eschatology- Rapture" Place: Reena and Vinu's house, Rockland, NY Date: Friday, March 18, 2005 Time: 7:00pm
--

The 2005 March Bible study was held on Friday, March 18th, at the residence of Reena and Vinu Abraham. The topic chosen for the Bible study was "Rapture". The Bible study started at 7:34pm. Three Hudson Valley youth members including Achen were present. Vinu Abraham, Reena Abraham, Bobin Samuel, Jacob, Jimmy Samuel, Tinto Thomas, Tenny Thomas, Sonia Koshy, Bency Thomas and Sheena Joseph were also present bringing the total attendance to 13.

We started with an opening prayer led by Reena Abraham and sang 9 songs before proceeding to the Bible study. The two speakers who volunteered were:

- 1) 1st Corinthians 15:20-28 – Reena Abraham
- 2) 1st Thessalonians 4:13-18 – Justin Cherian

Justin started by reading 1st Thessalonians 4:13-18. He mentioned that the word Rapture is not mentioned anywhere in the Bible, but 1st Thessalonians 4:13-18 clearly represents it best. Justin mentioned that 1st Thessalonians was the 2nd epistle written by Paul. Paul had established a church in Thessalonica, but the people were still lacking some Biblical truth, especially in the 2nd Coming of Christ. The Thessalonians were waiting for the return of Jesus and many were having doubts about His coming. Some had fellow believers who passed away and were concerned about what would happen to those who have died.

Justin then broke the passage down to verse by verse. Verse 13: Paul is trying to convey that those who have died in the faith of Christ are at no disadvantage at all when Jesus comes again. Paul refers to the dead as being "asleep". Verse 14, 15: Jesus is coming back and he promised he would (see John 14:1-3 & Acts 1:11). When he comes back, those who have fallen "asleep" will be present with him. Verse 16: Three distinct sounds mentioned

- 1) The Lord's shout
- 2) The voice of the archangel
- 3) The sound of the trumpet of God.

Verse 17, 18: the phrase "caught-up" is where Rapture comes from. In Greek, caught up translates to "harpazo", the Latin verb rapio (to take away by force), is where Rapture comes from. Jesus confirmed this fulfillment at the Last Supper when he said that "...If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye be also (John 14:1-3)

Reena went next and started by reading 1st Corinthians 15:20-28. She began by giving some background on the passage by stating that 1st Corinthians was written by Paul and he visited the church during his second missionary trip. Paul remained in contact with Corinth and a good portion of the people there were Jews and Greeks.

There were three reasons why his letter was written:

- 1) To address his first misunderstandings
- 2) Issues raised by the congregation

1st Corinthians 15: 20-28 talks about the resurrection of Christ, but verses 20-28 are about the future reign of Jesus Christ. In his letter (mostly written in negative tense) there were a lot of issues that Paul addressed to the Corinthians.

One scholar believes that the First coming is the 1st Easter, the Second Coming is the 2nd Easter and right now is the time in between the first and second coming of Christ.

The resurrection is a pivotal point. The first twenty verses in the passage are addressed to a Jewish crowd and there is a reference to first fruits (see Leviticus—harvest)

The use of Adam is used in this passage and Jesus is known as the second Adam, and in Jewish times, Adam represented mankind. A lot of the passage refers to the book of Revelation. Once Jesus comes back, he will put down “death”. By conquering death, we will be resurrected. Also, in the passage there is a reference to the “feast of throne”. There are two examples of this:

- 1) During battles, defeated people were put under the feet of the defeator.
- 2) Kings were usually elevated over the people so that all were under the King.

Jesus will restore everything. Three reasons why he rose. 1) Establish God’s Kingdom, 2) deliver us from death, 1) deliver us from sin.

Paul is addressing the “doubters” of the resurrection. He is trying to convey that “you can’t be a Christian, if you don’t believe in the resurrection.”

Achen concluded by asking us how we felt about “Rapture”. He conveyed that the best part is preparing the speech and not really delivering it, because you learn so much more when researching and preparing. Achen mentioned that the word “Trinity” is also not mentioned in the Bible. Jesus introduced rapture and ideas were brought together. Jesus himself said “I will come back, and prepare a mansion for you....”

In Genesis 6:5-6, “the Lord saw and was sad....” After creating man, the Lord was grieved. Luke 15:7, 10 states that if any repents, there is greater joy.

Paul spent three weeks in Thessalonica. They preached and the church was established in only three weeks! The Thessalonians had doubts about the second coming of Jesus. The Thessalonian church was known as the model church. In 1st Thessalonians 4:13-17, Paul is explaining about the Rapture. Achen stated that there are two steps in the 2nd Coming of Jesus. The first step is the “Rapture”, where Jesus is in mid-air (Vs.17). A great noise will come and those who have died in Christ will be resurrected. Those who “sleep” in Christ will be resurrected and those who live in Christ will be transformed. Those who die in Christ will be a new creation.

Bency Thomas asked “Where are those who die in Christ?” Achen responded by saying that they are walking in Christ (see Colossians 3:1-3, “Set your mind....”). Paul says that Jesus will come for the church and then he will come with the church (a series of seven years in between).

The Second Coming is certain and the book of Revelations is repeating this (see Revelation 1, “He will come as a King”). The first five chapters in 1st Thessalonians are looking forward not back. Zechariah chapter 14 says that he is coming with olives (Jesus ascended into heaven with olives). The Bible says that Mount Olive will split when Jesus comes and scientists are saying that the mountain is slowing splitting (prophetical truths?).

Achen also stated that not a lot of people know about “Rapture” and that we must prepare ourselves for Jesus when he comes. There are many good books to refer to about rapture.

We then proceeded to the prayer requests as Justin asked for prayer requests and two people prayed with Achen saying the concluding prayer and benediction.

-Justin: Pray for Achen and their children who are going to the Indian consulate on April 5th

-Ajo: Pray for the Regional Prayer Meeting at Hudson Valley on March 19th

-Sheena: Pray for those who are taking tests in college and high school

-Reena: Pray for Robin Samuel who is serving in Iraq

-Reena: Pray for their cousin’s cousin who is in a coma in India

-Reena: Pray for Pappachen uncle’s sister’s wife who passed away and the grieving families

-Justin: Pray for the grieving family in Dallas who lost their older child to brain cancer.

-Reena: Pray for the upcoming Sunday School Retreat hosted by Connecticut on May 14th and the upcoming conferences

The Bible study ended at 9:05pm. Afterwards, Achen said the next topic in this ongoing series will be “Kingdom of God”. Dinner was served afterwards by the host family.

For his Glory,

Justin Cherian
Youth Secretary