

Vicarious Sacrifice: Distinctions between Rapture & Second Advent; the Lord Issues a Command to Archangel Gabriel; Angelic Order of Battle & College of Herald: Insignia of Rank, 6 Wings: Seraphs; 4 Wings: Cherubs; No Wings: Pursuivant; Angels with Names: Lucifer, Apollyon, Beelzebub, Michael, & Gabriel; Gabriel Orders the Bugler to Sound Reveille to Initiate the Rapture: Group A: the “Dead in Christ” Rise First, 1 Thess 4:16

RAPTURE**SECOND ADVENT**

Private (Acts 1:11)	Public (Revelation 19:11-16)
In the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17)	On the earth (Zechariah 14:4)
Judgment of believers' works (2 Corinthians 5:10)	Baptism of Fire (Matthew 25:31-46)
Church goes to heaven (John 14:3)	Church returns with Christ 1 Thessalonians 3:13)
Holy Spirit is removed (2 Thessalonians 2:6-7)	Satan is removed (Rev. 20:1-3)
Change in believer's body (Philippians. 3:21)	Earth is changed (Zechariah 14:9; Romans 8:19-22)
Christ appears as the Groom	He appears as the Messiah
End of the Church Age	End of the Jewish Age
Israel under the fifth cycle of discipline	Termination of the fifth cycle of discipline
Believers taken from the earth (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)	Unbelievers taken from the earth (Matthew. 24:37-43)
A time of comfort (1 Thessalonians 4:18)	A time of terror (Revelation 6:15-17)¹

- (1) Paul is assuring the believers in the church at Thessalonica that, should any be alive at the moment of the Rapture, they “will not precede those who have fallen asleep.”
- (2) Every believer in the Church Age – from Acts 2:4 until the Rapture – will receive a resurrection body.

1 Thessalonians 4:15 - We communicate this doctrine to you by the Word of the Lord, that we who are alive and survive until the Parousia of the Lord, will not go up before those who have already died. (EXT)

¹ R. B. Thieme, Jr., “Doctrines of the Bible: Doctrine of the Second Advent” (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 2003), 1.

- (3) Note that I use Parousia to distinguish the arrival of the Lord in the air as opposed to the Rapture of the Church which is the phrase “caught up” in verse 17.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 - For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. (NASB)

- (1) This verse clearly indicates that Jesus will descend from the third heaven into the atmosphere of the first heaven, the atmosphere encompassing the earth.
- (2) The Lord is the Commander-in-Chief of the Angelic Order of Battle. In this order are commanders referred to as archangels: **ἀρχάγγελος (archángelos)**.
- (3) This is a compound noun in the Greek made up of **ἄρχω (árchō)**: “first in rank,” and **ἄγγελος (ángelos)**: “messenger.”
- (4) The “first in rank” are seraphim: **סֵרָפִיִּם (seraphim)**:

A word occurring only in Isaiah 6:2ff. They had faces, feet, hands and wings. The six wings, in three pairs, covered their faces and feet in humility and reverence, and were used in sustaining them in their positions about the throne of Jehovah. Seraphim are in Jewish theology connected with cherubim as the highest orders of attendants to Jehovah and are superior to the angels who are messengers sent on various errands.²

- (5) The rank of cherubim — **χερουβείμ (cheroubeím)** — is the next order of rank designated by four wings. Lucifer was originally the highest ranked angel and assigned the title of “Anointed Cherub” noted in his dossier in Ezekiel 28:14.
- (6) Since Lucifer is presently appealing an eternal sentence in the lake of fire, he is in opposition to the Commander-in-Chief Jesus Christ and has been banished from his former position (Ezekiel 28:16).

² William Owen Carver, “Seraphim,” in *The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*, gen. ed. James Orr (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1956), 4:2732.

- (7) Subsequently to the fall of Lucifer, there are a number of cherub-rank angels (4 wings) that have been promoted to the rank of seraph (six wings).
- (8) These include Michael, Gabriel, and a number of archangels in the Angelic College of Heralds.
- (9) Heralds communicate divine directives and many are found in the Book of Revelation: **(1)** the King of Arms in Revelation 5:2 and 10:1, **(2)** Officers of Arms in 18:1 and 20:1-3, the latter having the key to the Abyss, and **(3)** the angelic herald of Isaiah 6:3.
- (10) Cherubs have the rank of four wings. They guard the gates to the garden of Eden (Genesis 3:24). Four operate the chariot of fire in Ezekiel, chapters 1 and 10. In Revelation they are mentioned in 8:3, 10:3-4, and 14:6-9, 15, 17-19.
- (11) The vast majority of angels is wingless, called pursuivant, and function as messengers in the Angelic College of Heralds and as rank and file in the Angelic Order of Battle.
- (12) Of all the angels mentioned in Scripture, only five have names: Lucifer,³ Apollyon or Abaddon⁴ who is in charge of overt operations, Beelzebub who commands covert activities, Michael, and Gabriel.
- (13) Michael's appearances are strictly associated with the protection of Israel. He is called the Prince of Israel in Daniel 10:13, 21 cf. 12:1, combats Lucifer and his demonic army in Revelation 12:7-9, and fights Lucifer over the body of Moses in Jude 9.
- (14) Gabriel is seen in Scripture as doing double duty. He is among the general staff of the Angelic Order of Battle and Earl Marshal of the Angelic College of Heralds.

³ "In Isa. 14:12 of the King James Version, the proper noun, Lucifer, is the Latin word for "light-bearer," and is used to translate the Hebrew word לִלְיָהּ (*Helel*), which means "radiant star." The New American Standard Bible translates *Helel* "Star of the Morning." The Hebrew text continues with the phrase בֶּן־שָׁחַר (*ben-Shachar*), translated "son of the dawn" in all the major English versions. Star of the Morning, Son of the Dawn refers to the superior officer of the Dark Side, the cherub-ranked fallen angel known by the monikers, Satan or devil, but whose real name is *Helel ben-Shachar*. Employing the Latin noun, Lucifer, conveniently summarizes all of these translations" (Joe Griffin, *One Day at a Time*, ed. John Cameron Smith [St. Charles: Joe Griffin Media Ministries, 2013], 161n124).

⁴ Apollyon (Ἀπολλύων [*Apollúōn*]) is the Greek spelling of the name while Abaddon (אָבַדּוֹן [*'Aváddōn*]) is the transliteration from the Hebrew; same demon. (See Revelation 9:11)

- (15) Archangels communicate eschatological revelation. Gabriel was the messenger to Daniel in Daniel 8:16 and 9:21 to explain his visions, announced the birth of John the Baptist to Zacharias in Luke 1:11, 19, and the birth of Jesus to Mary in Luke 1:26–38.
- (16) Also in the angelic general staff are the twenty-four elders mentioned in Revelation 4:4, 10; 5:11, each holding cherub rank.
- (17) In our passage, 1 Thessalonians 4:16, Jesus Christ as Commander-in-Chief, Lord of the Armies, issues a command: **κέλευσμα (kéleusma)**: a command to the commanding officer in a military organization.
- (18) This is followed by the voice of the archangel: **φωνή (phōnē)**: “to cry out.” This is the command by Gabriel to the bugler to sound reveille for phase one of the Rapture.
- (19) The word trumpet is the noun **σάλπιγξ (sálpigx)**: and it is sounded to initiate fulfillment of the promise the Lord gave to His disciples in:

John 14:1 - Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.

v. 2 - “In my Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

v. 3 - “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.”

- (20) The first increment of the resurrection is for those who are referred to as “the dead in Christ” and are said to “rise first”: the future middle indicative of the verb **ἀνίστημι (anístēmi)**: “to rise up.”
- (21) The future tense is predictive/prophetic which means that Paul, under the ministry of the Holy Spirit, is looking back from the future and reporting what does occur.