

**v. 16** For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven with a shout of command, with the voice of the archangel,<sup>4</sup> and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise first.

6. In the angelic order of battle, two archangels are mentioned by name, Michael and Gabriel. They have command authority over the angels with the rank of Seraph with six wings as their designation of rank. Next, is the rank of Cherub with four wings as their designation of rank. All other angels have the rank of pursuivant and have no designation of rank, thus wingless.
7. Michael's duties seem primarily to be associated with the nation of Israel while Gabriel is deployed with the angelic order of battle and the angelic college of heralds.
8. There are two sources of command for military activities in the ancient world, the voice command and the trumpet command. At the Rapture, it is the trumpet command that assembles the dead in Christ.

**1 Thessalonians 4:17** Then we who are alive, who are left, will be suddenly caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord. (NET)

9. The omnipotence of God raises the dead in Christ by replacing their former bodies of corruption with resurrection bodies of incorruption:

**1 Corinthians 15:53** For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal puts on immortality.

**v. 54** Now when this perishable puts on the imperishable, and this mortal puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will happen, "Death has been swallowed up in victory [Isaiah 25:8]."

**v. 55** "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting [Hosea 13:14]?" (NET)

10. The level of spiritual growth one attains in life determines the categories of Nike Awards one will receive at the Evaluation Tribunal of Christ and referenced in the letter to Philadelphia in:

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<sup>4</sup> Seraphim. The rank of some angelic beings. Each seraph is said to have six wings (Isaiah 6:2) including Michael and Gabriel, also classified in Scripture as "archangels." The apocryphal Book of Enoch names Raphael and Uriel as seraphim. Cherubim have four wings. The only one named is Lucifer in Ezekiel 28:14.

**Revelation 3:11** “I am coming soon [ a statement of the imminency of the Rapture ]. **Hold on** [ progressive present active imperative of κρατέω (*kratéō*): retain, recall, facilitate, and apply ] to **what you have** [ retroactive present active indicative of ἔχω (*échō*): escrow blessings] **in order that** [ ἵνα (*hína*) ] **no one** [ μηδείς (*mēdeís*) ] **can take away** [ λαμβάνω (*lambánō*) ] **your crown** [ στέφανος (*stéphanos*) ]. (NET)

11. The verb, *échō*, describes the mature believer who has advanced to the environs of spiritual maturity. He did so by continuing his advance with consistent positive volition to the teaching of the Word of God. He knows a lot of doctrine from which inventory he makes consistent application.
12. The active voice indicates this believer has made the consistent advance in his knowledge of Scripture and with the indicative mood confirms this advance has resulted in spiritual maturity.
13. The conjunction, *ἵνα* (*hína*), introduces a purpose clause, “in order that,” followed by the subject *μηδείς* (*mēdeís*): “no one,” which refers to believers who are functioning in the cosmic systems, but have great influence because of several personal attributes.
14. These types function as emissaries for the Dark Side. They have betrayed their Savior, Jesus Christ, by their ignorance of truth which they have exchanged for popularity, influence, success, or social standing.
15. These individuals belittle those who are serious students of the Word of God, calling them Bible thumpers, religious fanatics, and Jesus freaks.
16. This situation advances us to the aorist active subjunctive of *λαμβάνω* (*lambánō*): “to take away.” The culminative aorist is a warning to be alert to the machinations of believers who function in the cosmic systems.
17. The active voice indicates there are those associated with the believer in context who want to evangelize him into the cosmic systems with them.
18. However, this verb is a potential subjunctive which means the negative influence is real, but the mature believer rejects the temptation.
19. This may be described as people testing from those close to the advancing believer. He has the doctrine to stand fast, however, the test is real and must be rejected from within the evanescent bubble of the divine dynasphere.
20. Successful defence against the challenge prevents deviation into the cosmic system, retains his spiritual status quo, and complements his *στέφανος* (*stéphanos*): “crown.” This aggrandizes this mature believer’s assignments in the millennial kingdom.
21. There are three specific crowns mentioned for the believer in the New Testament:

