

8/ Are the unsaved going to hear the trumpet of the Lord and will they realize what is happening at the rapture of the church?

Paul said that when the Lord comes for His followers to take them to heaven before the great time of trouble begins on this earth that it would be with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God. He doesn't really say whether the whole world would hear these things or not. But I think not. Only believers will hear these.

What makes you say that?

If everyone heard the command and the trumpet then all the graves would be opened and everyone would rise. But the passage says that only Christians who have died will rise from the dead at this time. So I believe that only living Christians will hear these things.

Then will the world realize what is happening after the rapture takes place? Yes simply because so many people will have disappeared and life will be disrupted. Even in places where they will be no Christians and consequently where no one will be taken away, they will hear what has happened in other parts of the world through the news media.

How do you suppose the papers and the TV will explain the disappearance of these people?

I've often wondered. But they'll find some way. However, I'm sure that there will be some who won't believe their explanations, but will remember hearing some preacher or this or other broadcasts that told about such an event happening. Hopefully, they will quickly turn to the Lord in repentance and faith realizing that what had happened had been predicted in the Bible. Only by doing that can they be saved. But if you will turn to Christ now, you will not only be saved but you will be caught up with all other believers when the Lord comes.

9. Here's a question about prayer. To whom am I praying when I say "Lord"? Am I addressing Jesus or God the Father?

When you use the title Lord you might be addressing God the Father or you might be addressing the Lord Jesus Christ. Both are rightfully called Lord. Usually we think of Lord in connection with Christ, especially in its N.T. usage. But even in the N.T. Lord is used of the Father. When the disciples gathered to pray in Acts 4, they addressed God the Father, the Creator, as Lord (v. 24). So you may use the word Lord and be addressing the Father. But, of course, Jesus is also Lord because He is God, so you may use the title Lord to address Jesus.

Is it proper to address our prayers to Jesus. I've always heard we pray to the Father in the name of Jesus.

This is probably the usual thing--pray to the Father in the name of the Son. But there is certainly nothing wrong about praying to Jesus too. Again in the book of Acts when Stephen was about to be martyred, he prayed, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he also prayed, Lord do not hold this sin against them. Don't let this concern you too much. When you use the word Lord you may be addressing either the Father or the Son and each is quite proper. The important thing is that in your praying you are recognizing by using the term Lord that you come to your Master and you are asking for His will to be done.