

R 1

It is rare that we find a real section, separate large section of the book comprising less than four chapters. In fact, so generally do they comprise more the pattern itself would make an argument for considering 24-27 as a conclusion to Chapters 13-23, considering the whole as one unit. Now when we take up Chapters 24-27 and the question of the rapture, which we will take up as a separate study to see what the general Scriptural teaching of it is and then see how it fits in with the teaching of these chapters, it is not the predominant subject of these chapters at all but it is very definitely related to it. Any discussion of the rapture of necessity deals with the reference to the resurrection which we find in these chapters. There is a resurrection picture here. The question is, "When is this resurrection?" Someone has said, "If you know when the resurrection is you will know when the rapture is." Now, of course, the word "the" resurrection, and "The" rapture, are perhaps rather specific. We can certainly make it definite, though, if we say, "If you find where the resurrection of the great body of the just, that would seem quite definitely to be the same thing which is described in I Thessalonians 4. Now don't take that on my word. We'll look into it. We'll examine the evidence and see just how strong or how weak it is, but before we are ready to look at these verses here in relation to that subject of the rapture, we have to, of course, get the general thought of the whole four chapters. Now it begins in v. 24, "Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and makes it waste, and turns it upside down, and scatters abroad the inhabitants thereof," and if you read this chapter, as you read V. 1, again as you read v. 3 and v. 4 you immediately feel that here is a picture of the final catastrophic destruction of the earth, a picture of God's intervention to overwhelm a wicked world. That is the immediate impression which you get, and yet as you look at v. 1 can you see any possibility of interpreting it in a different way than that, Mr.---? (Student) Which way do you think the translators put it? Which way do you think the translators of the Authorized Version put it? Do you think they took this