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is used quite a number of times in the New Testament and the meaning is quite clear, to snatch away. Judge 23--pulling them out of the fire. That's the word " " . hating even the garment. John 10:28--neither shall any pluck them out of my hand. It's " " , the same word here as used in I Thessalonians. In Matthew 11:12, the kingdom of heaven, the violent take it by force--that's the same word " " . They snatch it away. So you see the word itself doesn't mean to be taken up to heaven, the Greek word, but it means to be taken with force, snatched away, and of course, used in this technical sense, the rapture of the Church means taking by a force other than their own, being snatched away to heaven. Of course, it is translated "caught up". It is used in Matthew 13:19. He catches away that which was sown. It is used in Acts 8:39--the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip. It's used in 2 Corinthians 12: 2 and 4, Paul was caught into Paradise. It is used in Revelation 12:5 where the woman and her child were caught up unto God. You see a number of these are similar to the idea of the catching up of the Church, of snatching it away, but it is the common word used in other senses. I mean in other connections, but the sense seems to be of catching away with force. Now our passage on it in 1 Thessalonians 4, Paul did not sit down to satisfy the curiosity of the Thessalonians regarding future events. That was not his purpose here. He didn't say, "Now I know you are very curious and I would like to give you something that will interest you." He ends the chapter, "Wherefore comfort one another with these words. There seems to have been a problem in the Thessalonian church. People were evidently expecting the return of Christ and looking forward with joy to that which would come to them at the return of Christ and then some of them began to doubt and they said, "These people are dead. They are going to lose out on this," and Paul wrote to comfort them, and so he begins in v. 13, "I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others that have no hope, for if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. Some