

R 8

is always speaking of the great day of the Lord at the end of the age. 'In that day' is a technical term." We must be very careful about this. The Scripture may use a phrase or a statement always to mean exactly the same thing. When it says, "The Son of man" or "a Son of man", it may always mean Christ but you have to prove that it does, and if you find some cases where "a Son of man" is used as in the book of Ezekiel, it is used repeated and simply means a man, with no reference to Christ whatever. Ezekiel is constantly called, "Son of man, stand up". It is just a regular term for "man" in that book. The word "faith" is used in one sense by Paul and in another sense by James. The word "law" is used in several senses by Paul. In most cases we can tell from the context what these words mean, but Scriptural interpretation is a matter of studying passages and interpreting phrases in the light of the context, not a matter of a mathematical formula in which you can say that X always stands for the same thing. It will depend on what you gather from the context what is being taught, and if you prove that something is always a technical term, that is all right, but you have to prove it. You cannot

assume it. Now we were looking at this problem of the rapture and we noticed that there are several raptures in the Bible. We saw that in the Old Testament, that Enoch was snatched away. He was taken up to heaven. Elijah was snatched away and taken up to heaven. In the New Testament we find that Paul says that he was snatched away into the third heaven and saw things which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Paul, evidently, according to the statement, was raptured, the same Greek word as is used in Thessalonians, and the same word is used where we read of Philip after he talked with the Ethiopian eunuch, that the Spirit caught him away. You might ask the question whether in that case there was a physical removal or whether in that case there was a, simply that the Spirit directed Philip in such a way that his departure was a rather sudden