
Jesus Is Coming Soon!

Scripture: I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Supporting Scripture: Col 1:15-18

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NKJV)

*¹³ But I do not want you to be **ignorant**, brethren, concerning those who have **fallen asleep**, lest you **sorrow** as others who have **no hope**. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

Col1:15-18

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. ¹⁸ And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

INTRODUCTION

As much as the tent of meeting built by Moses provided the clearest illustration of God's plan of salvation, so the crossover, which was to be remembered annually, was the vehicle for providing the key element of that salvation; the sacrifice for sin that would one day complete the release the true believer from the slavery of this sinful world.

Although believers in the Messiah are in the world they are no longer full and obedient members of it. For just as the children of Israel were released from slavery in Egypt because of the death of the crossover lamb within their house (by the protection of the blood evident around its door, which saved the firstborn from death), so all those who believe on the Lord Messiah, and accept that the bloodshed on the cross has the power to wash away their sin, all released from the sentence of death imposed on Adam and his offspring.

By the sacrifice of many lambs among the children of Israel on that first crossover night, and their release from their slavery in Egypt through the exodus, they were introduced to the possibility of a new relationship between God and the believer was made available to all those involved. How much more by the shed blood of the Messiah has a far greater opportunity for a new life in the Almighty and eternal God been provided not just for the children of Israel, but for all mankind.

We are blessed in our Judeo/Christian Bible with complete end to end teaching. There is teaching having events at the beginning of creation

when everything we see around us came into being, particularly the Earth and the heavens. That is also instruction concerning prophetic utterances of what is to happen at the end of the life of the Earth. Finally we have knowledge of the new creation of the heavenly Jerusalem which will be provided for those who have received God's offer of eternal salvation, including of the eternal death of Satan.

What many experienced in the early years of the church was a true conversion with a spiritual rebirth but, like the seeds that did not fall onto bare ground, the cares of this world, or the dryness of the teaching or a lack of understanding during personal studies of the Scripture or Satan removing the seed from their hearts, they quickly became carnal Christians or Christians of the flesh.

I pray and hope as we study these passages in the Scripture, we study with a prayerful hearts, ask the Lord to open our minds to understand what the spirit is saying to the churches today.

The test is whether or not the spirit of God dwells in the believer and each believer can only be sure of that by the Holy Spirit distinctively witnessing with their spirit that they are the children of God (Rom 8:4-17) only then we can say”...*for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day*”. Knowing that “being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in us will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil 1:6).

1Cor 15:42-44

⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead.

The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.

⁴³ *It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory.*

It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

⁴⁴ *It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.*

Natural Body	Spiritual Body
<i>The body is sown in corruption</i>	<i>it is raised in incorruption</i>
<i>It is sown in dishonor</i>	<i>it is raised in glory</i>
<i>It is sown in weakness</i>	<i>it is raised in power</i>
<i>It is sown a natural body</i>	<i>it is raised a spiritual body</i>

1 Cor 15:51-54

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. ⁵⁴ So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

The scripture in *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18* we are looking at tonight is perhaps the most familiar passage in I Thessalonians. This scripture is one of the most wonderful PROPHETIC passages in the New Testament. This scripture describes for us in vivid detail the NEXT GREAT EVENT ON GOD'S PROPHETIC CALENDAR.

The glorious event Paul describes for us in these verses is imminent, meaning it could happen a hundred years from now or it could happen before you and I draw our very next breath.

As we go back and take a closer look at this wonderful scripture, there are FIVE KEY POINTS I would have you to consider.

First of all, I would have you to consider.....

I. Secret Revelation from heaven (V.13, 14)

¹³ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

1. What lies beyond the grave? What lies in store for us after this life is over?

2. For centuries philosophers have wrestled with the questions about immortality. Mediums and psychics have attempted to communicate with those have crossed the threshold from life to death. And even

scientists have carefully studied the experiences of those who claim to have died and returned to life.

3. In these verses Paul “pulls back the curtain” to reveal the wonderful truth of what lies beyond, for the Christian.

4. Notice how Paul begins **verse 13, “But I do not want you to be ignorant brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep.”**

That word “ignorant” can mean several things.

† Ignorant can mean unintelligent and uneducated

† Ignorant can also mean to be uninformed or to be clueless

† and ignorant can also mean to be misinformed or to be given bad information.

5. When Paul says to the Thessalonians “But I do not want you to be IGNORANT brethren” he means, “I do not want you to be misinformed.”

6. We must remember the Church at Thessalonica at this time was a very young Church. And we must remember they were being terribly persecuted.

Some of their members had likely suffered martyrdom. Others had likely died of old age or natural causes.

They had lots of questions about these deceased loved ones. What has happened to them? Where have they gone? Since they are dead will they miss the return of Christ?

7. Paul now tries to erase all their doubts and fears by revealing the truth regarding their deceased loved ones. He doesn't want them to have the same sense of "hopelessness" that the unbelievers had regarding their deceased loved ones.

8. Paul says in VERSE 14...

v.14 "For if we believe that JESUS died and rose again, even so GOD will bring with HIM those who sleep in JESUS."

9. Brothers and sisters, right here is the basis of our eternal hope beyond this life! Our hope is not based on "wishful thinking!" Our hope is not based on some "delusion" or "myth" or "fairy tale."

Our hope is based on THE DEATH, BURIAL and RESURRECTION of Jesus Christ our Lord.

10. How many of you believe JESUS CHRIST died to save you from your sins? How many of you believe that Jesus was buried and that He resurrected from the grave on the third day?

11. Well if you believe those truths about JESUS CHRIST then you must also believe everything JESUS tells us about what lies beyond the grave!

v.14 "For if we believe that JESUS died and rose again then **we must also believe** GOD will bring with HIM those who sleep in JESUS."

Who are “those who sleep in Jesus?” They are those who “lived in Jesus.” They are our Christian loved ones and friends who have already crossed the bridge from earthly life to eternal life.

Secondly, I would have you to consider.....

II. THE RETURN (v.15, 16a)

¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until **the coming of the Lord** will by no means precede those who are asleep. ^{16a} For the **Lord Himself will descend from heaven** with a **shout**, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God.

1. Paul reveals two truths about the RETURN of CHRIST in these verses.

(A) First, Paul points out the **PURPOSE** of Christ’s coming.

Christ’s purpose is very clear. He’s coming to get the SAINTS who have DIED and the SAINTS who are still LIVING.

Christ is NOT coming for “good people,” “nice people” “sincere people” or “GOOD INTENTION PEOPLE”CHRIST IS COMING FOR SAVED PEOPLE....”souls that have been washed in the blood of the Lamb.” For our Goodness will not save us; our Niceness will not save us; our sincerity will not save us; our good intention will not save us, the only thing that will save is being washed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

For Muhammad will not save you, for he is lost himself and it is very hot where he is right now; Krishna will not save you because he is lost with Muhammad, and so every person who is not in Christ Jesus.

(B) Then Paul points out the **SOUNDS** of His Coming.

Paul tells us there will be three sounds that will announce the coming of Christ.

(1) First will be a loud SHOUT. (v.16)

When Jesus stood at the tomb of his dear friend Lazarus, John 11:43 tells us, “He cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come forth!’”

Remember the “dead in Christ” will rise first! Christ will “shout” a command for all the saved dead to “come forth” from their graves.

(2) Second, there will be the VOICE of the ARCHANGEL (v.16)

The scriptures tells us in **Rev 14:7** “...to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people— ⁷saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.” And the word tell us “every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord...”

The archangel will shout the Christian’s victory over death and the grave! “O death where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?”

(3) And the third **sound** will be the TRUMPET of GOD.

Is there anything more majestic than the sound of a trumpet? Trumpets were used on a number of occasions in the scriptures. The Israelites sounded trumpets when they went into battle.

Trumpets were sounded to begin the sacred feasts in the Old Testament. And trumpets were sounded to call the people to assemble together.

When Christ comes, the TRUMPET OF GOD will sound to assemble the Lord's Church together in the sky with JESUS!

PROPPROPHETICALLY SPEAKING, THE LAST SOUNDS WE WILL HEAR ON EARTH WILL BE THE SHOUT OF THE LORDTHE VOICE OF THE ARCHANGEL...and THE TRUMPET CALL OF GOD!

Thirdly, I would have you to consider.....

III. THE RESURRECTION (v.16b)

V.16b And the dead in Christ will rise first.

1. When Christ comes again only those who died in Christ during the Church age will resurrect from the dead. The saints of the Old Testament will arise at the Second Coming of Christ, when He sets foot on the Mount of Olives. (Zechariah 14:4; Revelation 20:5, 6)

2. In I Corinthians 15:35-49, Paul describes the resurrected bodies we will have when we come forth from the grave. It won't be these old, earthly bodies that were prone to sickness, disease and pain. But rather we will resurrect with new, glorified, heavenly bodies that will never experience sickness, disease, pain or death ever again. For they will be incorruptible, powerful and will live forever and ever.

Fourthly, I would have you to consider.....

IV. THE RAPTURE (v.17a)

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

1. Jesus first spoke of this glorious event just before His crucifixion.

JOHN 14:2-4

In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, (listen carefully!!!) I WILL COME AGAIN AND RECEIVE YOU TO MYSELF that where I am, there you may be also.

2. Jesus was pointing to this glorious event that Paul writes about here in I Thessalonians 4:17.

3. When Paul says the living saints "shall be caught up" he is saying, "those who are alive will be "snatched away" or "carried away speedily."

† Enoch was "caught up" "carried away speedily!"

† Elijah was "caught up"....."he was snatched away!"

† Jesus was "caught up" into the clouds at His ascension.

† Philip was "caught up" or "carried away" to Azotus after baptizing the Ethiopian Eunuch."

If you and I are living at the time CHRIST COMES AGAIN we will be "caught up"....."snatched away"....."carried away speedily" from this earth "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye!"

And finally, I would have to consider.....

V. THE REUNION (v.17,18)

¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1. Paul says “we shall be caught up together with them.” Who is “them?” Them refers to our Christians loved ones who have died.

2. On the day Christ returns we will have a great reunion with every Christian loved one and every Christian friend who has left us.

† We will never say goodbye to them again!

† We will never be separated from them again!

3. As great as it will be to see our loved ones and friends again, I believe it will be far greater to see JESUS, the one who gave His life to make our glad reunion possible.

CONCLUSION

One Sunday after Church a little girl was telling her mother that she had learned in Sunday School that Jesus is coming again. She said, “Mommy, do you believe Jesus is coming again?” Her mother said, “Yes, I do!” Mommy, do you believe Jesus could come back this year?” “Yes, I do!” said the mother. The little girl asked, “Mommy, do you believe Jesus could come back today?” “Yes, I do!” said her mother. The little girl said, “Mommy, could you brush my hair. I want to be ready when Jesus

comes.” Church, JESUS IS COMING AGAIN! May be morning, may be noon, may be evening and may be soon. ARE YOU READY?

Start brushing your hair.