

**Disc 108 - End Times Overview - 1Thes 4:13**

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This is our **FINAL Msg** in the **Discipleship 100** series

& it is a **Whirlwind Overview** of what the Bible says about  
**"The End Times"**

**It's sole purpose is to Encourage Us**

To Run The Race,  
To Keep The Faith,  
To Not Grow Weary in Doing Good

An understanding of where YOU FIT in the End Times,

And ultimately, an understanding of HEAVEN,  
& your citizenship there

Is an incredible source of Encouragement & Peace  
in the difficult times we live in today

**So LET'S PRAY** & we'll get right into it

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I guess any Overview of the "End Times"  
has to start with the subject of **OUR DEATH**

Because **DEATH** would be considered - our "***END TIME***"

**Death** is a fearful fact of life !

**Job 18:14** calls death "***The King of Terrors***"

But **for the Christian** - death has been reduced  
to the role of an **USHER**

**Heb 2** says - Jesus has destroyed the one  
who has the power of death,  
in order to FREE US from the fear of death

& **1Cor 15:54** says death is "Swallowed Up" in VICTORY  
Thru Jesus Christ

So let's take a quick look - at what the Bible says  
happens to us - when we die

Before the resurrection of Christ  
all who died went to SHEOL (the place of the dead)

Which **Luk 16** describes as TWO "compartments"  
separated by an impassable gulf

One of PEACE for those who had Faith in God  
& One of TORTURE for the Wicked

When Jesus Conquered death - He emptied SHEOL of the Righteous  
& Ushered them into PARADISE

**Which is where** those who have FAITH in Christ  
now go Immediately when they die

Jesus told the **Thief** on the Cross  
***"Today you will be with me in paradise"***

& **2Cor 5:8** says ***"to be absent from the body,  
is to be present with the Lord"***

The moment a Christian dies  
he is in the presence of Jesus Christ - in Glory

However, in an event that can cause some confusion (*in our finite minds*)

there is a moment when those who have died in Christ  
will be united with their NEW Resurrection Bodies

& that occurs at the same time as - THE RAPTURE

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**THE RAPTURE** - refers to a moment  
when Jesus Christ "Catches Up" believers into the air

GREEK word = **HARPAZO** = "Snatched Away"

LATIN equivalent = **RAPTURO (RAPIO)** from where we get **RAPTURE**

It's described in **1Thes 4** - & we should turn there

**1Thes 4:13-14 - ESV** → →

### **1Thes 4:13-14 - ESV**

(key verse) **13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.**

**14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep (died).**

So - they are **WITH God** & He will **bring them** with Him

### **1Thes 4:15-16 - ESV**

**15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.**

**16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.**

So - God brings them "With Him" (v.14)  
& they "Rise First" (v.15)

Which means they are **with God now** - & **will be United**  
with their **Resurrection Bodies** at the rapture (see 1Cor 15)

### **(cont'g) - 1Thes 4:17-18 - ESV**

**17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.**

**18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.**

At the Rapture - Those who've **Died** in Christ - those **Alive** in Christ  
**ALL** get their Resurrection Bodies

& so - **this is an event** that you definitely **DO NOT** want to miss

& the **ONLY way** to make this event  
is to put **your Faith** in Jesus Christ alone

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Now **AFTER** the Rapture (*n Pre-Trib Rapture theology*)

comes **THE GREAT TRIBULATION**

This is a specific & radical **7 years of Great Tribulation**  
that ushers in the Judgment of God on the earth

The book of REV is not the only place  
the details of the Tribulation are found

but it's the best outline of the events

In **REV CH 5** - a Scroll with 7 Seals is opened by Jesus Christ  
Who is the only one found worthy to open it

& in **Rev Ch 6** - we see those seals usher in  
the beginning of the Great Tribulation

- 1) **Rev 6:2** - The Anti-Christ brings a False Peace to the earth
- 2) **Rev 6:4** - That False Peace is replaced with WAR
- 3) **Rev 6:6** - A Great Famine sweeps the Earth
- 4) **Rev 6:8** - Death takes out 1/4<sup>th</sup> of the earth's population
- 5) **Rev 6:10** - The Martyrs of the Tribulation cry out for Judgment
- 6) **Rev 6:12** - (6<sup>th</sup> seal) brings incredible Destruction & Judgment

***But then - - - it gets worse***

**The 7<sup>th</sup> seal** opens up *another 7 Judgments*  
called the **Trumpet Judgments**

& things on the Earth go from bad to worse

- 1) **Rev 8:7** - 1/3 of the earth is burned with fire
- 2) **Re 8:8** - 1/3 of the sea is turned to blood
- 3) **Rev 8:10** - 1/3 of the fresh water is destroyed
- 4) **Rev 8:12** - 1/3 of the light of day & night is destroyed
- 5) **Rev 9:1** - Tormenting creatures released from the bottomless pit
- 6) **Rev 9:13** - Angels are sent to kill 1/3 of all mankind (left)

Then - after a pause in Revelation - **the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet blast**  
ushers in . . . **7 more Judgments**

These are the **7 BOWL Judgments** - found in **Rev Ch 16**

- 1) **Rev 16:2** - Sores put upon those who took the mark of the Beast
- 2) **Rev 16:3** - ALL the sea water becomes blood, & ALL sea-life dies
- 3) **Rev 16:4** - ALL of the fresh water becomes blood
- 4) **Rev 16:8** - The Sun scorches men with fire
- 5) **Rev 16:10** - The kingdom of the Anti-Christ becomes dark
- 6) **Rev 16:12** - Armies of the world prepare for battle of Armageddon
- 7) **Rev 16:17** - A shout "It is Finished", then intense Devastation

3 sets of 7 judgments in the Great Tribulation  
each worse than the previous

& every one of them is Just & Right Judgment  
on the Devil, his World, & Those who have chosen his side

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## **THE HEAVENLY SCENE**

*But what about us?*

**WHERE are the Believers** during all of this Judgment

We believe (*again Pre-Trib theology*)

that we are involved in a couple KEY events IN HEAVEN  
during all this Judgment on Earth

in **Rev Ch 4** - **BEFORE** all the Judgment begins  
the church is caught up into Heaven

& it's very clear what we will be primarily doing there

### **Rev 4:4 - ESV**

***4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.*** (righteousness, life, glory)

These 24 elders are Representative of **US** - All Believers  
& let's see what they're primarily doing

### **Rev 4:10-11 - ESV**

***10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,  
11 "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."***

While Judgment is poured out on the earth  
we are **Primarily** - Worshipping in Heaven

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But there are at least TWO major events taking place while we are in Heaven during this time

- 1) The **Judgment Seat** of Christ
- 2) The **Marriage Supper** of the Lamb

## **1) The Judgment Seat of Christ**

### **2Cor 5:10 says**

***10 For we (meaning believers) must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.***

But this Judgment Seat for believers is NOT Judgment - ***as in SALVATION***

This is judgment - ***as in REWARD***  
either gained or loss

ALL believers will stand before Christ

to be rewarded for their Faithfulness  
or to lose reward

but either way - We're there because we are Already SAVED

### **1Cor 3:13-15 - ESV**

***13 each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.***

***14 If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward.***

***15 If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.***



SO - One significant event occurring in Heaven  
is the Judgment Seat of Christ - for Believers

But there's another significant event  
occurring during this time

## **2) The Marriage Supper of the Lamb**

This is where Jesus Christ  
will finally be joined to His Bride (*the church*) - for Eternity

### **Rev 19:6-9 - ESV**

***6 Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.***

***7 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready;***

***8 it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.***

***9 And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." . . .***

You have GOT to MAKE SURE - you are invited  
to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb

& the ONLY way to get an invite - is by receiving Christ as your Savior  
& thereby becoming part of His Bride

& this is one Wedding you DEFINITELY DO NOT want to MISS !

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After the Judgment Seat of Christ - for Believers  
& after the Marriage Supper of the Lamb

## **The Second Coming**

All this time - The Great Tribulation is  
being "Poured Out" on the earth . . .

while Believers are receiving their rewards  
& attending the Marriage Supper of the Lamb

But - Then what . . . What happens next ?  
*well - it REALLY gets good about now*

Back on earth - the Armies of the World  
have been gathering together  
for the last Great Battle on this earth

## ***The Battle of Armageddon***

& it seems like - after the Marriage Supper of the Lamb -  
Jesus says to His Bride (US)

***Hey, let's go on a horseback ride . . .  
cause there's something I want you to see***

& Jesus Christ - with us following as Witnesses . . .

Comes back to earth to execute  
Final Judgment on the armies of the world

### **Rev 19:11-16 - ESV**

***11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war.***

***12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems (crowns), and he has a name written that no one knows but himself.***

***13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.***

***14 And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.***

***15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.***

***16 On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.***

### **skip down to Rev 19:19-21 - ESV**

***19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army.***

***20 And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.***

***21 And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.***

MAN . . . I wish I could read MORE on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming  
because it is incredible

But you can read the refs yourself in the Discipleship Manual

SO - we've made it up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming  
& now . . .

## **THE MILLENNIUM**

After the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming  
there is a Thousand year period (called the millennium)

Where Satan will be BOUND, &  
Christ will set up His Kingdom on earth for 1,000 yrs  
(*PreMillennial Theology*)

And - in a way we can't fully understand  
WE (the Saints) will REIGN WITH Christ

Over an earth that is NOT ruled by the Devil  
but has also not been made totally Made New (yet)

### **Rev 20:1-3 - ESV**

***1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain.***

***2 And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,***

***3 and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.***

After the 1,000 year Reign of Christ on the Earth  
the Devil is loosed from the pit

For his FINAL JUDGMENT

## **Rev 20:7-10 - ESV**

***7 And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison***

***8 and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea.***

***9 And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them,***

***10 and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.***

& FINALLY the Devil receives  
his eternal Judgment - in the Lake of Fire

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Are we Done Yet ?? - - NO

After the Devil is condemned to Eternal Judgment

There comes that moment when every NON-BELEVER  
will finally get their Day in Court

& it's called the **THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT**

& it is where ever NON-believer is judged by their WORKS

& NOT ONE is Saved by what they have DONE

**Rev 20:11-15 - ESV → →**

## **Rev 20:11-15 - ESV**

***11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them.***

***12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.***

***13 And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done.***

***14 Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.***

***15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.***

Please Hear Me - If you DEMAND to stand before God  
& be judged by how good a person you've been

You WILL NOT PASS - Because you are a sinner

If you want to avoid this Judgment  
Your name MUST be written in the Book of Life

& the Bible says the ONLY way for that to happen  
is for you to put your Faith in Jesus Christ

Because **THEN** - you enter Heaven - in **HIS** Righteousness  
which is the **ONLY WAY IN**

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But we're not quite done yet  
in our whirlwind overview of the end times

After the Final Great White Throne Judgment  
FINALLY - we get to **THE NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH**

that we commonly call **HEAVEN**

**Rev Ch's 21 & 22** - Are possibly  
the most ENCOURAGING Ch's in the entire Bible

Because they describe our Eternal Dwelling Place with God

I would encourage you to spend MUCH TIME  
in these two Ch's

### **Rev 21:1-4 - ESV**

***1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.  
2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.  
3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.  
4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."***

### **skip down to - Rev 21:27 - ESV**

***27 But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.***

The **GREATEST Encouragement** for a Christian  
is *to Grasp* all we can about what **HEAVEN** is like

Because **HEAVEN** is really what it's **ALL** about

Christian - Set your sights on Heaven

because that is where your HOME is,  
& that is where your REWARD is

& if you have not yet  
made Jesus Christ your Savior & Lord

Then - I pray this Whirlwind Overview of the End Times  
will bring you to make that decision

**Let's Pray**