

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – Resurrection Timeline

- We are continuing our study through 1Thessalonians,
 - And having better understanding of.
 - The Rapture of the Church,
 - And the Resurrection mentioned in our text.

- The rapture of the church is:
 - The event in which God **“snatches away”** all believers from the earth,
 - The **Rapture** makes way for His righteous judgment to be poured out on the earth during the **tribulation** period.

- The rapture is described primarily in:
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18
 - And 1 Corinthians 15:50–54.

- The rapture of the church is a glorious event,
 - And we should all be longing for it.
 - We will finally be free from sin.
 - We will be in God’s presence forever.

- There is a lot of debate over the meaning and details of the rapture.
 - This is not God’s intent in scripture.

- Rather, the rapture should be a **comforting** doctrine,
 - That is full of hope.

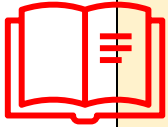
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – Resurrection Timeline

The Comfort of Christ's Coming

- 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.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – Resurrection Timeline

- Let's also read...



- **1 Corinthians 15:50–54 (NKJV)**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

51 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 **rapture** is to be distinguished from the **second coming**.
- At the **rapture**,
 - The Lord comes “**in the clouds**” to meet us “**in the air**”

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – Resurrection Timeline

- At the **Second Coming**,
 - The Lord descends all the way to the earth,
 - To stand on the Mount of Olives,
 - Resulting in a great earthquake,
 - Followed by a defeat of God's enemies:

- **Zechariah 14:3–4 (NKJV)**
 - 3 Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle.
 - 4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.
- There are 2 doctrines in our text in 1 Thessalonians 4:
 - The **Rapture**,
 - The **Resurrection** of the Church Saints.
- A few weeks ago, we established by Biblical definition,
 - There are 2 resurrections.
 - The Resurrection of the Righteous,
 - The Resurrection of the Unrighteous.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – Resurrection Timeline

- Everyone will be raised from the dead,
 - But not everyone will share the same destiny.

- **Daniel 12:2 (NKJV)**

2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to **everlasting life**, Some to shame and **everlasting contempt**.

- Jesus said...

- **John 5:26–29 (NKJV)**

26 For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, 27 and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.

28 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

- Last time,
 - We established the ultimate “first resurrection”,
 - Was when Jesus rose from the dead.
- Without the resurrection of Christ,
 - We’ve got nothing.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – Resurrection Timeline

- However,
 - Because of the Jesus' resurrection,
 - We have the hope of the rapture for the church,
 - And the resurrection of the saints.

- **1 Peter 1:3 (NKJV)**

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

- **1 Corinthians 15:20 (NKJV)**

20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

- **1 Peter 1:21 (NKJV)**

21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

- **There remain 2 future resurrections:**



- 1) The resurrection of life
- 2) The resurrection of death

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – Resurrection Timeline

- **The Resurrection of Life takes place in 4 phases:** 

- 1) Jesus Christ
- 2) The Saved At Rapture Of The Church
- 3) The Tribulation And Old Testament Saints At His Second Coming
- 4) The Great White Throne And Millennial Saints

- **1) Jesus is the first:**

- Jesus was the first person to come back from the dead,
- And NEVER die again.

- **1 Corinthians 15:20 (NKJV)**

20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

- **1 Corinthians 15:23 (NKJV)**

23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

- Paul said in Acts:

- **Acts 26:23 (NKJV)**

23 that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.”

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – Resurrection Timeline

- Paul spoke of Christ's pre-eminence.
 - Meaning He is first in everything.
 - First in importance,
 - First in honor,
 - First in exaltation.

- **Colossians 1:18 (NKJV)**

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.

- Jesus is the one who is pre-eminent over death.

- **2) The Rapture of the Church:**

- At the rapture of the church,
- The bodies of the living and dead will be changed.
- Look at vs16 again:

- **1 Thessalonians 4:16 (NKJV)**

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.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – Resurrection Timeline

- Paul told the church at Corinth about the change that would take place:

- **1 Corinthians 15:51–58 (NKJV)**

51 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.”

55 “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?”

56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – Resurrection Timeline

- Next...
- 3) **The Tribulation Saints** (those that are killed for their faith)
 - The Tribulation saints will be raised at the Second Coming of Christ,
 - Which is after the Tribulation:

- **Revelation 20:4–6 (NKJV)**

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the **first resurrection** (the resurrection of life). 6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the **first resurrection**. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

- Next...

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – Resurrection Timeline

- **4) The Old Testament Saints:**

- The believers who lived before the time of Christ,
 - Will be raised at the Second Coming of Christ.
- The Book of Daniel says:

- **Daniel 12:1–2 (NKJV)**

1 “At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book.

2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt.

- After the tribulation period is over,
 - Jesus Christ returns.

- He will also resurrect the Old Testament saints.

- Every believer, from the time of Adam until the Second Coming of Christ, will have been resurrected at this time.



1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – Resurrection Timeline

- What happens next on God’s timeline?
 - The Millennial Kingdom:
 - When Jesus returns,
 - There will be a thousand-year period of peace,
 - When He rules in righteousness.

- **Next Resurrection after the Millennial Kingdom:**

- **5) Great White Throne:**
 - At the end of the thousand years.

 - There will be 2 resurrections.
 - 1) Millennial **believers** (Resurrection of life)
 - The final phase of the “Resurrection of life”

 - **2) Unbelievers** who have ever lived will be resurrected and judged.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – Resurrection Timeline

- This is the Great White Throne judgment.

- **Revelation 20:11–15 (NKJV)**

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

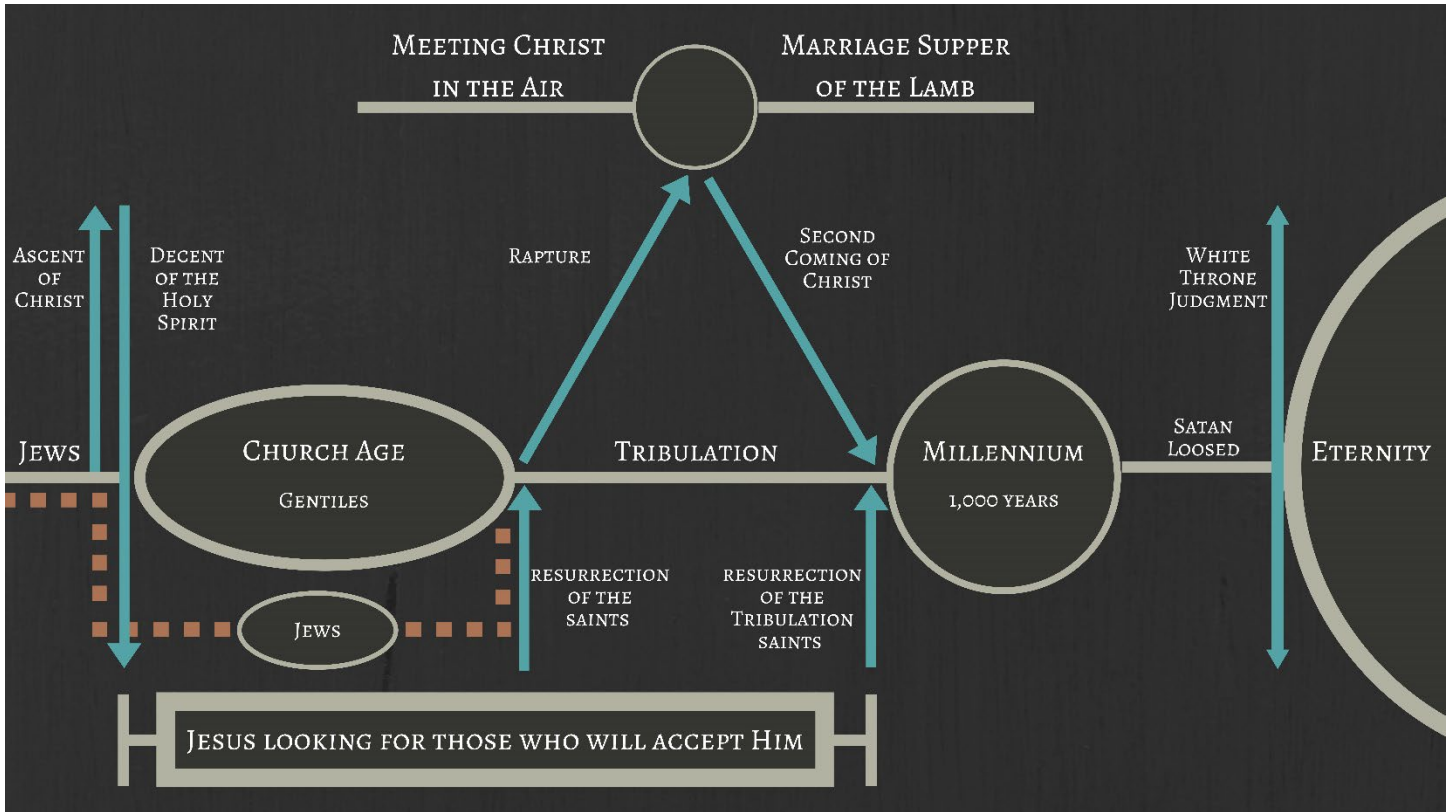
14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

- After the Great White Throne judgment,
 - There will be no more resurrections.
- And Eternity begins....

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – Resurrection Timeline

- Show Timeline Image: Rapture Timeline.jpg



1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – Resurrection Timeline

- In the very last chapter of the Bible,
 - Jesus says...

- **Revelation 22:7 (NKJV)**

7 “Behold, *I am coming quickly!* Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

- **Revelation 22:12–13 (NKJV)**

12 “And behold, *I am coming quickly,* and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”

- **Revelation 22:20 (NKJV)**

20 He who testifies to these things says, “Surely *I am coming quickly.*” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – Resurrection Timeline

Conclusion:

- The understanding of the Rapture and Resurrection,
 - Offers hope and an imperative to live faithfully.

- There will be no more resurrections after the Great White Throne judgment,
 - Leading us into eternity.

- The closing exhortations in Revelation (Revelation 22:7, 12–13, 20):
 - Reminds us of the urgency and the blessedness of being prepared.

- In the light of our study,
 - Let us encourage one another,
 - Live with a sense of expectancy,
 - And echo the words,
 - Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

- Don't be caught off guard.

- And if you don't have a relationship with Jesus,
 - Today's the day!!!