

The Coming of the Lord “The Dead in Christ Rise”

1 Thessalonians 4

13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. 14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

15 According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

Vs. 13

13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

- When Paul wrote about the death of believers, he called it **sleep**.
- This was the confident belief of the Apostle Paul and the early Christians. We will certainly live, because Jesus lives and our union with Him is stronger than death. This is more than a wishful hope and it is why we do not sorrow as those who have no hope.
- When a sinner dies, we mourn for them. When a believer dies, we only mourn for ourselves, because they are with the Lord.

- Because of this verse have you ever wondered well then were do we as believers go when we die?

Which one is it: Do we sleep in the grave, or do we go to be with Jesus?

Let's look at Vs.14 again

Vs. 14

For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

The Answer is: Yes

- When a believer in Jesus dies, their body remains here on the earth but their spirit is with Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:8

...to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

Vs. 14 "...God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him."

"It is best to understand the words to mean that Jesus will bring the faithful departed with Him when He comes back. Their death does not mean that they will miss their share in His Coming." (Morris)

- Jesus is the First Fruits of the Resurrection
- In the resurrection of Jesus, we have an amazing example of it and a promise of our own.
- Jesus' resurrection and glorified body is our example and hope of what is to come when He appears...

? What happened when Jesus was in the grave?

- Jesus' body was in the grave; but at that time and for his purposes, He descended to the lower, earthly region.

1 Peter 3

18 ...He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. 19 After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirit 20 to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah

Ephesians 4:9

What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions

Jesus’ Spirit was alive, separate from his physical body, and then on the third day He rose from the grave in a Resurrected body...

You can read about the resurrected Jesus in the later part of each Gospel:

In his Resurrected Body:

He had the marks of the Crucifixion but he was completely restored.

In his Resurrected Body: He was unrecognizable by many at first.

In his Resurrected Body: He walked through walls and appeared to His Disciples (**John 20:19**)

In his Resurrected Body: He warned Mary not to touch Him for he had not yet gone to be with the Father. (**John 20:17**)

In his Resurrected Body: He Appears and Disappears.

In his Resurrected Body: He Ascended in to Heaven.

The Bible says we also will share in this Resurrection-

Romans 6:4,5

4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.

In the Resurrection the Supernatural will seem natural...

With God the Supernatural is natural...

Water in a Cloud:

A thunderstorm cloud contains enough water drops to fill up approximately **275 million gallon** jars. That's about **2.3 billion** pounds, or **1.1 million** tons of water.

madison.com

Rotation of the Earth:

The earth rotates once every 23 hours, 56 minutes and 4.09053 seconds, and its circumference is roughly 40,075 kilometers. Thus, the surface of the earth at the equator moves at a speed of roughly **1,000 miles per hour**.

scientificamerican.com

How about the Human Body:

If I chip the paint on my car it stays chipped...

If I cut my finger and set up a time laps you can watch that cut heal...

It will develop a scab, then fill in the wound, grow new skin and then heal up...

What does that?!

If I brake my iPhone it won't heal

If I brake my car it won't heal

God makes things do stuff like that and we think it's normal, Why?

Because He makes the Supernatural, Natural...

You know God likes Science, He made it...

He created the laws of physics...

He set the earth in motion...

Cell Theory was his idea for life at a microscopic level...

And when you hear that trumpet sound and the voice of Jesus sound the command with the voice of the archangel, the bodies of believers are going to come out of the grave and be united with their spirits in glorified risen form and those who are left remaining are going to be caught up to meet Jesus in the clouds...

That's just the way it's going to be...

Like water collects in the clouds

Like the earth rotates at 1000 miles an hour

We will go up to be with the Lord in the air

With God the Supernatural is natural...

Vs. 15-17

15 According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

Vs. 17

After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

This phrase "caught up" is where we get this expression Rapture.

The verb translated **caught up** here means to seize, or to carry off by force. The word *rapture* is not in the ancient Greek text, but comes from the Latin Vulgate, which translates the phrase **caught up** with *rapturus*, from which we get our English word *rapture*.

There are two aspects of Jesus' Second Coming:

They are often separated and referred to as **The Rapture of the Church** and **the Second Coming**.

These are separated by an appreciable period of time.

There are also 3 things to consider when separating the Rapture of the Church from the Second Coming:

- 1. Different world conditions are described**
- 2. Different manners of Jesus' return are described**
- 3. Different scenarios regarding the predictability of the date of Jesus' return.**

1. Different world conditions are described

Before the Rapture

Matthew 24:37-42

36 “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

42 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

There are two biblical analogies of what the world will be like before the Rapture of the Church.

- **As it was in the days of Noah**
- **As it was in the days of Lot**

Luke 17

28 “It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. 29 But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all.

30 “It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. 31 On that day no one who is on the housetop, with possessions inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. 32 Remember Lot’s wife! 33 Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it. 34 I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. 35 Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left.”

Before the Second Coming:

Matthew 24:21

21 For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.

Revelation 6

15 Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. 16 They called to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne