Wait – Messiah

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; Revelation 22:12–20.

The story of the 2nd Testament does not end with the Apostles' journeys or the letters they wrote. It points forward to the return of Yeshua, Israel's promised Messiah. The believers who first heard the Good News lived with the expectation that the risen Lord would come again. That same hope belongs to His followers today.

Paul comforted believers grieving the death of fellow disciples. John closed Revelation with Yeshua's promise that He is coming soon. These passages call us to wait with confidence, encourage one another, and remain faithful to the One who will return.

Talking Points

- Paul tells the Thessalonian believers not to grieve as those who have no hope. Because Jesus died and rose again, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Yesus (1 Thessalonians 4:13–14).
- At the Rapture, those who have died in Messiah will rise first. Then believers who are alive will be caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air. Paul commands the congregation to encourage one another with these words (1 Thessalonians 4:15–18).
- Yeshua declares that He is coming back to earth "quickly," bringing His righteous judgement with Him. He identifies Himself as the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End (Revelation 22:12–13).
- The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." Those who hear are invited to say, "Come," and the thirsty are invited to receive the water of life without cost. Revelation ends with Yeshua's promise to come and John's response: "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:16–20).

Background

Paul wrote to a congregation troubled about believers who had died before the Lord's return. His purpose was pastoral: he gave them a reason for hope grounded in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Christian hope is not

a denial of grief. It is confidence that death will not have the final word for those who belong to Messiah.

Paul distinguishes between believers who have died and those still living when the Lord Jesus takes Church Age believes to be with Him forever. He teaches that the dead in Messiah will rise first and that both groups will be gathered to be with the Lord. The emphasis of 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 is assurance and mutual encouragement. This passage does not provide a date for the event.

Revelation closes with the personal testimony of Yeshua. He is the promised descendant of David and the bright morning star (Revelation 22:16). His promise to return to earth is accompanied by a call to keep the words of the prophecy. The warning against adding to or taking away from this book underscores the importance of receiving God's revelation faithfully.

The closing invitation is both future-looking and immediate. Believers long for the Messiah's return, while the thirsty are invited now to receive the water of life freely. The Bible's Big Story moves toward the fulfillment of God's promises, and it calls every generation to respond to Yeshua in faith and obedience while waiting for Him.

Bible Conversations

- Paul tells grieving believers to encourage one another with the promise of resurrection and reunion with the Lord. How does this hope change the way we face death and comfort others?
- What does Revelation 22 teach about the identity of Yeshua and the certainty of His return? Why should we resist attempts to set dates or add details beyond what Scripture says?
- The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come," and the thirsty are invited to receive life freely. How can we both long for Yeshua's return and faithfully invite others to trust Him today?