



The Return Series

Part 4

September 25, 2022

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, ¹⁸ 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. 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.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.”

May Lord add His blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word Today, in Jesus Name, Amen...

Today we will be wrapping up our series on The Return; during which we have dissected some unique texts, whether they were in parable form or prophetic declaration, to see what the Scripture has to say regarding the return of Lord.

Today's passage of text gives us some tremendous encouragement and insight of the end game of the Return of the Lord concerning those who were and are born again. As I have stated many times, prophetic texts regarding the end of the age and the Return of the Lord is not meant to scare us nor to insight fear but rather to encourage us to stay the course and trust the plan.

We, as followers of Christ, must trust the plan! The Lord has warned us of these things in so that we do not lose our faith in light of the signs that Christ stated would precede His coming! With that said, point #1...

1. The Return of the Lord should Encourage Us that while We Grieve,

We do not Grieve as those Who have no Hope!

- a. Notice with me verse 13...
- b. ¹⁸“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.”
- c. Church family, it is human for us to grieve when we lose those who go by way of death but it is our Hope in Christ that keeps us from grieving in manner in which demonstrates our lack of hope.
- d. Granted, those who die apart from the faith we cannot state that they are heaven; we cannot biblically nor theologically defend a posture that someone made it to heaven apart from faith in Christ.
- e. However, those whom died in like precious faith in our glorious savior, we will see them again and what a joyous day it shall be!
And it is this truth that helps us as we grieve when we lose someone to death because we have a hope in Christ that helps us when we grieve but it is also a Hope that does not allow us to be put to shame!
- f. Remember, The Return of the Lord should Encourage Us that while We Grieve, We do not Grieve as those Who have no Hope!
- g. Point #2

2. The Return of the Lord is a Catching Away of the Living in Christ and the Dead in Christ!

- a. Notice with me verse 14-15...
- b. 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. 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.”
- c. The Return of Christ is not only for the benefit of those who are alive and remain at the dawn of His coming but it is also to demonstration of Power that Christ has over death; even to the point of the resurrection of those who died in the faith over two millennia of time.
- d. The Return of Christ is the ultimate demonstration of power when Jesus Himself manifests His control and dominance over Death and the Grave! His Return not only benefits those who are alive and those whom died in the faith but also is the solidifying moment when Christ demonstrates to every power, every principality, every authority, every ruler, and every form of spiritual wickedness in high places is shown who the King of Kings and Lord of Lords is!

- e. Jesus is King and He wields ALL power in Heaven, in Earth, and below the Earth; and when the Scriptures states that He holds the keys to death, hell, and the grave, He means it!
- f. And the final Victory wrought for us all by His Cross is when death is defeated, Hell is judged, and the Grave is emptied! Church, the King is Coming and Victory is on its way!
- g. Remember, The Return of the Lord is a Catching Away of the Living in Christ and the Dead in Christ!
- h. Point #3...

3. The Return of the Lord will Cause a Transformation of Those who Died in the Faith as well as Those who are Walking in the Faith!

- a. Notice with me verses 16-17...
- b. **“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.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.”**
- c. Church family, Christ’s return is not strictly about saving His Church out of a bad situation.

- d. His Return is not only our reunion with Christ but also a reunion with those we love who died in the faith being fully redeemed unto Christ!
- e. His return is not about fear but is in actuality a reward of our faith and we should find encouragement, hope, and peace in the promise of His return! Church, He Is Returning For You!!! The King is Coming!
- f. Jesus not only holds the world record for the world's largest fish fry but He will soon hold the world record for the Greatest Family Reunion in World History!
- g. Remember, The Return of the Lord will Cause a Transformation of Those who Died in the Faith as well as Those who are Walking in the Faith!
- h. And in closing, Point #

4. The Return of the Lord is an Encouragement to Those Whom are with Christ currently as well as Those who Long to be with Him!

- a. Notice with me verse 18...
- b. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words."
- c. Therefore; the previous verses are there for encouragement!

d. Remember, The Return of the Lord is an Encouragement to Those Whom are with Christ currently as well as Those who Long to be with Him!

“Sweet Beulah Land”

I'm kind of homesick for a country
To which I've never been before.
No sad goodbyes will there be spoken
For time won't matter anymore.

Beulah Land (Beulah Land) I'm longing for you (I'm longing for you)
And some day (And some day) on thee I'll stand (Someday we will stand)
There my home (There my home) shall be eternal (Eternal)
Beulah Land, sweet Beulah Land

I'm looking now, just across the river
To where my faith, shall end in sight (Shall end in sight)
There's just a few more days to labor.
Then I will take my heavenly flight.

Beulah Land (Beulah Land) I'm longing for you (I'm longing for you)
And some day (And some day) on thee I'll stand (Someday we will stand)
There my home (There my home) shall be eternal
Beulah Land, sweet Beulah Land
Beulah Land, oh it's Beulah Land
Oh Beulah Land, sweet Beulah Land