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VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

- **1 Thessalonians 4:15-18** 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 not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.
- Caught up: *harpazo* (Greek) *rapturo* (Latin)
- Shout: *keleusma:* a shout of command

WHAT WE KNOW SO FAR

- Antichrist is a person (not a world system) who uses 10 kings that will arise out of the former Roman Empire
- He seems to also come out of the Roman Empire
- He doesn't serve the god of his fathers, has no regard for the "desire of women"
- He uses his resources to build up military power
- He comes to power at the mid point of the tribulation but is probably influential during the entire period
- He is spiritually empowered from the abyss
- He has a rider ("Babylon" coming to power with/on him)
- He gets his authority from Satan (Dragon)
- A false holy spirit will arise causing people to worship the antichrist, restrict trade, and mark adherents

WHAT WE KNOW SO FAR

- Sometime in the seven year period, probably immediately before or in the middle, Jesus will come in the air and the church will be "raptured"
- There will be a judgment of believers' works in heaven
- There will be a marriage supper/church with Jesus
- Jesus will come to earth again, riding a white horse, and setting foot on the Mount of Olives
- The Antichrist and earthly kingdoms will confront Him in the valley of Armageddon (Har Megiddo) or Jezreel
- Jesus wins!
- The Antichrist and False Prophet are thrown into the Lake of Fire
- Satan is confined to the abyss for 1000 years, then freed for a final conflict

WHAT WE KNOW SO FAR

- Jesus reigns for 1000 years
- Satan will be freed from the abyss and again bring people to confront Jesus
- Satan loses again and this time goes to the Lake of Fire
- The unsaved dead are resurrected, judged, and sent to the Lake of Fire
- There is a new heaven and new earth
- The New Jerusalem descends from heaven and becomes the place where believers live with Christ eternally
- There is no crying, pain, suffering—no temple no light needed except the glory of God

MAKING SURE YOU'RE READY

DON'T BE LEFT BEHIND

- Romans 3:23 ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...
- Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus.
- **Romans 5:8...** God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
- Romans 10:9 ... if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;
- Some things must always be taken as a matter of faith BUT our faith can be an informed sort of faith
- 1 Peter 3:15 ...but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

MAKING OUR DEFENSE

- Defense: apologia: an apology—in the sense of being able to "clear your name," by giving a full explanation of your beliefs and your actions
- 2 Timothy 4:1-4 I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.
- Be brave enough to tell people when they are getting it wrong; tell them how to get is right!

DOWN TO BASICS

- WHAT HAPPENED IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN Image, land, eternal life, heirs
- WHAT HAPPENED TO EVERYONE BORN THEREAFTER
- HOW DO WE FIX THIS PROBLEM (WE CAN'T)
- WHO CAN FIX IT? (A KINSMAN REDEEMER)
- QUALIFICATIONS OF A KINSMAN REDEEMER
- DUTIES OF A KINSMAN REDEEMER
- WHY HUMANS HAVE NO ELIGIBLE REDEEMER
- WHY JESUS WAS UNIQUELY QUALIFIED
- WHAT JESUS DID FOR US (PAID FOR) What has Jesus transacted business with so far? What remains to be transacted? When will this happen?