

Jesus Is Coming Again
(An Exposition of 1 Thessalonian 4:13-18)

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After church, where she had been taught about the Second Coming, a little girl was quizzing her mother. "Mommy, do you believe Jesus will come back?" "Yes." "Today?" "Yes." "In a few minutes?" "Yes, dear." "Mommy, would you comb my hair?" The heart of this little girl really believed that Jesus was coming again and that He was going to show up today! She wanted to be ready and looking good for His arrival. Do you really believe in the imminent return of Christ? Paul the apostle did. He was looking for the Savior to return in his lifetime for he wrote: "We look for the Saviour" (Phil. 3:20). We too can look forward to Christ's return with great expectancy and a heart filled with hope. Paul said elsewhere that we should be "looking for that blessed hope" (Titus 2:13). Yes, Jesus may come today. Perhaps today!



Our text for this study is found in Paul's first epistle to the Thessalonians. It is a well-known text dealing with what we term as the Rapture of the Church, when Jesus returns for His beloved Church Age saints, who are part of the Dispensation of Grace. The secret return of Christ that was promised to His disciples in John 14:1-3 is what Paul is reflecting upon in this chapter. It will be a time of joyous meeting in the air with our loved ones and the Lord. We will then return to the Father's House to live in the great heavenly city Jesus has prepared for His Bride (the New Testament Church).

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from

heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”

“Marvelous message we bring,
Glorious carol we sing,
Wonderful word of the King,
Jesus is coming again!

Coming again, Coming again,
May be morning, may be noon,
May be evening and may be soon!
Coming again, Coming again;
O what a wonderful day it will be –
Jesus is coming again!”

Yes, Jesus is coming again!

There are six key words associated with Christ’s coming.



I. Reassurance (vv. 13-15)

1 Thessalonians 4:13-15 says: “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again,

even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.”

The pagan world in Paul’s day had no hope of life after death. A typical inscription on a grave demonstrates this fact: “I was not; I became; I am not; I care not.” While some of the philosophers, such as Socrates, sought to prove happiness after death, the pagan world had no word of assurance on life after death. But the believer in Christ has the assurance of living in

God's presence after death (2 Cor. 5:8) and also receiving a resurrected body at some point in the future (John 11:25-26). The believer in Christ abounds with hope. Hope or joyous expectancy is written in their hearts and across their future. We will see this in our study for God promises His saints a glorious future with Him.

Let me give you some introductory remarks and background of this portion of Scripture. In this section of the letter Paul is replying to a question that the saints had regarding their loved ones who had died. He was going to teach them that when Christ returns, their loved ones, who had previously died, would also take part in this glorious event of the return of Christ. They would be raised from the dead (1 Thess. 4:16 – "the dead in Christ shall rise first") and join those who are raptured in the clouds before being transported back to Heaven to live with Christ. This Biblical teaching provided the living saints with the reassurance that they needed concerning their loved ones who had died.

Paul had taught the believers in Thessalonica about Christ's coming in the air to take His living saints back to Heaven with Him. This is what 1 Thessalonians 4 is talking about. At the mystery or secret return (1 Cor. 15:51-52), not known or foretold by the Old Testament prophets, Christ will catch away the living saints into the air and take them back to Heaven (John 14:1-3). However, since Paul left there were a number of Thessalonians who had died. So the living believers were asking several questions. Will their deceased loved ones receive their resurrection bodies at Christ's Secret Coming in the Rapture or must they wait to be raised from the dead until Christ's Second Coming to earth, after the seven-year Tribulation period? Would they miss the event of the secret return of Christ altogether? At what point would they see their loved ones again?

Perhaps the primary question about the resurrection of their deceased loved ones was left unanswered in relation to Christ's return or more likely the people did not fully understand the teaching and timing of this resurrection that Paul had explained to them for He wrote "I would not have you to be ignorant brethren concerning them which are asleep" (1 Thess. 4:13). Paul had taught them this truth but now he was reiterating this truth in his letter and reminding them of what would happen to their

loved ones at Christ's return. What about those believers who have died? When would they be raised? Would their death rob them of participation in the grand event of Christ's coming for the living saints in the Church?

Paul answers these questions and gives them reassurance. He teaches that their deceased loved ones would share in the glorious event of Christ's coming or the time when Christ returns in the Rapture to take His people back to Heaven. He is going to tell them that their loved ones would be raised from the dead when Jesus comes to catch them away or rapture them from planet earth. Together they would share in this glorious event.

So what was Paul doing? He was bringing reassurance to the hearts of these young believers. It was reassurance that they would one day see their loved ones again when Christ returns. This is because their loved ones would actually be raised from the dead at the same time Jesus returns to catch away the living saints. This brought great reassurance and comfort to their hearts. Both the living saints and those who were not living would be reunited and share in the glorious event of Christ's Secret Coming for His Church Age saints, a coming not revealed in the Old Testament. This blessed truth brought reassurance and hope to their hearts.

“Oh, what a meeting, there in the skies,
No tears nor crying shall dim our eyes;
Loves ones united eternally;
Oh, what a daybreak that morn will be.”

Paul provides a two-fold reassurance for the saints.

Let's reflect on this reassurance these saints possessed. It's the same assurance we can have today.

a. It was an assurance based upon knowledge (vs. 13a).

The formula, “I would not have you to be ignorant (misinformed), brethren” (vs. 13) is not used to chide them but to alert the readers to an important announcement about their loved ones who had died. Paul wanted them to understand what would happen to them when Jesus

returns. Their deceased loved ones would be resurrected and participate in the event of Christ's coming and be taken back to Heaven with the rest of those saints who are living. When we know the truth, we can be reassured about possessing a glorious future with our saved loved ones.

The expression "them which are asleep" (vs. 13) is actually a metaphor for dying. Those who fall asleep are Christians who die and the metaphor of sleep is ascribed to the bodies that are sleeping and awaiting resurrection. The figure of speech is used for the death of the body. It's a common expression used in the New Testament. John 11:11 records, "These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep." Acts 7:60 records, "And he (Stephen) kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep." 1 Corinthians 15:6 speaks about how – "some are fallen asleep."

This is not soul sleep because Paul taught elsewhere that a Christian who is absent from his body is present with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8 - "absent from the body and present with the Lord"). He wrote in Philippians 1:23 about having "a desire to depart and be with Christ which is far better." The cults teach what is called "soul sleep" but the Bible never teaches this anywhere. Soul sleep is a false doctrine.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:10 Paul writes:

"Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep (at Christ's return), we should live together with him."

Here Paul contrasts those who are alive when Jesus returns ("we should live") and those who have died ("sleep") and uses the term "sleep" as a metaphor for death. The term sleep in the New Testament is always used in connection with the body. The body is termed as sleeping in the earth until it is resurrected and changed into a glorious body and reunited again with the soul, which is already in Heaven (1 Cor. 15:35-57; 2 Cor. 5:1-9). So these saints could know about the future. They don't have to remain in ignorance about what is going to take place with their loved ones who have died. They would be resurrected and participate with the glorious event of Christ's return for His Church Age saints.

b. It was an assurance based on hope (vs. 13b-15).

Paul now explains how the saints can be reassured about seeing their loved ones at the return of Christ. The apostle concludes that because of the Gospel our saved loved ones will be resurrected at the Rapture and we will live together in Heaven.

➤ The reason for their hope (vs. 13b)

Paul says that the living saints “sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.” This is the reason for their hope is this. God’s saints don’t have to sorrow like those who have no hope. They can be comforted in knowing that they will see their loved ones again. Please notice that Paul did not say that they will not sorrow or should not sorrow when their loved ones depart for even Jesus wept over the death of Lazarus (John 11:35). Sorrow is the normal process that God’s people pass through when losing their loves ones in death. So we do sorrow, but Paul concludes that we do not sorrow like others which have no hope of seeing their lost loved ones again after death.

There are many people today who have “no hope” of ever meeting their loved ones again because they are not part of God’s family. They are not born again and they do not possess any hope of dwelling in Heaven and seeing their loved ones in the heavenly city. They fit the Biblical description of “having no hope, and without God in the world” (Eph. 2:12). When a person dies without Christ there is a sign that could be placed on the entranceway into hell which reads “All hope is gone!” These are the saddest words recorded in the Bible – “no hope.”

Revelation 20:12 says:

“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”

Revelation 20:15 concludes with these words:

“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

Friend, if you die without the salvation that Jesus freely and graciously offers to you, then you have absolutely no hope! You will die in you sins and go straight to hell. Don't fool yourself. You don't have any hope outside of God's grace! But Paul says to these believers in Christ, "that ye sorrow not even as others which have no hope." How wonderful it is to have hope – the hope of salvation, eternal life, the hope of Heaven, the hope of seeing our loved ones who have died in the Lord. What reassurance this brings to our hearts! Because we do have a genuine hope through the Gospel, we can be reassured that we will meet our loved ones again at Christ's return. They will be there and be given a new body like ours and together we will go back to the Father's House (John 14:1-3).

➤ The remedy for their hope (vs. 14)

1 Thessalonians 4:14

"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him."

The remedy for this hope is the Gospel of Jesus Christ! The believers have the hope of seeing their loved ones again and this hope is confirmed by the words: "if we believe that Jesus died and rose again." This is the Gospel message (1 Cor. 15:3-4). There is hope because of this message! This message makes all the difference between hopelessness and hope. This is true for all God's people individually since we have placed faith in Christ. We can have a personal or individual hope of seeing our loved ones again because of the Gospel of Christ's death and resurrection.

In order to possess this personal hope, we must believe that Jesus died in our place bearing our sins and judgment and providing the only way of salvation (Acts 4:12). We must believe that Jesus rose again from the dead to prove that God had accepted His Son's sacrifice, that Jesus paid for sin's penalty in full providing legal justification before God (Rom. 4:25), and to also provide eternal life for us (John 6:47). When believing the Gospel of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, fully relying on Christ for salvation, justification, and eternal life, it's only then that we can be saved. This is how simple faith is. We come to Christ as lost hell-bound sinners and

commit our faith only to the death and resurrection of Christ for our salvation from hell. What a personal hope this is!

Now this Gospel statement that Paul makes (“if we believe that Jesus died and rose again”) is provided as the ground or reason for the saint’s hope of seeing their loved ones again at Christ’s return. It’s only through the Gospel or good news of Christ’s death and resurrection that we can meet at the Rapture and live and dwell together in eternity. Furthermore, if we truly believe that Jesus died and rose again, we can also believe that He is coming again to resurrect the bodies of our loved ones from the grave. This is because the resurrection of our loved ones is based upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:20

“But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept.”

The expression “even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him” (1 Thess. 4:14) provides further information why they can have this blessed hope of seeing their loved ones again. Jesus is going to bring the spirits of their saved, loved ones back with Him, who are now dwelling in Heaven (Rev. 6:9), and the immaterial part of their human existence will be united with their resurrected bodies. All of this is based upon Christ’s own resurrection from the grave. The beloved saints will be bodily raised from the dead and reunited with their spirits all because Jesus rose from the dead. So, the expression “them which sleep in Jesus” would be a reference to the saints whose spirits have departed from their sleeping bodies. Jesus will bring back these spirits to be reunited with their bodies which will then be raised from the dead in a new glorified and eternal body.

1 Thessalonians 3:13 speaks of this same truth:

“To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.”

The “saints” or holy ones accompanying Christ at His return are the souls/spirits of these people (the immaterial part of their human existence)

who have departed this life and gone to be with Christ (2 Cor. 5:8), and whose bodies will be resurrected when He returns (1 Thess. 4:16). Paul is referring to the Secret Coming (mystery coming of 1 Cor. 15:51-52) and not the Second Coming in these verses. He is teaching the truth that Jesus will bring back the spirits of departed loved ones, so that they can be reunited with their bodies, and be miraculously resurrected and rejoined with the living saints who have been raptured.

The word “bring” connotes the idea of leading or guiding someone and bringing them to a point of destination. Paul is teaching that Christ will be the Leader of His saints in this whole process. He will make sure their spirits are joined with their resurrected bodies (“them with sleep”) and ultimately lead back to Heaven to live with Him. The point is this, Jesus died and rose again and some day because of His resurrection, Christ’s own saints will rise again and be escorted back to Heaven to live with Him, possessing a new, resurrected and glorified body, as promised in John 14:1-3.

Paul reassures them about their deceased loved ones in Christ. Their fellow believers who died will not miss out on the Rapture but will return with Christ, receive their own redemptive body at this time, and everyone will be reunited together again with their new bodies. Again, the reason we have this hope is because Jesus died and rose from the dead! What a blessed hope we have! What reassurance! We who are living and transformed at Christ’s coming have the reassurance of being reunited in the air with our resurrected loved ones, who have died, and together we will be lead back to Glory and the eternal, heavenly city He has prepared for us.

One thing is certain, this passage does not teach that God’s people immediately return to earth with Christ for the establishing of the Millennial Kingdom. The view that these raptured and resurrected saints immediately return to earth with Christ instead of Heaven contradicts John 14:1–3. This view places the Rapture at the end of the Tribulation and essentially equates it with Christ’s Second Coming to earth. This is not what the Bible teaches. There is a secret revelation of Christ’s coming (not revealed in the Old Testament) which will be accompanied with a mystery rapture and resurrection of New Testament saints from planet earth. They

will be raptured and resurrected together and taken back to the Father's House. What a glorious hope we have!

In passing through this present text, I find an interesting statement about the deity of Jesus Christ. Please note that Jesus is referenced as God when He returns. When Paul states, "even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him" (1 Thess. 4:14), it means that Jesus is returning as God to accomplish this great resurrection and transformation of the saints. He is identified as God and only God can resurrect and transform our bodies and make them like Christ's body.

Titus 2:13 speaks of this same truth:

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."

This passage on Christ's return in what we call the Rapture also identifies Christ as God and our Savior. Folks, let us never forget that Jesus is one hundred percent God and for this reason He can save our souls, raise the dead, and give us eternal life with Him in Heaven.

➤ The reconfirmation of their hope (vs. 15)

Paul now reconfirms their hope in seeing their loved ones by reminding them what is going to occur with their loved ones when Jesus returns. They are actually going to be transformed first and receive their glorified bodies.

1 Thessalonians 4:15

"For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep."

Paul now reconfirms what is going to take place with their deceased loved ones when Jesus returns. He promises that their loved ones who have died will be part of this mystery coming which was not revealed by Old Testament prophets and never known or taught until John 14 by Jesus and the New Testament epistles by the apostles. He assures them of this "by the word of the Lord" (revelation of God Himself) who is in charge of all

things! In other words, we have God's word on this! What He says is true. This is going to take place because the Master or sovereign God of the universe said it was going to take place! Is this enough reassurance for you?

Paul does not state or imply that he is directly quoting Christ's words when he says, "by the word of the Lord." What Paul seems to be stressing is that he is speaking with the authority of Christ as an apostle who is writing down inspired truth. The doctrine of the Rapture is not found in the Old Testament but it is a direct revelation given to Paul from God. We should take "the word of the Lord" as referring to new revelation that Jesus gave Paul (a New Testament prophet) which was not revealed and given to any Old Testament prophets.

Paul now reconfirms the hope that these New Testament saints of seeing their deceased loved ones. He concludes that the saints who "are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord" will not be raptured and transformed before the dead saints are resurrected and transformed, since Paul says that they "shall not prevent (precede, go before) them which are asleep." In other words, they (the living saints at Christ's return) would not be transformed before the saints who have died are resurrected and transformed. Again, the word "asleep" is a metaphor that refers to the bodies of saints who have died and whose bodies are awaiting a resurrection (Acts 7:59-60; 1 Cor. 15:51; Thess. 5:10).

In other words, Paul says that we who are living are not going to be raptured from planet earth until the dead are raised from their graves. They are first to be transformed as Christ's return. They will not miss the Rapture but be the first participants in this glorious event. We can be sure that our deceased, loved ones, who are saved, will be part of the Rapture. This is because they are going to be raised and transformed even before those saints who are still alive on earth. This teaching brought great reassurance to the hearts of the saints who were wondering about the resurrection and transformation of their deceased brethren.

There are two distinct groups of saints mentioned in these verses – those who are dead and those "which are alive and remain" (1 Thess. 4:15) at Christ's return. Just think about it. There will be a generation of believers

who are never going to die!! One generation of believers will be alive when Jesus returns. We may be that generation who escapes the undertaker. We may be that generation that will be living when Jesus returns for His saints to take them back to Heaven to dwell with Him.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 gives us the same order of transformation:

“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed (both the dead and living saints), In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible (the deceased saints will be bodily raised from the grave), and we shall be changed” (the living saints will be transformed).

Although there is an order to the transformation of the saints, we must remember that all of this is going to happen in “the twinkling of an eye!” Yes, it could happen in a moment!

“It could happen in a moment!
He could call us home to Heaven,
He could break the eastern sky!
Hold the fort a little longer in your struggle over sin.
Trust the Great Commander’s promise,
He will surely come again!”

The point is this, we will all be changed at the same time and share in this glorious event that we call the Rapture, the time when all of God’s saints will be transformed and given a new body. We will then be taken back to Heaven (the Father’s House) as Jesus taught His disciples.

John 14:2-3

“In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.”

“What a day that will be
When my Jesus I shall see
And I look upon His face
The One who saved me by His Grace
When He takes me by the hand

And leads me through the Promised Land
What a day, glorious day that will be!"

The early church was looking for Christ's return and knew it could take place at any moment (Phil. 3:20; 4:5; 1 Cor. 16:22; 1 Thess. 1:10; Rev. 22:12). They expected to be alive when Jesus returns ("we which are alive" – 1 Thess. 4:15). Paul said "we shall be changed" (1 Cor. 15:52) when referring to the living saints at Christ's coming. In fact, "we shall all be changed" (1 Cor. 15:51). This means both the dead and living saints will share in this event of the ages. What a hope we have! We have the reassurance that of meeting our loves ones someday when Jesus returns. We also can possess the hope that we may never die! We can awake every morning, look up into the sky and truly believe that Jesus Christ can return, that He will give us a new painless, diseaseless, sinless, timeless body, then take us out of this world by escorting us to Heaven where we will dwell with Him in the Fathers House. Perhaps today!

- ✓ Do you have a real hope?
- ✓ Do you need hope today?
- ✓ Do you possess the absolute certainty that you are saved and going to Heaven when you die?
- ✓ Are you sure that you take part in the Rapture of the Church?
- ✓ Have you ever placed your faith in Christ alone to be your Savior?

There are six key words associated with Christ's coming. We have seen the first word of reassurance. We must move on in our study.

B. Return (vs. 16a)



1 Thessalonians 4:16 declares:
"For the Lord himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first."

Paul now says that “the Lord himself shall descend from Heaven.” This is very personal. The Lord Jesus Himself is coming to get us! He will leave His enthronement in Heaven and come down to take away His children. D. Edmond Hiebert said: “He will not merely send His angelic deputies to call the saints; He will return personally for them in His glorified body.”

Having reassured the Thessalonians that their departed loved ones will not miss out on the coming of Christ, Paul now gives a step-by-step description of this wonderful event to further substantiate how all the Church Age saints will take part in this event. Dear friend, Jesus is coming again! It may be morning night or noon! This passage is teaching that Jesus will one day come back in the atmospheric heaven above (“in the clouds”– vs. 17) and catch away His beloved New Testament saints who are part of the Church (the Body of Christ).

There are 3 sounds associated with Christ’s return.

These three sounds will likely be separate events occurring in rapid succession. This seems to make the most sense when studying the text. God will herald the return of Christ from Heaven with three distinct sounds.

1. The shout of Christ (vs. 16)



The word “shout” means a stimulating cry or summons. When Jesus returns He is going to give a very loud summons to His children. This word was used in the military and spoke of giving a command. It is a shout of command. The shout will be used in connection with those who are living and dead. The bodies of those saints who are living need to be changed and the bodies of those who have died need to be resurrected from their earthly graves by the power of God. When Christ comes back, He is going to summons the dead bodies of His New Testament saints to rise from their graves and the living saints to be raptured and transformed. What He is going to say is somewhat speculative. Perhaps He will say to those living – “Come Up!” But what might Christ say to the bodies of the deceased? Perhaps He will say

something similar to what He spoke at the graveside of Lazarus – “Come forth!”

John 11:43

“And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.”

Come up and come forth! Whatever the shout of Christ is we know that it will be loud and become the summons to call His saints home to live with Him in Heaven with their new glorified bodies. I can’t wait to hear that shout! O how happy we will be when we hear this glorious summons! Keep your ear to the wind!

John 5:28

“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice.”

At this point in Jesus’ ministry, He was teaching the universality of His resurrection program in this verse. He is not filling in the details and timing of the resurrection program. That would come later in the epistles. Jesus is teaching that all resurrections will come about because of the voice or summons of Jesus Christ. In the particular hour that is related to His Secret Coming, the bodies of those who are saved and in the graves will hear and respond to His call to be raised. Their bodies will be raised from the dead and their souls will reenter their bodies. Those saints who are still living will also respond to Christ’s commanding voice and be taken up into the sky receiving their newly transformed body. The authority of Christ’s command will cause the resurrection and rapture of saints to take place. Only Christ can raise the dead for He has the keys to hades and death (Rev. 1:18). He possesses the absolute authority over the realms of the spirits of people and the death and resurrection of their bodies.

2. The saying of the archangel (vs. 16)

Paul now talks about the “voice of the archangel.” There is no definite article in the Greek text, which literally reads, “an archangel.”



The archangels are a select group of angels who are of the highest order and rank within the angelic realm. There is only one archangel mentioned in Scripture. It is Michael (Dan. 10:13; Jude 9). According to Daniel 10:13 there is more than one archangel. So we cannot be sure that it will be Michael's voice. Some suggest that this archangel may very well be Michael since He is associated with resurrection elsewhere in the Bible (Dan. 12:1-2). Michael or some other archangel will have something to do with the coming of Christ.

Since the heavenly realm is Satan's domain (Eph. 6:12 – "high places") there may be need for angelic protection during the event of the rapture, resurrection, and this reunion in the sky. A leading archangel may summons the angelic order to keep the evil angels from interfering with the event of Christ's Secret Coming and the rapture and resurrection associated with it. So, this is a sound and summons which will likely be for the angelic realm. They must be ready for battle against Satan and his spiritual emissaries (demons) in the heavenly places.

The battle mentioned in Revelation 12:7 ("there was war in Heaven") indicates that a war had been going on already. Dr. Herman Hoyt suggests the war may begin with the Rapture of the Church and continue on, as Revelation 12:7 suggests, until Satan is cast out of the heavenly sphere of his domain at the middle of the Tribulation Period. So, the summons of the archangel may be for the unfallen angels (the good angels) to do battle with the wicked and fallen, heavenly forces. This is because Satan and his angels will attempt to stop the translation of God's saints into Heaven. A tremendous angelic battle will begin with the Rapture and resurrection of God's New Testament saints. Satan and his angels will likely try to stop the Rapture from happening but the evil angels will not prevail. God's people will be resurrected, raptures, reunited with Christ and loved ones, and then return to Heaven.

3. The sound of the trumpet (vs.16)

The angelic voice will be followed in succession by the trumpet call of God ("trump of God"). God is in control of this



SOUND OF THE TRUMPET

trumpet sound and in this sense it is called the “trump of God.” The passage does not state who blows the trumpet. No doubt God will appoint an angel to sound forth the trumpet on this solemn occasion of Christ’s coming. This trumpet signals Christ’s return and it will be a summons for the Church to be raised from the dead and for the living to be transformed. It is a trumpet note of victory for the saints since they will get a new body and be escorted back to Heaven.

The trumpet in the Old Testament signaled the appearance of God (Ex. 19:16). It was also used to summons the people to participate with God’s purpose for their lives (Lev. 25:9; Num. 10:2, 8-10). Such will be the case with this trumpet sound at the secret coming of Christ for His Church-age saints.

1 Corinthians 15:52 once again prophetically reveals:

“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”



When Jesus returns for His bride there will actually be a series of trumpet sounds since the Bible speaks of “the last trump.” Apparently 1 Thessalonians 4:16 is referring to this final trumpet note when it speaks of “the trump of God.” The final trump of God will

be blown to assemble God’s people (Ex. 19:16–19). It will be blown to assemble the saints into the atmospheric heaven above (1 Thess. 4:17). The Romans had a trumpet sound called the Emperor’s trumpet-call or classicum. The Corinthians would have been familiar with this trumpet call. This trumpet summoned the citizens together for an assembly where the emperor would be present. Someday all of God’s New Testament saints will be summoned to gather together into the atmospheric Heavens for a reunion and return with Christ to Heaven.

It's also interesting that the Roman army used a series of military trumpet calls to denote victory over their enemies. In a similar way, when the final trump sounds at Christ's coming, it will be a final note of victory for every Christian. They will experience complete and final victory over death, the grave, sin, and Satan. This trumpet is the call to march forward and experience the victory. It is a trumpet call of victory!

The emphasis is placed on the "last trump" (1 Cor. 15:52) which will be the final note of victory that will summons the dead to be raised and the living saints to be raptured. The last trump will mean the end of death and the grave for God's New Testament saints. It will be a final note of victory for the saints. Someday the sounding of this final "trump of God" (1 Thess. 4:16) or the "last trump" (1 Coir. 15:52) will take place and the New Testament saints will experience their final and complete victory over sin, Satan, and the sorrows associated with death and the grave. Folks, there is victory in Jesus and part of this victory is the resurrection and rapture of God's saints which will occur at Christ's return and result in the Church going to their heavenly glory and mansion (dwelling place) with a new redemptive body (John 14:1-3; Rev. 19:1-7).

"I heard about a mansion
He has built for me in glory.
And I heard about the streets of gold
Beyond the crystal sea;
About the angels singing,
And the old redemption story,
And some sweet day I'll sing up there
The song of victory."

1 Corinthians 15:54-57 spells out the victory of the saints:

"So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? (*victory over physical death by resurrection or rapture*) O grave (*literally "hades"*), where is thy victory? (*victory over God's wrath and judgment which reassures us of a resurrection day for God's saints and future dwelling in the Father's House*) The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the

law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory (*victory over the penalty of sin and therefore the promise of bodily resurrection into the heavenly city, a resurrection unto life and not damnation*) through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Someday we are going to hear the trumpet sound! The fact that the dead saints will be resurrected from the grave and living saints will escape death of (1 Thess. 4:16-17) is something that deserves a trumpet note of victory. The fact that we will be summoned up to Glory and follow Christ back to the place that He has prepared for us in the Father’s House (John 14:2-3) deserves a trumpet note of victory. The fact that we will have escaped hell, sin, and no longer have Satan tempting us deserves a trumpet note of victory. The fact that we will get a new body that will never needs heart operations, cancer treatments, and which will never again allow sin to touch our lives, is worth a trumpet note of victory. Christian friend, we are not to be looking for signs; we are to be listening for sounds – the shout, the voice of the archangel, and the trump of God.

The Bible says “the trumpet will sound” (1 Cor. 15:52). Someday God’s trumpet will sound out a clear and clarion sound to signify Christ’s return, the saint’s victory over death and the grave, and their entrance into the Father’s presence with a glorified body like Jesus Christ. What a day of victory it will be! We’ll sing and shout the victory! Dear friend, someday the trumpet will sound. We are to be listening for the trump of God! Perhaps today the trumpet call of God will sound whereby He summons His children home to Heaven to dwell with Him in the place that He has prepared for His bride. We are not to be looking for signs but listening for sounds. We are to be listening for the sounds related to Christ’s coming. Keep your ear to the wind for someday we are going to hear a shout and trumpet call that will summons us home to be with the Lord!! What a day, glorious day it will be!

“When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound and time shall be no more,
And the morning breaks eternal, bright and fair;
When the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore,
And the roll is called up yonder, I’ll be there.

On that bright and cloudless morning
When the dead in Christ shall rise,

And the glory of His resurrection share;
When His chosen ones shall gather to their home beyond the skies,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there."

- ✓ Have you really been living in light of Christ's return?
- ✓ How can the imminent return of Christ impact and change your life?
- ✓ Are you expecting Christ to return today?
- ✓ Is the truth of Christ's return a blessed hope in your heart?
- ✓ Are you prepared to meet the Lord?
- ✓ Have you been listening for the sound of the trumpet or have you only been a sign seeker?

There are two more thoughts I'd like to share about the trump of God. First, when the last trumpet note of victory sounds it will also signify that the Church Age is about to end. God's working with the Church will officially conclude with the final seven years of judgment of the Tribulation Period. As all previous dispensations, they close with a period of judgment. So, when that last person is saved, it will signal the ending of Church Age with the impending judgment of the seven years of God's wrath to be unleashed upon planet earth.

Second, one must remember that the "last trump" of 1 Corinthians 15:52 is not the same as the last trump of Revelation 11:15. Posttribulationists who believe the Rapture takes place following the Tribulation Period try and make the connection between these two trumpets. This is because the trumpet of Revelation 11 sounds near the end of the Tribulation Period and therefore allegedly supports a rapture of God's saints following the Tribulation Period. This is a false assessment.

We know from Scripture that other trumpets will sound announcing different events in God's prophetic program (Matt. 24:31; Rev. 8:2, 6, 13; 9:14) which are not related to the trumpet of 1 Thessalonians 4:16 and 1 Corinthians 15:52. To try and make all the trumpets of the New Testament fit into the same time pattern is an exegetical fallacy and impossibility. Christians who are living in the Church Age will not be on the earth during the Tribulation Period (Rev. 3:10) and these trumpets will not affect them in any way.

C. Resurrection (vs. 16b)



I could hardly believe my eyes. We were in the final week of February in the northeast and I walked outside and saw something that amazed me. Beside my sidewalk, there was a dandelion growing and popping its head out of soil. I don't know how it happened but it was true. A dandelion was growing in winter! I've never seen it before but there it was just as sure as I am standing here today. As much as we hate dandelions overtaking our yards in the spring and summer, I must admit, the dandelion

provided me with some hope that spring was coming and warmer and better days would be ahead!

In fact, every spring with the blooming of flowers and budding of the trees, reminds us of the promise and hope of resurrection that we can claim as believers in Jesus Christ. The Bible goes on to say that the "dead in Christ shall rise first." This speaks of a resurrection of those loved ones who have died and whose bodies will be raised. As we have already seen, those loved ones who have died in Christ will take part in this wonderful event. They will be raised from the dead even before the translation of living saints occurs. Christ will bring with Him (1 Thess. 4:14) those who are already in Heaven in their disembodied state (2 Cor. 5:8–9) so they might receive their resurrection bodies.

This same order concurs with 1 Corinthians 15:52:

"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

The saints who have died will not experience any disadvantage when Jesus returns. They will actually be raised before the living saints are transformed. The phrase "in Christ" (1 Thess. 4:16) or "in Jesus" (1 Thess. 4:14) is important. This is a unique phrase given to New Testament saints of

this dispensational period of time. Dr. Scofield suggests that it refers to all the saints of the Old Testament as well as the New Testament. Dr. Chafer disagreed with Scofield, and I must conclude that I disagree with Scofield's note on this point. The phrase "in Christ" is a unique phrase relating to the new spiritual position and union that only New Testament saints possess with Christ in this Church Dispensation. You never read about Abraham or any other of the Old Testament saints having this unique position of being in Christ.

Jesus anticipated this new position and union with Him in John 14:20 when He said, "At that day ye shall know that I *am* in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you." This was a new and special relationship that only New Testament saints were promised in view of the new Church Dispensation, which began on the Day of Pentecost.

Romans 6:3 says:

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?"

So what Paul is saying is that only the dead bodies of Church saints (New Testament believers) are going to be raised when Jesus returns in the atmospheric Heaven. The Old Testament believers (saints) are going to be resurrected at the end of the Tribulation Period according to the prophecies of Daniel and Isaiah (Dan. 12:2; Isa. 26:19; Job 19:25).

Can you even imagine what it will be like when all the saints that have died since the Day of Pentecost, some 2,000 years ago, will be raised from the dead? Saints who have died at sea and which have been eaten by lions (martyred) and whose bodies have long decomposed and went back to dust will suddenly be resurrected and brought back to life with a new body that is suited for the Eternal State (1 Cor. 15:50 – "the kingdom of God"). The half has not been told!

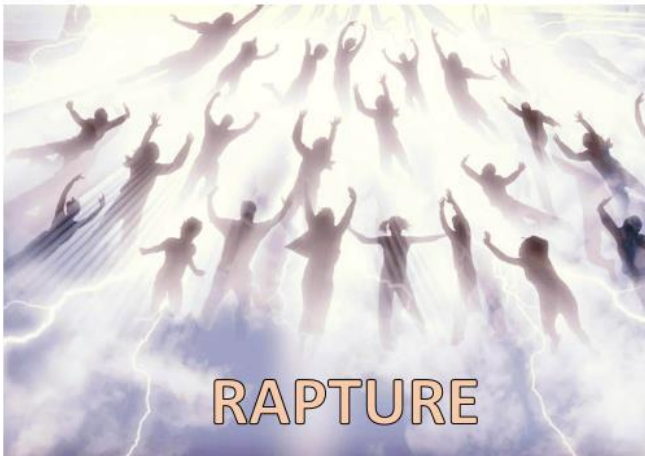
William MacDonald comments on this resurrection by saying:

"What a tremendous moment that will be, when the earth and the sea will yield up the dust of all those who have died trusting in Christ down through the centuries! It is almost impossible for the human mind to take in the magnitude of such an event; yet the humble believer can accept it by faith."

“In that Resurrection morning
When the trumpet of God shall sound
We shall rise, (hallelujah) we shall rise.
Then the saints will come rejoicing and
No tears will e'er be found
We shall rise, (hallelujah) we shall rise.

I shall see my blessed Savior
Who so freely died for me
We shall rise, (hallelujah) we shall rise.
And our fathers and our mothers and our
Loved ones we shall see
We shall rise, (hallelujah) we shall rise.”

- ✓ Do you have the blessed hope of receiving a resurrected body someday that is painless, tearless, diseaseless, and sinless?
- ✓ Do you possess the hope of seeing your loved ones in Christ in a newly resurrected body?
- ✓ Have you ever personally believed in the death and resurrection of Christ to provide you with hope beyond the grave?



D. Rapture (vs. 17a)

1 Thessalonians 4:17 states:
“Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

The meeting with the Lord takes place “in the air” which is between heaven and earth. In five of its seven occurrences in the New Testament the word “air” (aera) means the atmosphere Acts 22:23; 1 Corinthians 9:26; 14:9; Revelation 9:2; 16:17). This will be the meeting place for the resurrected

and raptured saints. It's the place where the living saints will meet their Savior for the very first time.

D. Edmond Hiebert quotes Morris when referring to this place:

"In Ephesians 2:2 Satan is described as 'the ruler of the kingdom of the air.' In what was Satan's domain this meeting now takes place. Morris remarks, 'That the Lord chooses to meet His saints there, on the demons' home ground so to speak, shows something of His complete mastery over them.'"

The Christian co-workers at "Significant Plastics Incorporated" said that Herbert Washington was not overly concerned with Christ's return. One day he actually suffered a serious heart attack when co-workers pretended they'd been caught away or raptured without him. "We didn't mean to scare him to death," said one woman. "He's always playing jokes, so today we decided to turn the tables on him." Washington underwent bypass surgery and recovered well and since then has been "digging into the Bible like never before," says his wife.

The English phrase "caught up" or "caught away" in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 is the Greek word "harpadzo" which points to a literal removal, a catching or carrying away. The word literally speaks of seizing something by force by way of plucking it up or pulling (snatching) it out. We develop our Latin theological word "rapture" from this Greek word. The Latin word *rapto* means "to seize, to carry off"; and from it we get our English word "rapture." The whole idea of the word means to lift, transport, or rapture.

Webster defines the word rapture as being transported to another place or sphere of existence. The Oxford Dictionary defines "rapture" as "the act of conveying a person from one place to another" Someday we who are alive at the coming of the Lord will be "caught up" into the atmospheric Heaven and be transported to another place called Heaven (John 14:1-3). Thus, there is going to be a snatching up, a bodily lifting up, or rapture of those saints who are living on earth. The term rapture is related to the bodies of living saints that will be lifted up from the earth or snatched away in a split second of time. The snatching away will take place in "the twinkling of an eye" (1 Cor. 15:52).

“O joy! O delight! Should we go without dying,
No sickness, no sadness, no dread and no crying.
Caught up thru the clouds with our Lord into glory,
When Jesus receives His own.
O Lord Jesus, how long, how long
Ere we shout the glad song
Christ returneth! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen.
Hallelujah! Amen.”

The Secret Coming of Christ to take His saints back to Heaven is often called the Rapture because of the miraculous snatching away that is going to take place when Jesus comes back for those Church-age saints who are still living. Someone has called the Rapture of the Church “the great snatch.” This is an accurate description of what is going to take place when Jesus returns for the living saints.

“Some glad morning when this life is o’er, I’ll fly away.
To a land on God’s celestial shore, I’ll fly away.”

Notice once again that Paul says, “then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up ...” (1 Thess. 4:15). The fact that Paul included himself in the group living at the time of the Rapture shows that he expected this event to take place at any moment. Paul expected to be part of that company of saints who would not see death but escape the dreadful enemy and be raptured or snatched away from this planet by the returning Christ. My son-in-law wrote these words and song entitled, “Perhaps Today.” The chorus goes like this:

“Perhaps Today, Christ will come,
To rapture up the believing ones.
In a moment we could see Him and leave this worldly ground,
Perhaps today, we will hear the trumpet sound.”

The Bible teaches that those saints who are caught away or raptured from planet earth will have their bodies instantaneously transformed. Paul said elsewhere that “we shall all be changed” and “we shall be changed” (1 Cor. 15:51-52) when directly referring to the living saints. This refers to an

instantaneous, miraculous transformation from perishable bodies to imperishable bodies and from mortal to immortal bodies (1 Cor. 15:53). We will be instantly transformed and receive a glorified body suited for the eternal state (1 Cor. 15:42-50). In Philippians 3:21 Paul spoke of this miraculous change of body at Christ's coming: "Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

What a tremendous hope we have! Changed in a moment! What a redemption this will be for our bodies. We should be looking upward for our Savior's return and know that our redemption draweth nigh. We should be waiting for "the redemption of our body" (Rom. 8:23). Jesus is coming again. Dear friend, this could be the dawning of that grand and glorious day when we will receive our eternal bodies. They will be bodies that suffer no more pain, death, sadness, or sin. Sorrow will all be erased away! Sin will be a thing of the past. Everything will change in a moment's time. Changed in a moment! Changed in the twinkling of an eye.

Ralph Boyer used to say:

"And so while walking through this day, keep looking up, and watch, and pray!"

The story is told of a generation ago when an old farmer brought his family to the big city for the very first time. They had never seen buildings so tall or sights so impressive. The farmer dropped his wife off at a department store and took his son with him to the bank—the tallest of all the buildings. As they walked into the lobby, they saw something else they had never seen before. Two steel doors opened. A rather large and elderly woman walked in, and the big doors closed behind her. The dial over the door swept to the right and then back to the left. The doors opened and a beautiful young lady came walking out. The farmer was amazed. He turned to his son and said, "You wait right here. I'm going to get your mother and run her through that thing."

Well, in a similar way, at the Rapture, we will be taken up and our bodies will be transformed instantly. We will be changed in a moment! Yes, changed in the twinkling of an eye! What a blessed hope we have!

- ✓ Have you been looking forward to the Rapture?
- ✓ Do you really believe that Jesus Christ could return at any moment?
- ✓ How can the imminent return of Christ in the Rapture impact your life today?
- ✓ Are you ready for the return of Jesus Christ?

E. Reunion (vs. 17b)



1 Thessalonians 4:17 goes on to say: “Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

There is going to be a joyous reunion in the air when Jesus returns for His Church.

1. We are going to meet our saved loved ones.

The Bible says that the raptured saints will be caught up in the atmospheric Heavens “with them in the clouds.” This means that we will meet our resurrected and saved loved ones in the clouds above. Those loved ones who have died and gone to Heaven before us will be resurrected and we will be raptured to join them in the atmospheric heaven above. This speaks of a great reunion. There is going to be a meeting in the air in the sweet, sweet by and by!

Somebody once asked me: “Do you really think we are going to know one another in Heaven and after the resurrection?” Well, all that I can say is this. I’ve never been to a reunion where I did not know anybody! We most certainly will know one another for we will meet our loved ones in the air at the Rapture. Both the living and resurrected saints will meet in the stratosphere above and we will once again be reunited with our deceased loved ones in Christ. This will definitely be a time of tears, blessing, hugging, and overflowing joy. This future reunion with the redeemed saints who have gone before us should bring great encouragement, reassurance, and hope to our hearts. When we lose our loved ones, who are in Christ (1

Thess. 4:16), we can be reassured that they are only absent for a time. This is because we will see them once again and it may be today! Perhaps today!!

“Friends will be there I have loved long ago;
Joy like a river around me will flow;
Yet just a smile from my Savior, I know,
Will thro’ the ages be glory for me.
O that will be glory for me,
Glory for me, glory for me.
When by His grace I shall look on His face,
That will be glory, glory for me.”

One saint who was about to die and leave his beloved wife behind, left a note that read like this: “Honey, gone for a little while. See you soon.” This is very true! When we know Christ and are in Christ, our parting is only for a time. We will see each other and it may be sooner than we think. What a wonderful hope we have. It’s a blessed hope!

Paul also said in 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20:

“For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy.”

Yes, we will know each other on the other side and after the resurrection. We will experience a wonderful and happy reunion with our saved loved ones who have gone on before us. Mom and dad will be there. Grandma and grandpa will be there. Our son and daughter will be there. Brothers and sisters will be there. Together we will meet in the sky and then together we will go back to the Father’s House and the place He has prepared for us (John 14:1-3).

“Beyond the Sunset,
O glad reunion,
With our dear loved ones
Who’ve gone before;
In that fair homeland
We’ll know no parting,
Beyond the sunset for evermore!”

2. We are going to meet our Savior – 17b

The Bible also says that we will “meet the Lord in the air.” All of the living saints on earth will be raptured into the sky above and for the first time they will be introduced to Jesus Christ. The raptured saints are going to meet Jesus in the air and from this point onward “so shall we ever be with the Lord.” Let us not forget that we will see Jesus when we meet together in the stratospheric heaven above. This is what will make the Rapture so special and precious to our hearts. We will be raptured into the first heaven and meet our Savior. We will see Jesus!

“Oh, the soul-thrilling rapture when I view His blessed face,
And the luster of His kindly beaming eye;
How my full heart will praise Him for the mercy, love and grace,
That prepare for me a mansion in the sky.”

Yes, our soul will be filled with joy and ecstasy when we see Jesus! We will be changed in a moment’s time and suddenly be gazing upon the face of Jesus Christ. The living, raptured saints will see Jesus for the very first time. Yes, for the very first time we will gaze upon the face of Jesus and see the glory and grace of the One who loved us and gave Himself for us (Gal. 2:20).

“This could be the dawning of that grand and glorious day,
When the face of Jesus we behold!
Dreams and hopes of all the ages are awaiting His returning,
And this could be the dawning of that day!”

Paul concludes by saying, “and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” This is the glorious climax of the Rapture. God’s saints are going to live with Jesus Christ forever which means always and at all times with the Lord! We will return to the Father’s House (John 14:1-3) and know that we will live with our blessed Savior for the eternal ages of time.

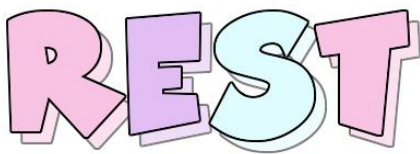
“When all my labors and trials are o’er,
And I am safe on that beautiful shore,
Just to be near the dear Lord I adore,
Will through the ages be glory for me.

When, by the gift of His infinite grace,
I am accorded in heaven a place,
Just to be there and to look on His face,
Will through the ages be glory for me.

Friends will be there I have loved long ago;
Joy like a river around me will flow;
Yet just a smile from my Savior, I know,
Will through the ages be glory for me.

Oh, that will be glory for me,
Glory for me, glory for me,
When by His grace I shall look on His face,
That will be glory, be glory for me.”

- ✓ Have you stopped to reflect on how thrilling it will be to see Jesus for the very first time?
- ✓ What family member or friend will you meet at the Rapture?
- ✓ Can you even imagine how wonderful it will be when we all meet together and return to the Father’s House?
- ✓ Are you living with the hope that the Rapture can create within your heart?



F. Rest (vs. 18)

1 Thessalonians 4:18 concludes:
“Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”

The promise of Christ’s coming was given to provide rest, relief, and comfort to our souls. After speaking about the Rapture, Paul stated in 1 Thessalonians 5:11: “Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.”

This statement of hope exposes the errant teaching of a post tribulation Rapture of the Church (Rev. 1:10; 5:9-10; Rev. 3:10). How could the living saints possess the hope of seeing their loves ones and the hope of seeing

Jesus for the very first time at the Rapture, if they would have to face seven years of God's judgment on earth and most likely lose their lives?

John Walvoord correctly observes:

"The hope of a rapture occurring after a literal great tribulation would be small comfort to those in this situation."

Paul's purpose for writing about the Secret (mystery) Coming of Christ was not merely to teach doctrinal truth and pretribulationism. The truth about Christ's coming was also written to provide comfort and rest to those whose hearts were burdened and weighed down with the difficulties and hardships of life. It was written to comfort the Thessalonians.

Because of the imminent return of Christ ("Maranatha" – Our Lord cometh! – 1 Cor. 16:22), the early Christians lived with a day-to-day expectancy and believed that their suffering and pain could end at any moment. They lived every day expecting to be raptured and receive the redemption of their body (Rom. 8:23). They lived every day knowing that a great day of reunion with their loved ones was going to happen. This comforted them and helped them to deal with their present suffering and sadness (Rom. 8:18). They could live every day knowing that Jesus was coming again and that they might be raptured, receive a redeemed body which would release them from all pain and suffering, and be reunited with their loved ones at any moment. This is why Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled" in view of His return in the Rapture (John 14:1).

- ✓ Have you allowed the blessed hope of Christ's return to provide real comfort, rest, and hope in your heart?
- ✓ Has your heart been filled with fear and anxiety instead of rest and peace?
- ✓ How can your outlook and attitude change if you really believe Jesus could return today?
- ✓ Will you allow the doctrine of the Rapture to give you peace and comfort because of the blessed hope that awaits you?

We can wake in the morning and truly believe that we will see Jesus before the day ends! We can live every day believing that we can be part of the generation of believers who will never die. We can look forward to escaping

death and being able to sing those words of victory, “O death, where is thy sting!” The message of Christ’s coming should be one of comfort, consolation, and bring confident hope to our hearts. It should keep us from depression and discouragement. It should help us to not be filled with overcoming fears and frustration. The truth of the Rapture should fill our hearts with great expectancy, joy, peace, and hope. This blessed hope should become a living, day-to-day reality in our hearts and lives (Titus 2:13).



Perhaps today! Perhaps today we will be freed from all pain, suffering, and sin. Perhaps today we will see our loved ones. Perhaps today we will see Jesus and will from this point onward forever be with the Lord! What a blessed hope and comfort this is to our souls. Dear friend, Jesus is coming again!

“Standing before Him at last,
Trial and trouble all past,
Crowns at His feet we will cast,
Jesus is coming again!
Coming again, Coming again,
May be morning, may be noon,
May be evening and may be soon!
Coming again, Coming again;
O what a wonderful day it will be -
Jesus is coming again!”