

CAUGHT UP TO MEET JESUS IN THE AIR

Part 2: The Second Coming of Jesus Christ

Today we continue on with Part 2 of our series, 'The Second Coming of Jesus Christ'. **Here is our Text ...**

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 **SLIDES x 3**

*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 by no means precede those who are asleep.¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive and remain **shall be caught up** together with them **in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air**. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

SLIDE NB: In verse 15 Paul uses the term –

'THE COMING OF THE LORD'.

THIS IS A VERY SPECIFIC TERM USED OVER & OVER AGAIN IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

IT ALWAYS REFERS TO JESUS COMING BACK FOR HIS PEOPLE.

Jesus Himself was the first to use it ...

John 14:3 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*... If I go and prepare a place for you, **I am coming again and will receive you to Myself**, that where I am, you may be also.*

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2 English Standard Version

*Now concerning **the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to Him**, we ask you, brothers, ²not to be quickly shaken ...*

'THE COMING OF THE LORD'

IS NOT 'THE DAY OF THE LORD'

Many Christians use these two terms interchangeably thinking that they mean the same thing ...

But they do not.

THE PHRASE, **'THE DAY OF THE LORD'** REFERS TO A VERY DIFFERENT EVENT THAN **'THE COMING OF THE LORD'**.

THESE ARE **TWO SPECIFIC TERMS** REFERRING TO **TWO VERY DIFFERENT EVENTS**.

'THE COMING OF THE LORD' ALWAYS REFERS TO **JESUS COMING BACK FOR HIS PEOPLE**.

BUT WHAT DOES **'THE DAY OF THE LORD'** REFER TO?

'THE DAY OF THE LORD' is a term used many times in the Old Testament and the New Testament ... AND **ALWAYS REFERS TO THE DAY OF VENGEANCE OF GOD AND THE JUDGEMENT OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD PAST & PRESENT** -

Isaiah 13:9 New American Standard Bible **SLIDE**

*Behold, **the day of the Lord** is coming, cruel, with fury and burning anger, to make the land a desolation; and He will exterminate its sinners from it.*

Amos 5:18 & 20 New American Standard Bible

*... For what purpose will **the day of the Lord** be to you? It will be darkness and not light; ²⁰... Even gloom with no brightness in it?*

Isaiah 61:2

*... **The day of vengeance of our God** ... (See also Isaiah 34:8)*

Romans 2:5 New American Standard Bible 1995

*But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in **the day of wrath** and revelation of the righteous **judgment of God**.*

Acts 17:31 English Standard Version

*Because **He [God] has fixed a day** on which **He will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed [Jesus]** ...*

Isaiah 13:6 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*Wail, for **the Day of the LORD** is near; it will come as destruction from the Almighty.*

BUT LOOK AT THE 'APPEARING OF JESUS'

Titus 2:13 English Standard Version

*Waiting for our blessed hope, **the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ.***

SAME SLIDE Isaiah 13:6 people are told to **'WAIL'** for The Day of The Lord

But we are called to **'WAIT'** for The Coming of The Lord.

WE, HIS PEOPLE, ARE NEVER TOLD TO HOPE FOR **'THE DAY OF THE LORD'** BECAUSE THIS IS THE JUDGEMENT OF THE WORLD.

WE ARE EXHORTED TO HOPE FOR THE COMING OR APPEARING OF THE LORD AS THIS IS BLESSING TO THE BELIEVERS.

THE TWO SCRIPTURES ABOVE SPEAK TO TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLE GROUPS ABOUT TWO DIFFERENT EVENTS.

THE DAY OF THE LORD IS NOT SPEAKING TO THE BORN-AGAIN PEOPLE OF GOD BUT THE UNBELIEVING NATIONS OF THE WORLD.

THE COMING OF THE LORD IS OUR REDEMPTION

THE DAY OF THE LORD IS THE WORLD'S JUDGEMENT

SO WHAT HAPPENS AT **'THE COMING OF THE LORD'?**

1. THE LORD HIMSELF APPEARS ABOVE US IN THE CLOUDS

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 **SLIDE x 2**

*¹⁶For **the Lord Himself** will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them **in the clouds** to meet the Lord **in the air**. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

We mentioned this last week in Part One where Isaiah 60:2 tells us that in the time of Thick Darkness that covers The Peoples of The Earth, 'The Lord Will Arise upon You' ... Or as it can also be written, **SLIDE** 'The Lord Will Appear Above You' a certain reference to The Coming of Jesus Christ in the clouds of heaven when He comes back for us.

Revelation 1:7 Berean Study Bible

*Behold, **He is coming with the clouds** and every eye will see Him ...*

Matthew 26:64 English Standard Version

Jesus said to him [High Priest], "You have said so. But I tell you,

*from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and **coming on the clouds of heaven.***"

THE LORD APPEARS ABOVE US ... **IN THE CLOUDS ... IN THE AIR.**

NB: IT IS NEVER MENTIONED THAT HE COMES DOWN TO EARTH AT THIS POINT

2. THE LORD CALLS US TO COME TO HIM

1 Thessalonians 4:16 **SLIDE**

*For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with **a shout**, with **the voice of an archangel** and with **the trumpet of God**. And the dead in Christ will rise first.*

Do you wonder what The Earth-shattering Voice says?
Is it a command to The Angel Armies who are following –
'TO THE SAINTS OF GOD'

And The Angel echoes it down the line to the rest of The Army,
'FORWARD TO THE SAINTS'.

WHAT ABOUT THE TRUMPET BLAST?

COULD THIS ALSO BE THE LORD'S VOICE CALLING TO US TO
SLIDE 'COME UP HERE!'

Revelation 4:1 New Living Translation

*Then as I looked, I saw a door standing open in heaven, and **the same voice** I had heard before spoke to me **like a trumpet blast**. The voice said, "**Come up here**, and I will show you what must happen after this."*

3. WE WILL BE CAUGHT UP TO MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR

Our response to His Voice of Invitation is to fly heavenward

1 Thessalonians 4:17 **SLIDES x 2**

*Then we who are alive and remain **shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air**. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

This is often referred to by Christians as **'The Rapture'**.

There is no such word in The Scripture ... but there is this word here –

'CAUGHT UP'

It is The Greek word 'Harpazo' meaning 'seized away'

'CAUGHT UP' - SAME WORD USED FOR PHILIP

[Acts 8:39](#) ... [KJV](#): the Spirit of the Lord *caught away* Philip,

'CAUGHT UP' - SAME WORD USED OF PAUL BEING TAKEN TO THE 3RD HEAVEN

[2 Corinthians 12:2](#) [KJV](#): such an one *caught up* to the third heaven

[2 Corinthians 12:4](#) [KJV](#): How that *he was caught up* into paradise

But you say, how can this be? I haven't got wings to fly! How can I ascend into the air?

YOU WILL BE CHANGED & INSTANTLY HAVE A RESURRECTED BODY LIKE JESUS ...

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 NIV **SLIDE**

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep but we will all be changed—⁵²in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 & 49 tells us this New Body will be 5 things ...

- **INCORRUPTIBLE (v42)** – It can never decay
- **BEAUTIFUL** or Glorious (v43)
- **POWERFUL (v43)** – UNRESTRICTED BY GRAVITY, TIME & SPACE
- **SPIRITUAL (v44)** – NOT JUST FLESH & BLOOD AS WE KNOW IT
- **ETERNAL (v49)** – Heavenly

4. WE WILL ESCAPE THE GREAT TRIBULATION

THERE IS COMING THE GREAT TRIBULATION. IT WILL BE A CULMINATION OF WICKEDNESS ... AN APEX OF DARKNESS ... A DESPERATE TIME ... A TIME WHEN THE ANTI-CHRIST – THE MOST EVIL PERSON EVER SEEN – WILL RULE ...

Daniel 12:1 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*At that time Michael, the great prince who stands watch over your people [over sons], will rise up. There will be a time of distress, the likes of which will not have occurred from the beginning of [Gentile] **nations** until that time ...*

'At That Time' – The Time of The End (see Daniel 11:40)

It is a time of global political control, extreme economic devaluation and corruption. It's a time of blatant abomination in Israel ... and natural chaotic phenomena ... **A TIME OF THE ANTI-CHRIST**

Revelation 13:4-6 Berean Study Bible

They worshiped the dragon who had given authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can wage war against it?" ⁵*The beast was given a mouth to speak arrogant and blasphemous words, and authority to act for 42 months.* ⁶*And the beast opened its mouth to speak blasphemies against God and to slander His name and His tabernacle ...*

NB: 42 Months = Three and a half years

This is the Time of Tribulation.

SO HERE'S THE TRILLION DOLLAR QUESTION

**WILL WE AS GOD'S PEOPLE ESCAPE THIS DREADFUL TIME
WILL WE BE 'CAUGHT UP' WITH JESUS BEFORE THIS TIME?**

LOOK AT THE END OF DANIEL 12:1 –

Daniel 12:1 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

"At that time Michael, the great prince who stands watch over your people [over sons], will rise up. There will be a time of distress, the likes of which will not have occurred from the beginning of [Gentile] nations until that time. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered.

'Will be delivered' can mean ... **'Will escape'**

This prophecy was first given to Israel ...

However ...

In the succeeding verses we have no account of special deliverance being given to Israel. [Pulpit commentary]

As much as some of this is applicable to Israel ... this is far more glorious than their return (being delivered) from Babylon, which was the initial fulfilment.

The mention of The Book [of Life] brings a reference to all God's People of faith in Jesus ... both Jew & Gentile --

'Whose names are written in The Book (of Life)' see –

Revelation 13:8 Berean Study Bible

... All who dwell on the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written from the foundation of the world in the Book of Life belonging to the Lamb who was slain.

NB: All people whose names are Not Written in The Book of Life
'worship' The Beast – The Anti-Christ.

But Daniel says—'everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered.'

Jesus quotes Daniel 12 in Matthew 24:15.

'THE TRIAL'

Revelation 3:7&10 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

... To ... The Church in Philadelphia ...

Because you have kept the word of My patient endurance [waiting], I also will keep you out of the hour of the trial being about to come upon the whole inhabited world, to try those dwelling upon the earth.

Trial doesn't usually have The Definite article ... But here it does mean a unique trial unlike any other.

"THE HOUR OF TRIAL" SEEMS TO BE THAT WHICH CHRIST HAD FORETOLD SHOULD PRECEDE HIS COMING, ESPECIALLY THE TRIUMPH OF ANTICHRIST. HENCE THE DECLARATION IN THE NEXT VERSE.

Pulpit Commentary

Hebrew 9:28 English Standard Version **SLIDE**

So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

To Save : (sōtērian) 'To Rescue'

1 Thessalonians English Standard Version **1:9-10**

For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

➤ **WE HAVE EXAMPLES IN HISTORY**

*Lot & family rescued from Sodom & Gomorrah
Noah and his family rescued from the flood*

➤ **THEN THERE IS THE LOVE OF GOD FOR HIS PEOPLE**

APART FROM THE CONFIRMATION OF GOD'S SCRIPTURE TO RELY ON WE ALSO HAVE THE CONSISTENCY OF GOD'S CHARACTER – HIS LOVE TOWARD HIS PEOPLE.

LOOK AT THE FOLLOWING VERSES

Psalm 37:25 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

I once was young and now am old, yet never have I seen the righteous abandoned or their children begging for bread.

Psalm 33:18-20 Berean Study Bible

Surely the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear Him, on those whose hope is in His loving devotion ¹⁹to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine. ²⁰Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield.

Psalm 55:22 NIV

Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; He will never let the righteous be shaken.

Psalm 91:14

Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name.

NOW, WHY WOULD WE EVER SUPPOSE THAT GOD WOULD NOT PROTECT US OR DELIVER US FROM 'THE GREAT TRIBULATION'?

WHAT HAPPENS TO US IN THE TIME BETWEEN 'THE COMING OF JESUS' AND 'THE DAY OF THE LORD'?

5. WE ARE TAKEN WITH JESUS BACK TO HEAVEN

Isaiah 51:11 NIV **SLIDE**

Those the Lord has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

(See also [Isaiah 35:10](#))

But for the accomplishment of this magnificent promise we must needs look beyond their return from Babylon into their own land, when they met with many discouragements, and troubles, and calamities, and extend it unto the coming of Christ. Matthew Poole

Revelation 21:4 Berean Study Bible

'He will wipe away every tear from their eyes,' and there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the former things have passed away."

Revelation 22:3 Berean Study Bible

No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be within the city and His servants will worship Him.

Isaiah 25:8 Berean Study Bible

He will swallow up death forever. The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from every face and remove the disgrace of His people from the whole earth. For the LORD has spoken.