

**Welcome to the Worship Celebration of**



SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED

*Paul's Letter to the  
Church at Thessalonica*



# I Thessalonians

**Church As She Should Be** (part 10)

**What About The Rapture? Part 2**

**What About The Timing of the Rapture?**

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

**06/10/2018**

**Church As She Should Be** (part 10)

**What About The Rapture? Part 2**

**What About The Timing of the Rapture?**

**Is it going to happen just BEFORE the Great Tribulation?**

**Is it going to happen in the Middle of the Great Tribulation?**

**Is it going to happen at the END of the Great Tribulation?**

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

**06/10/2018**

# 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words.

# 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 – The Last TRUMPET Blast ...

“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—<sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the LAST TRUMPET. For the TRUMPET will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

<sup>55</sup> “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?”

<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”



## Revelation 4:1 – Voice Like a TRUMPET ...

“After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a TRUMPET speaking with me, saying, ‘Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.’”

**AFTER THESE THINGS → TRUMPET**

**What “things” is this AFTER – in Sequence?**

**Revelation chapters 2 & 3 – relate to the Church Age.**

**The WORD → “Church” is never seen again after Rev. chapter 3.**

**Thus, AFTER the Church Age is finished –**

**We are called to “Come Up Here” → A Door OPEN in Heaven**

**That is a description of the Rapture – and it, again, relates to the**

**→ Feast Day of TRUMPETS**















# I COME QUICKLY

JESUS



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speakarun@gmail.com

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians 15:51-58, Revelation 4:1**

**FACTS about the Rapture Event – Overview:**

- 1. Jesus is coming back for His Church that is still living on earth**
- 2. Jesus is coming back with those who've died in Christ but have been living in Heaven with Christ – to meet those who are still living on earth.**
- 3. Those living on Earth at this event will be Caught Up into the Clouds to meet Christ and past living Christians**
- 4. Both will receive their New Glorified Bodies at that time**
- 5. All will go up to Heaven and be there for the Wedding Feast, the Marriage Dinner of the Lamb (see Revelation 19:7-9)**
- 6. The Rapture Event is Prophetically TIED to the Feast Day of Trumpets**
- 7. The Rapture is NOT the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ – which occurs AFTER the Marriage Dinner/Supper of the Lamb (see Revelation 19:11-21).  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ – is in regards to Wrath, Judgment, and Rescue of Israel (see also Zechariah 14).**

**1 Thess. 5:1-11 makes this clear.**

## 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 – The Day of the LORD – Thief in the Night

Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. <sup>2</sup> For you yourselves know full well that the Day of the LORD will come just like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will NOT escape. <sup>4</sup> But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; <sup>5</sup> for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are NOT of night nor of darkness; <sup>6</sup> so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup> For God has NOT destined us for WRATH, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians 15:51-58, Revelation 4:1**

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**1 Thess. 5:1-11 → The Rapture is BEFORE the Great Tribulation starts**  
**“Thief in the Night” always refers to Punishment from God →**  
**Being Found Out – Being Left Behind – Being Cast Out – Missing Out**



# The Return of Christ – Per the Scriptural Passages we've looked at relate to Two Comings - Two Aspects of His Return

1. The Rapture (left picture)
2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ at the End of the Great Tribulation

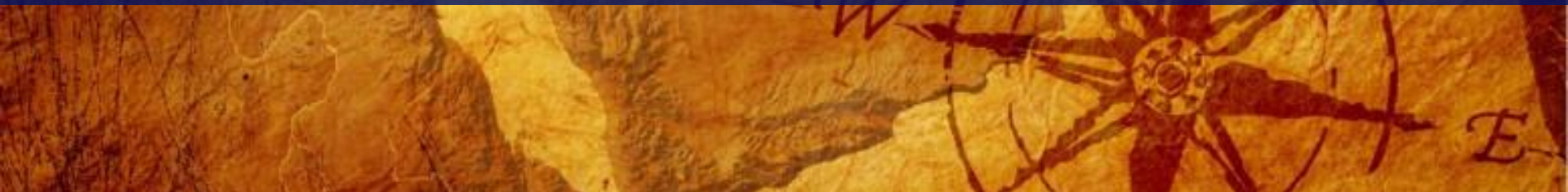


**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians 15:51-58, Revelation 4:1**

**These passages all point to The Rapture of the Church**

**Last Week we looked at how the Feast Day of Trumpets is Tied to the Rapture Event. And that the Day of Atonement, the Feast Day that follows Trumpets, relates to the Great Tribulation. Thus, this points to the Rapture being BEFORE the Great Tribulation starts. We looked at 1 Thess. 5:1-11 – it too points to the Rapture occurring BEFORE the Great Tribulation (i.e. The Day of the LORD)**

**Now – let's look at some other passages that indicate the Timing of this highly anticipated event of the Rapture**



**Many who hold to and teach – either Mid-Tribunational Rapture or Post-Tribunational Rapture use the illustration of Israel being in the land of Goshen during the time that Moses was being used of God during the 10 Plagues of Egypt prior to the Exodus of Israel out of Egypt. They were kept safe Through the “Wrath of God” ...**

**The Problem with this, is that there are NO passages in the New Testament in which the coming of Christ for the Church – any illustration of Israel going through the 10 plague of Egypt are used as a reference.**

**The two prominent illustrations or analogies are:**

- 1. The Days of Noah leading up to the Flood and the Ark, etc.**
- 2. Lot and his family being taken out of Sodom before the destruction of those 5 cities**

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1. The Days of Noah leading up to the Flood and the Ark, etc.

For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. <sup>38</sup> For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; SO will the coming of the Son of Man be. (Matthew 24:37-39)

So, we see a parallel between Noah and his family – being rescued in the Ark (i.e. the Rapture – Caught up, Floating up) and those left behind to suffer the Judgment – the Flood (i.e. sudden destruction).

2. Lot and his family being taken out of Sodom before the destruction of those 5 cities

**The two prominent illustrations or analogies are:**

**1. The Days of Noah leading up to the Flood and the Ark, etc.**

**For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah ... (Matt. 24:37-39)**

**So, we see a parallel between Noah and his family – being rescued in the Ark (i.e. the Rapture – Caught up, Floating up) and those left behind to suffer the Judgment – the Flood (i.e. sudden destruction).**

**2. Lot and his family being taken out of Sodom before the destruction of those 5 cities (compare with Genesis 19)**

**It was (*will be*) the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building;<sup>29</sup> but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Luke 17:28-29**

**So, we see a parallel between Lot and his family – being rescued by the Angel (i.e. the Rapture – Caught up, Went up) went up into the hills into a cave. Then Judgment rained down on Sodom, Gomorrah, etc. (i.e. sudden destruction).**

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**So, in both cases of what Jesus puts forth as His Coming Back Scenarios – they are in Two Parts:**

- 1. The Faithful are Rescue BEFORE and Away from God's Wrath**
- 2. God's Wrath and Judgment comes After the Faithful are Rescued and it comes on those that Rejected God's Rescue Plan (e.g.: Noah's Ark or the Angels rescuing Lot's Family, etc.)**

**No Hint of any of God's Faithful, hunkering down and going through God's Time of Wrath in those illustrations by Jesus, Himself.**

**Two other passages in 1 Thessalonians help us with Timing, as well**

**For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,<sup>10</sup> and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who RESCUES us from the wrath to come. 1 Thess. 1:19-10 → We will be Rescued from God's Wrath**

**For God has NOT destined us for WRATH, but for obtaining SALVATION through our LORD Jesus Christ → 1 Thess. 5:9**

**Rapture = God's Rescue by Jesus Christ from God's Wrath to Come**

**The Great Tribulation = God's Wrath to Come – for 7 years**

**The Rapture of the Church Must Come Before the Great Tribulation**

**The Promise to the “Church of Philadelphia” Rev. 3:7-13**

**Because you have kept the WORD of My perseverance, I also will KEEP YOU FROM the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. <sup>11</sup> I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown. Rev. 3:10-11**

**The Hour of Testing for the whole world – read about it in Revelation chapters 6 – 19 → the 7 Year Great Tribulation.**

**The words or phrase in the Greek text for “keep you FROM” is τηρησω εκ, which literally means “shall BE KEEPING [YOU] OUT OF,” which does NOT imply being kept in or being kept through.**

**→ Taken Out – KEPT OUT FROM – NOT HERE**

**The Folks of This Church Exist just Prior to the Rapture**



# 1 Thessalonians 4:18 & 1 Thessalonians 5:11

**4:18** Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

**5:11** Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

We've seen some evidence that the RAPTURE will happen **BEFORE** the Great Tribulation starts – that should cause us to be very encouraged.

Therefore encourage one another with these words!

Next Week we will look at **How the Coming Rapture Should Affect us, in the “Here and Now”**

