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SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED

*Paul's Letter to the  
Church at Thessalonica*



# I Thessalonians

**Church As She Should Be** (part 12)

**What About The Rapture? Part 4**

**The Theological Necessity of the Rapture  
Before the Great Tribulation**

**1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:1-11**

**06/24/2018**

# 1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:1-11

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 Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:1-11

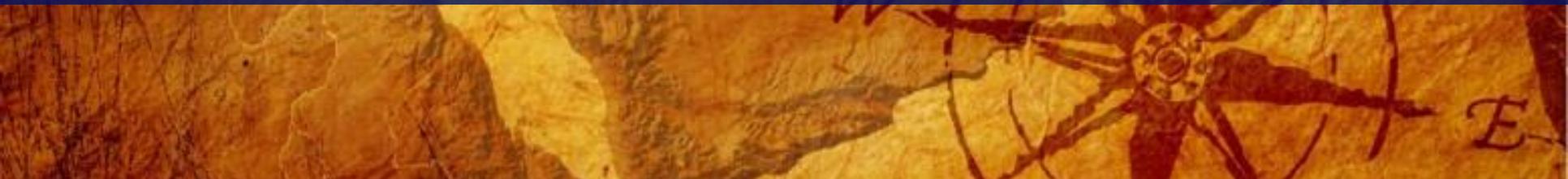
5:1 - Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. <sup>2</sup> For you yourselves know full well that the Day of the LORD will come just like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will come upon 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 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.’”





# I COME QUICKLY

JESUS



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**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 → 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**

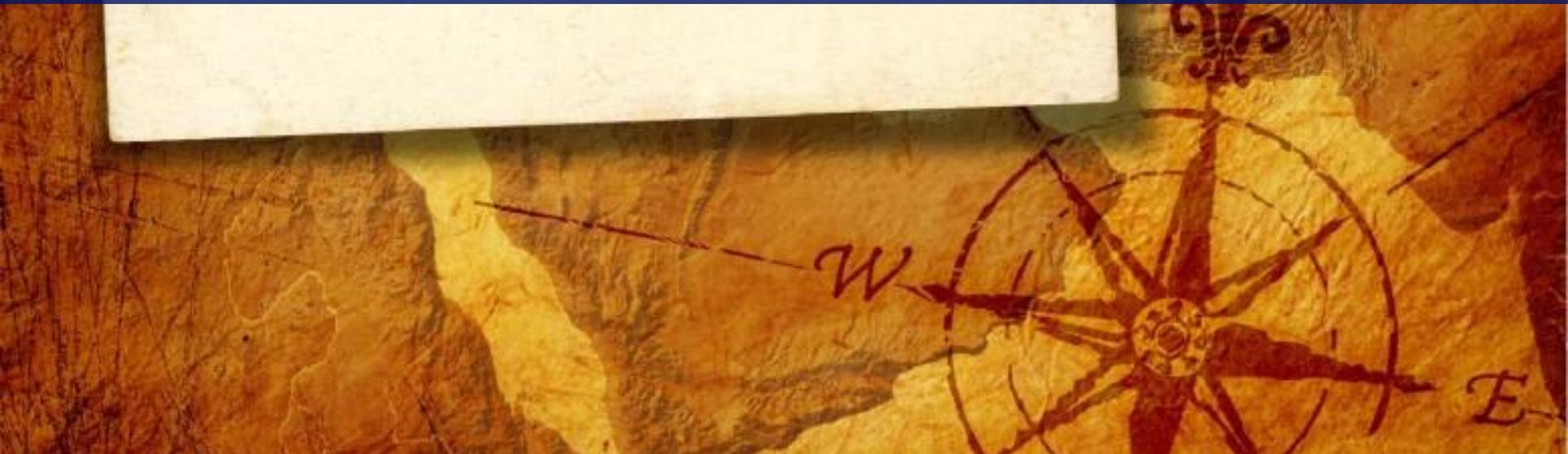
# The Return of Christ – Per the Scriptural Passages we've looked at relate to Two Comings - Two Aspects of His Return

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



**The two prominent illustrations or analogies are for timing of the Rapture are:**

- 1. The Days of Noah leading up to the Flood and the Ark, etc.**  
(Matthew 24:37-39)
- 2. Lot and his family being taken out of Sodom before the destruction of those 5 cities**  
(Luke 17:28-29)



**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**

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# What About The Rapture? Part 4

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## The Theological Necessity of the Rapture Before the Great Tribulation

From a Doctrinal Point of View ...

Why is the Rapture supposed to happen  
before the Great Tribulation?

# What About The Rapture? Part 4

Paul's Letter to the

Church at Thessalonica

## From a Doctrinal Point of View ...

Why is the Rapture supposed to happen before the Great Tribulation?

1. The Great Tribulation Represents the Day of the LORD or the Wrath of God ...  
From Revelation 6 thru 19 describes God's Wrath on the Earth. The Full 7 Years.

**1 Thess. 1:10**

**<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. → We will be Rescued from God's Wrath that is coming**

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

**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**



# What About The Rapture? Part 4

## From a Doctrinal Point of View ...

Why is the Rapture supposed to happen before the Great Tribulation?

2. The Biblical Concept of God's Salvation Through Jesus Christ demands RESCUE From, Before, and Out of God's Wrath → SOTERIOLOGY

Merriam-Webster Dictionary: SOTERIOLOGY

Theology dealing with salvation especially as effected by Jesus Christ

# What About The Rapture? Part 4

## 2. The Biblical Concept of God's Salvation Through Jesus Christ demands RESCUE From, Before, and Out of God's Wrath → SOTERIOLOGY

Soteriology is the study of the doctrine of salvation. Soteriology discusses how Christ's death secures the salvation of those who believe. It helps us to understand the doctrines of redemption, justification, sanctification, propitiation, and the substitutionary atonement.

# What About The Rapture? Part 4

## 2. The Biblical Concept of God's Salvation Through Jesus Christ demands RESCUE From, Before, and Out of God's Wrath → SOTERIOLOGY

The words translated as SALVATION can mean:

SALVATION = DELIVERANCE ← \*

SALVATION = RESCUE ← \*

SALVATION = RESTORATION

SALVATION = HEALING

# What About The Rapture? Part 4

## 2. The Biblical Concept of God's Salvation Through Jesus Christ demands RESCUE From, Before, and Out of God's Wrath → SOTERIOLOGY

The words translated as SALVATION can mean:

SALVATION = DELIVERANCE ← \*

SALVATION = RESCUE ← \*

The illustrations of “as it was in the days of Noah” and “as it was in the days of Lot” ... are consistent with SOTERIOLOGY → RESCUE / DELIVERANCE

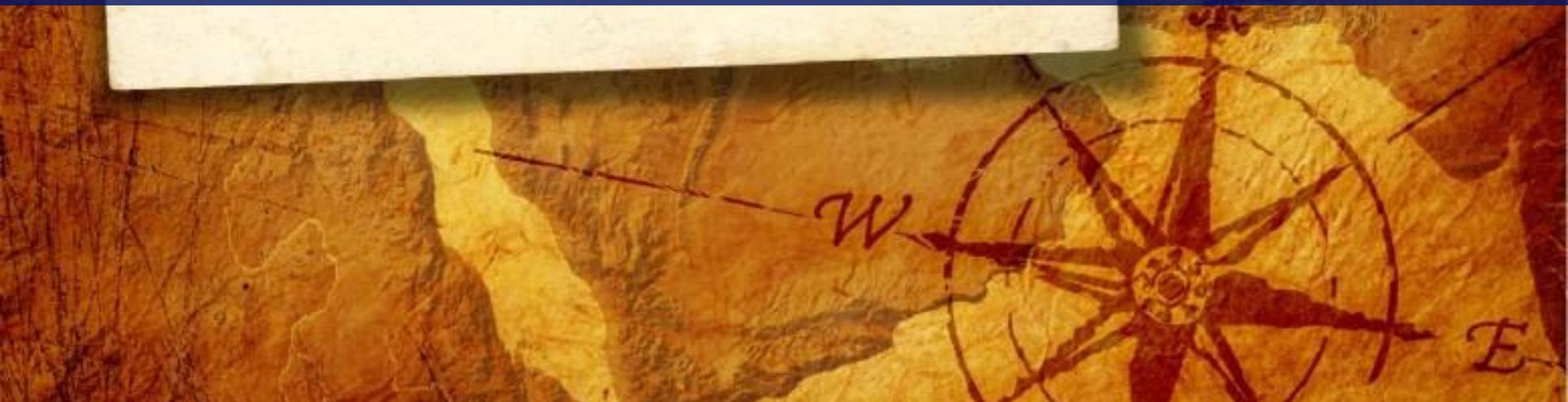
From God's Wrath

**1 Thess. 1:10**

**<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. → We will be Rescued from God's Wrath that is coming**

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

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



**Genesis 45:7 (Joseph to his brothers) - And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to SAVE your lives by a great deliverance.**

**Psalm 27:9 - Do not hide Your face from me; Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; Do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my SALVATION.**

**Psalm 51:14 - Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my SALVATION ...**

**Psalm 62:1 - Truly my soul silently waits for God; From Him comes my SALVATION.**

**Psalm 89:26 - He shall cry to Me, 'You are my Father, My God, and the rock of my SALVATION.'**

**Psalm 55:16 - As for me, I will call upon God, and the LORD shall SAVE me.**

**Psalm 57:3 - He shall send from heaven and SAVE me; He reproaches the one who would swallow me up. <Selah> God shall send forth His mercy and His truth.**

**Psalm 69:1 - Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck.**

**Isaiah 45:22 - Look to Me, and be SAVED, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.**

**Salvation → RESCUE and DELIVERANCE for something bad ...  
In the case of the Rapture – Jesus Christ is RESCUING US  
FROM the WRATH of God that is Coming (right after the Rapture)**

# What About The Rapture? Part 4

Paul's Letter to the

## From a Doctrine Point of View ...

Why is the Rapture supposed to happen before the Great Tribulation?

3. The Christ's Full Redemptive Work → Crucifixion, Death, Burial, Resurrection and Ascension - is **NOT complete** without the Rapture [Rapture = RESCUE] before God's Wrath to come.

**3. The Christ's Full Redemptive Work →  
Crucifixion, Death, Burial, Resurrection and  
Ascension - is NOT complete without the Rapture  
[Rapture = RESCUE] before God's Wrath to come.**

**It would make no logical sense, no Biblically-based,  
Holy Spirit-empowered logical sense to "Save" lost  
sinners and then leave them behind to experience  
God's Wrath to Come, if God has already punished  
Jesus Christ with God Wrath for our sin, in our place**

**3. The Christ's Full Redemptive Work → Crucifixion, Death, Burial, Resurrection and Ascension - is NOT complete without the Rapture [Rapture = RESCUE] before God's Wrath to come.**

**John 5:24 - Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and DOES NOT come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.**

**Since, the Great Tribulation = God's Judgement a Saved Person cannot Enter into that time period**

### 3. The Christ's Full Redemptive Work → Crucifixion, Death, Burial, Resurrection, Ascension, **AND** Rapture

Acts 1:9-11

And after He had said these things, Jesus was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men [*angels*] in white clothing stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, **WILL COME IN JUST THE SAME WAY** as you have watched Him go into heaven."

Christ's Full Redemptive Work → Crucifixion, Death, Burial, Resurrection, **Ascension**, and **RAPTURE**

### **3. The Christ's Full Redemptive Work → Crucifixion, Death, Burial, Resurrection, Ascension, **AND** Rapture**

**John 14:3**

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

**What Christ Does FOR the Church ... For the Redeemed, For Saving Lost sinners - Undeserved: Christ's Full Redemptive Work → Crucifixion, Death, Burial, Resurrection, Ascension, and RAPTURE**