

# Letter to the Thessalonians:

To the church of the Thessalonians:

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your entire spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.

-Paul-

# 1 Thessalonians 4

# 1 Thessalonians 4 The Return of the Lord

Matthew 24 – The Olivet Discourse (Mark 13; Luke 21, 17)

1 Corinthians 15 – The Resurrection

2 Thessalonians 2 – The Man of Lawlessness

## 1 Thessalonians 4 The Return of the Lord

13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who sleep in death, so that you will not grieve like the rest, who are without hope.

14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Him.

15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who have fallen asleep.

## 1 Thessalonians 4 The Return of the Lord

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

17 After that, we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

And so we will always be with the Lord.

18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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#1 Characteristic of Christ's return:

He will return with all the saints who have died.

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## Revelation 6

9 And when the Lamb opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar **the souls** of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony they had upheld.

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## Daniel 12

2 And many who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake, some to everlasting life, but others to shame and everlasting contempt.

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## #2 Characteristic of Christ's return:

All saints, whether alive or dead, will receive the same end blessing, at approximately the same time.



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**Parousia**



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**Parousia** – to be alongside  
– arrival

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**Parousia** – to be alongside

- arrival as the first stage of being present
- the state of being present at a place

## 2 Corinthians 10

10 For some say, “His letters are weighty and forceful, but his physical **presence** is unimpressive, and his speaking is of no account.”

## Philippians 2

12 Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not only in my **presence**, but now even more in my absence, continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.

## 2 Peter 1

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and **coming** of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

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#3 Characteristic of Christ's return:

He is coming to be present here with His saints.

## Matthew 24

1 As Jesus left the temple and was walking away, His disciples came up to Him to point out its buildings.

2 “Do you see all these things?” He replied.

“Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”

3 While Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately.

“Tell us,” they said, “when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your **coming** and of the end of the age?”



## Matthew 24

27 For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the **coming** of the Son of Man.

28 Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

29“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. [Isaiah 13:10, Isaiah 34:4, Joel 2:10]

30 Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

31 And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

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## 2 Thessalonians 2

1 Now concerning the **coming** of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, 2 not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

3 Let no one deceive you in any way.

For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed,

## 2 Thessalonians 2

8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will slay with the breath of His mouth and annihilate by the majesty of His **arrival**.

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**Parousia** – to be alongside

- arrival as the first stage of being present
- the state of being present at a place

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Acts 1:9



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Acts 1:9 And when He had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven?

This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

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12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives,

## Zechariah 14

1 Behold, a day of the LORD is coming when your plunder will be divided in your presence.

2 For I will gather all the nations for battle against Jerusalem, and the city will be captured, the houses looted, and the women ravished.

Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be removed from the city.

3 Then the LORD will go out to fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle.

## Zechariah 14

4 On that day His feet will stand on the **Mount of Olives**, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half the mountain moving to the north and half to the south.

5 You will flee by My mountain valley, for it will extend to Azal.

You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah.

Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with Him.

## Zechariah 14

6 On that day there will be no light, no cold or frost.

7 It will be a day known only to the LORD,  
without day or night; but when evening comes, there  
will be light.

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## John 5

28 Do not be amazed at this, for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear **His voice** 29 and come out—those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

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Trumpets were used to signal:

- an alarm – the coming of an enemy/danger
- a battle cry in war
- for a gathering or assembling of people
- a celebration or feast day
- the inauguration of a new king
- the coming of the Lord

1 Corinthians 15

52 in an instant, 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.

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## #4 Characteristic of Christ's return:

It will be a loud, noisy, and very obvious event.

## Matthew 24

26 So if they tell you, 'There He is in the wilderness,' do not go out; or, 'Here He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it.

27 For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

28 ...

29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days:

'The sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light;  
the stars will fall from the sky,  
and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.'

[Isaiah 13:10, Isaiah 34:4, Joel 2:10]

## Matthew 24

30 Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

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## #5 Characteristic of Christ's return:

He sets the creation free from its bondage to decay and causes the 'resurrection of the righteous' to new life.

Those who have died and those who are alive, together receive new glorified bodies that are like His; bodies that are imperishable and can be with Him.

## 1 Corinthians 15

20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.

22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

23 But each in his own turn: Christ the firstfruits; then at His coming, those who belong to Him.

## 1 Corinthians 15

51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—

52 in an instant, 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.

53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

## John 6

38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.

39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but **raise it up on the last day.**

40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and **I will raise him up on the last day.**“

44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And **I will raise him up on the last day.**

54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and **I will raise him up on the last day.**

## Revelation 20

4 Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed.

Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands.

**They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**

5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.

This is the **first resurrection**.

6 Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the **first resurrection!**

Over such the **second death** has no power,

but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

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