

THE CORE BELIEF OF THE COMING OF CHRIST

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. 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. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

I. The Blessed Hope

Comfort in perilous times, in the last days, only comes from one thing: knowing Jesus is coming for those who are looking for Him!

We should be curious and informed about the coming of Christ!

- It is part of God's revealed plan for us to know.
- It gives us hope about our future.
- It shows us Jesus in all His glory.

The Rapture of the Church 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A study of the 300-plus scriptures about the second coming reveals that it will be divided into two parts. The first will be the rapture, when Christ will receive the church into heaven. The second will be the return of Christ, when He will return to earth after the tribulation to set up the millennial kingdom.

The rapture of the church is surely one of the most incredible events prophesied in the Bible. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 outlines the events of the rapture.

- A. The Lord will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and the trumpet of God.
- B. Christians who have died will rise first.
- C. Believers will meet the Lord in the air and ascend into heaven.

Core Point: We are living in the last days, and the signs of the coming of Christ are increasing like birth pangs. We are to live ready and be looking up for the glorious coming of Christ for His bride the church!

D. Christians will remain with the Lord forever.

II. The Timeline For the Coming of Christ

A. The rapture of the Church. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

This will occur at the end of the Church era. All believers, in all of the earth who have lived and died during the Church age will be raised up leaving only unbelievers.

B. The judgment seat of Christ and the marriage supper of the Lamb. 2 Corinthians 5:10

We will enjoy a great wedding feast with the Bridegroom of the church and receive our rewards based upon faithfulness.

C. The tribulation. Matthew 24:15-35

This is a seven-year period, which will begin simultaneously with the rapture of the church. This seven-year period is divided into two, the first half being somewhat peaceful and the second half being very chaotic. The antichrist will be revealed and will try to achieve world domination.

D. The war of Armageddon. Revelation 16:16

This is a military attempt to try and finish the world conquest and try to defeat Israel.

E. The second coming of Christ. Matthew 24:29-31

Jesus will return to earth as King of Kings and Lord of Lords with His saints to rescue Israel and to begin His reign.

F. The Kingdom Age. Revelation 20:1-6

Known as the millennium, this will be a thousand year reign of Christ.

G. Satan's short release. Revelation 20:7-10

H. The great white throne judgment. Revelation 20:10-15

I. A new heaven and earth. Revelation 21 - 22.

Be looking for His Appearing! 1 John 3:1-3

There should be an excitement as we look for the wonderful appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Now when these things **begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.***" Luke 21:28

Core Statement: I am looking up, for the coming of Christ, for His bride the church! I am wise to the things of God in the last days that we are living! God will preserve, protect and favor me as I live for Him as I watch for His coming!