

The Rapture



of the Church

Timing

The Rapture of The Church - Timing

The rapture of the church, also known as the resurrection, for those who have been saved by the Lord, Jesus Christ, during the church age, will happen when the Lord returns. All agree there will be a rapture - resurrection, but there is much confusion and many disagreements as to when it will occur.

When will the Rapture of the Church take place?

Today, there are multitudes of different teachings concerning the timing of the Rapture. Some teach a pre-tribulation rapture, some a post-tribulation rapture and some a mid-trib. rapture. This just scratches the surface of the many different teachings out there regarding this subject. This has brought confusion, doubt, fear, and uncertainty into the church.

Many who teach incorrect views might be well intentioned but they're not doing the church any favors, and I believe God will hold them accountable. Some may be using corrupted bible translations to study the subject and coming to wrong conclusions. Others may be victims themselves of false teaching on this subject; and some poor souls, unknowingly, are ministers of Satan himself.

2 Corinthians 11:15-16, tell us: **And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.** ¹⁵ **Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.**

2nd Timothy 3:13 tells us: **But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.** Notice this verse says deceiving and being deceived.

Verses 14-17 go on to say: **But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*;** ¹⁵ **And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.** ¹⁶ **All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:** ¹⁷ **That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**

Paul continues, in chapter 4, verses 1-5, **I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;** ² **Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.** ³ **For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;** ⁴ **And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.** ⁵ **But watch thou in all**

things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

2nd Timothy 2:15-16 tell us: **Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.** ¹⁶ **But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.**

It doesn't really matter how many different teaching there are regarding the timing of the Rapture, or what others choose to believe. We, who believe the word of God, do not rely on what, so called, great theologians think or believe. We trust the scriptures, and let God's Holy Spirit teach us all truth through the word of God, in all matters of faith and practice. And the timing of the Rapture of the Church is clearly revealed in the scriptures.

1 John 2:27 tells us, **But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.**

At His first coming, Jesus tell His disciples in John 14:1-3, **Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.** ² **In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.** ³ **And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.**

After the Lord Jesus ascended into Heaven, and after the Apostle Paul began his ministry, the Thessalonian followers of Jesus patiently waited for His return. As some began to pass from life into death, many of the remaining believes began to fear for those that died. They began to question: will those who die be included, or will they miss out, when Jesus returns to take us to Heaven?

In his first letter to the Thessalonians, Paul addresses this issue in chapter 4:13-18, **But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.** ¹⁴ **For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.** ¹⁵ **For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.** ¹⁶ **For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:** ¹⁷ **Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.** ¹⁸ **Wherefore comfort one another with these words.**

Paul also explained this matter in 1st Corinthians 15:51-57, **Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,** ⁵² **In a moment,**

in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. ⁵⁴ So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. ⁵⁵ O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory? ⁵⁶ The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Daniel, in the old Testament, alludes to the resurrection in Daniel 12:2-3, **And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.** ³ **And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.** And, King David proclaims in Psalms 17:15, **“As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.**

No serious Bible student or teacher will ever deny the resurrection of the dead. But the real question for this study is: *when* will Jesus come for His church; those that have died in Christ, and those in Christ, who are still alive at His coming? Will it be after all the trouble and tribulation that will come on the Earth, when Jesus returns to set up His kingdom on Earth? Will it be in the middle of Daniel’s seventieth week of years, at the beginning of the great tribulation that lasts for three and a half years, when the man of sin enters the temple and proclaims himself to be God? Or will it be before Daniel’s seventieth week of years begins, and before the man of sin is even revealed, and has not yet confirmed the covenant that begins the final seven years?

The Prophet Isaiah proclaims in Isaiah 26:19, **Thy dead *men* shall live, *together with my dead body* shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew *is as* the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.** Considering that only the Lord can call the dead back to life, is this the Lord, speaking through the prophet, proclaiming His own death and resurrection, and the resurrection of His people? (A side note) This cannot be seen in most newer bible translations, it can only be seen in the preserved word of God; the KJV, and in the NKJV.

Is He also proclaiming a pre-tribulation rapture in the next two verses? ²⁰ **Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.** ²¹ **For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.**

We already looked at Paul’s explanation of the rapture of the saints in 1st Thessalonians 4:13-18 and in 1st Corinthians 15:51-57. Now let us continue with

his explication of the *timing* in chapter 5, verses 1-4. **But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. ² For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. ³ For when they (The unbelievers) shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. ⁴ But ye, (believers) brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.**

Paul goes on to explain *why* that day will not overtake the believers as a thief in verses 9-10. **For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.** He continues in verse ¹¹ **Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.**

From this, we see that Jesus comes first as a thief in the night to remove the Christians from the earth. At the same time there a great sudden destruction will take place on earth. These two events appear to happen simultaneously before God's judgment on the earth begins.

Just like Noah and his family were delivered from the flood, so too will all born again believers be delivered from of God's judgement that is coming on the earth; to prepare the earth for His coming kingdom. Matthew 24:37-39, **But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. ³⁸ For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, ³⁹ And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.**

The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, when the world does not expect it. They will be eating and drinking, life will be normal, when the born again Christians are suddenly removed. And they (the unbelievers) will not understand what has happened. The believers *will* understand, because they will have been caught up to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall they ever be with the Lord!

Referring back to the believers, Matthew 24:40-42 continues: **Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. ⁴² Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.**

Like the Christians of the Thessalonian church in Paul's day, Christians today continue to struggle with these truths found in God's holy word. So let us now continue with Paul's teaching on this matter of the timing in his second letter to the Thessalonian church. In 2nd Thessalonians 1:3-12 Paul proclaims: **We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each**

other aboundeth; ⁴ So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: ⁵ *Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:* ⁶ Seeing *it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;* ⁷ And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, ⁸ In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: ⁹ Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; ¹⁰ When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day. ¹¹ Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of *his* goodness, and the work of faith with power: ¹² That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This chapter reveals the righteous judgement of God. The Lord is going to pour out tribulation on those that trouble believers, while at the same time giving the believers in Christ rest. He will be revealed *from Heaven* with His mighty angels in flaming fire taking vengeance on those that would not obey the gospel. At the same time, He will be admired in all them that have believed, because Jesus will have fulfilled all His good pleasure and work of faith with power in them. They will have been transformed; glorified in Him!

Paul continues his teaching in 2nd Thessalonians 2:1-10. **Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,** ² That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. ³ Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; ⁴ Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. ⁵ Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? ⁶ And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. ⁷ For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way. ⁸ And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: ⁹ *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, ¹⁰ And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. Paul continues with an even greater warning in verses 11-12, **And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:** ¹² That they all might be damned who

believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Paul has just explained that the Day of the Lord could not have already come because the False or anti-Christ has not yet come. And the false Christ cannot come to power or even be revealed until that which is holding him back is taken out of the way. After the salt and light (the Holy Spirit indwelt church) has been removed, then God sends the strong delusion so all who would not believe the truth will believe the deceptive signs and lying wonders given by the false Christ.

In the book of Revelation 3:10-11 Jesus tells the church at Philadelphia: **Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.** ¹¹ **Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.**

What a great promise! Because they have kept the word of His patience, He will keep this church from the hour of temptation that shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. He also proclaims He is coming quickly so hold fast to that which you have, that no man take your crown. This brings up an interesting question. When will faithful believers receive their crowns?

The Apostle Paul tells believers when they will receive their crowns in 2 Timothy 4:7-8, **I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:** ⁸ **Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.** Here we see Paul receiving his crown on that day, at His appearing. And not only Paul, but all who love His *APPEARING* receive their crowns on that day.

Peter, in 1 Peter 5:4, confirms that we do indeed receive our crowns at His appearing. **And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.**

Now, this begs the question. Does this happen before, or after, the tribulation? Through close examination of Revelation chapter 4 and 5, we clearly see this happening before the tribulation judgments begin.

John's vision of Heaven after the Rapture of the Church. Revelation 4:1-3, **After this I looked, and, behold, a door *was* opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard *was* as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.** ² **And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and *one* sat on the throne.** ³ **And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and *there was* a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.**

We know this is after the Rapture of the Church because of verse 4, **“And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.”** Notice the 24 Elders, they have crowns of gold on their heads; which they received at the appearing of Christ Jesus!

Revelation 4:10-11 continue, **The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,** ¹¹ **Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.**

The 24 elders represent the redeemed Church, gathered together before the throne of God, casting their crowns before the throne of God. We know they represent the redeemed church because of what they proclaim in chapter 5:8-12. **And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four *and* twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.** ⁹ **And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;** ¹⁰ **And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.** ¹¹ **And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;** ¹² **Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.** Without a doubt, this is the church that has been redeemed out of every kindred, tongue and people and nation after the rapture standing before the throne of God! And this is before the tribulation judgements begin on the earth! (Another side note) This cannot be seen as clearly in newer bible translations as they have also tampered with these verses.

How do we know this is before the judgement on earth? Verse 8 began with: And when he had taken the book. What book? Back up to Revelation 5:1-5, **And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.** ² **And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?** ³ **And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.** ⁴ **And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.** ⁵ **And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.**

Here we see Jesus taking the book in verse 8, of chapter 5, after the redeemed saints have already cast their crowns before the throne of God in chapter 4:10-11. Jesus then begins to open the seals in chapter six. When the seals are opened, they release the judgements of God on earth during the tribulation.

Revelation 6:1-2, **And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. ² And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.**

This first seal loosed is the release of the man of sin, the antichrist, who could not be revealed until the restraint which held him back was taken out of the way. Now, because the church has been removed, the man of sin, the counterfeit Christ rides. This is Judgment sent from God, to deceive the world with lying signs and wonders, that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. This counterfeit Christ rides when he is released by the Lord, when He opens the first seal of the book, as the saints are gathered around the throne of God, at the beginning of the tribulation.

The Lord's return, after the tribulation, is pictured in Revelation 19:11-16. Notice the similarities, and the differences.

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.¹² His eyes *were* as a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.¹³ And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.¹⁴ And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.¹⁵ And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.¹⁶ And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Going back to Revelation chapter six, Jesus opens the second, third and fourth seals in Revelation 6:3-8. **And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. ⁴ And there went out another horse *that was* red: and *power* was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword. ⁵ And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. ⁶ And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine. ⁷ And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. ⁸ And I**

looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

These are the judgments of God being released on the earth, after the rapture of the church, and after the redeemed are seen in Heaven casting their crowns before the throne of God. The scriptures clearly teach a pre-tribulation rapture.

Now, back to 2nd Thessalonians chapter two. After the Apostle Paul finished explaining the judgment of the release of antichrist on the unbelieving world in verses 1-12, He goes on to say this in verses 13-15. **But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:** ¹⁴ **Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.** ¹⁵ **Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.**

Here we see Paul giving thanks, because the believers will have obtained the glory of the Lord Jesus; they will have received their glorified body's and become like Jesus! And he tells them to stand fast in this teaching.

2 Thessalonians 2:16–17, **Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,** ¹⁷ **Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.**

These verses speak for themselves. We are not to worry, nowhere in the Bible does Paul ever tell believers to prepare for the time of trouble that is coming on the earth. Only to comfort our hearts and to be established in every good work. We are to watch in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, and make full proof of our ministries, as we saw in 2 Timothy 4:5.

1 Thessalonians 1:10, **And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.**

Conclusion:

Zephaniah 2:3, **Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD'S anger.**

“The Day of the Lord” is coming! It will come like a thief in the night. It will bring the wrath of God on all who do not Believe. The Day of the Lord will bring resurrection life, transformation, and rest to the saved. Are you saved? If you have not already done so, take action now. Pray to God confessing your sin. Confess that you also believe Jesus died on the cross, as payment for your sin, and that God raised Him from the dead. Ask Him to be your savior, then believe the promises found in His word, the Bible.

For we do not have a *hope* so salvation, we have a *know* so salvation.

Romans 10:9, 10 & 13 say: **That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.** This is a promise!

Verse 10: **For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.** This is a promise!

Verse 13: **For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.** This is a promise! Thank God, we have promises!

Do you believe these promises from God? If you believe in your heart that Jesus made payment for your sin by dying on the cross. And if you believe God has raised Him from the dead, and you have never prayed to God confessing your your guilt, and faith in finished work of Jesus Christ, on the cross to pay for your sin, I implore you to do it now, while there is still time.

If you have already done so in sincerity, rest assured, you have been saved from His wrath to come. As these promises proclaim, you will be saved!

Ephesians 1:13-14: **In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,**¹⁴ **Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.**

Ephesians 2:4-9: **But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,**⁵ **Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)**⁶ **And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:**⁷ **That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.**⁸ **For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:**⁹ **Not of works, lest any man should boast.**

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,
⁵² In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. ⁵⁴ So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. ⁵⁵ O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory? ⁵⁶ The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Corinthians 15:51–57,

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:
¹⁷ Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.
¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

I Thessalonians 4:16-18

