

Session 8 – Handout - Revelation & End Times Study

PAUL, THE PROPHETS AND THE DAY OF THE LORD

We Cover: 1 Cor 15, 1 Thess 4-5, 2 Thess 2 and others.

The Pre-Wrath Rapture vs The Pre-Tribulation Rapture – Introduction.

Jesus was **very specific** about the “gathering together” of His people, that is us, His children. In Matt 24 Jesus first describes a great persecution, coinciding with wars, famine, pestilence, false prophets, and Christs. He said that the “gathering together” would happen *after the tribulation*, events all occurring before He returns in person, **after these events, to gather His own** to himself: (Matt 24:29-31, John 14:1-3)

- {24:29} Immediately **AFTER the tribulation** of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:
- {24:30} And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven:
- and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.
- {24:31} And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet,
- and **they shall gather together his elect** from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

This is the clear teaching of Jesus. The gathering of the elect, the rapture, is after the tribulation. (bullet point 1) This includes the gathering of the ‘dead in Christ’. There is no disputing who the raptured elect are. From the many references to the ‘elect’ in the New Testament the verdict is clear: They are the saved believers in Jesus Christ. It is similarly clear that we can’t entertain more than one rapture before the Millennium. That would be stretching the truth to fit a theory. Hence there is no possible way to get around these three verses. That is why pre-tribulation rapture teachers rarely quote v29 all the way to v31 in its entirety.

Matt 24:29-31

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TRIBULATION OF THOSE DAYS:
(Matt 24:29, Mark 13:24)

Sun shall be darkened (v29)
Moon shall not give her light (v29)
Stars shall fall from heaven (v29)
Powers of heaven shall be shaken (v29)

↓ THEN

Sign of the Son of man appear in heaven (v30)
All the tribes of the earth shall mourn (v30)

**See the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven
with power and great glory**

Send His angels with a great sound of trumpet. (v31)

They shall gather together His elect -> RAPTURE

Paul’s Letters to the Thessalonians:

When comparing Paul’s teaching on end times with the teaching of Christ to His disciples in Matthew 24 we see a great parallel. Paul’s teaching concerning the Rapture precisely parallels Jesus’ teaching when asked by the disciples about: “... the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?”

To sum up the instructions of Jesus and of Paul;

- Both accounts describe the rapture of the saints at the second coming of Christ. (Matt. 24:3, 27, 29-31, 37, 39, 1 Thess. 4:15; 2 Thess. 2:1, 8)
- Both accounts describe specific events which must precede the second coming (Matt 24:4-30; 2Thess 2:3-12)
- Both accounts mention the coming of Christ is on the clouds and with trumpet sound (Matt. 24: 29-31, 1 Thess 4:15-16)
- Both accounts begin with a severe warning to Christians about false ‘saviours’ and false teachers (Matt. 24:4; 2 Thess. 2:3).
- Both accounts warn that great signs and wonders will accompany the deception. (Matt 24:24; 2 Thess 2:9).
- Both accounts make reference to an apostasy, a falling away that occurs before the Antichrist is revealed, demanding the world’s worship. (Matt. 24:9–15; 2 Thess. 2:3–4,8)

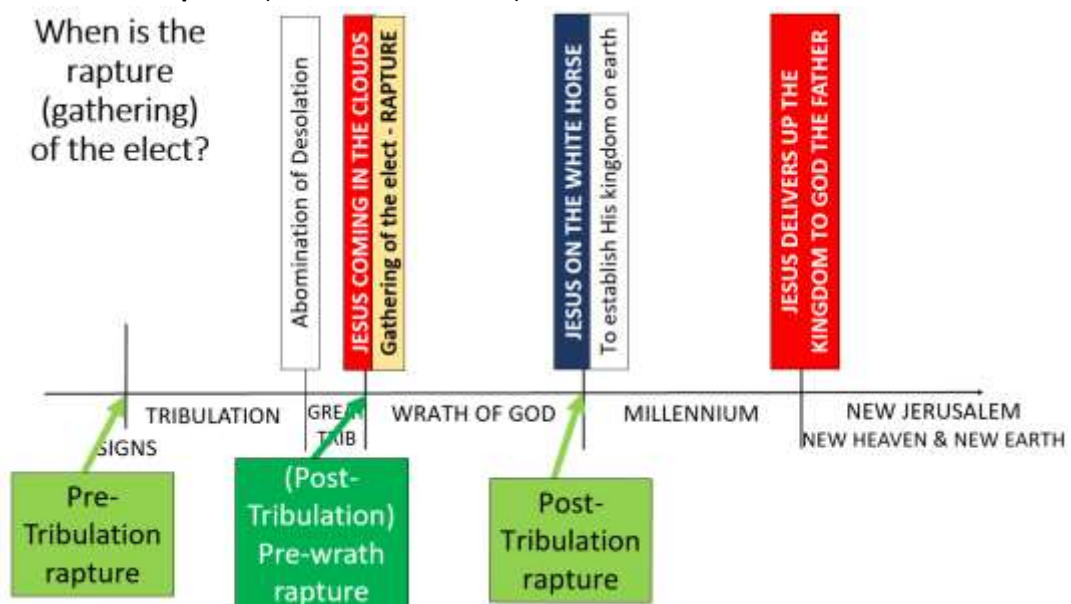
- Both accounts refer to the revealing of the Antichrist, which will occur in the 'holy place' (Matt. 24:15 (ref. Dan 9); 2 Thess. 2:3-4, 8).
- Both accounts teach that when the Day of the Lord (Joel 2:30-32) begins, God's elect, His saints, will be gathered (Matt. 24:29-31; 1 Thess. 4:17-5:2; 2 Thess. 2:1)
- Both accounts teach that at Christ's second coming the day of the Lord's wrath will begin (Matt. 24:29-30, 36-39; 1 Thess. 5:1-2; 2 Thess. 2:1-2; cf. v. 8).
- Both accounts are the direct instruction of Christ (Matt. 24:3-4a; 1 Thess. 4:15).

Why is it important to know if pre-tribulation rapture is wrong or right?

What are the implications?

1. Pre-tribulation: This view teaches that believers are removed from earth before any of the end-time tribulation events start. Because believers will be considering themselves to be "exempt" from going through 'the tribulation', this teaching is likely to lead to complacency.
2. The danger of complacency is that these believers may "go along" with the Antichrist deception as they'll argue: "it can't be end-time yet, because we haven't been raptured". They may be 'sitting ducks' for the Antichrist deception.
3. Their faith will be severely challenged once they're in the tribulation and experiencing severe troubles and then realize that their belief was wrong! They'll be caught by surprise. Jesus warns expressly against the deceptions and persecution in the last days.

The various views on the Rapture: (timeline not to scale)



How do the pre-tribulation teachers reason away Matt 24:29-31, 'the gathering of the elect?'

1. **The elect:** Pre-tribulation teaching deliberately ignores overwhelming NT teaching that **all NT believers are the elect**. Jesus clearly states that the elect are gathered (raptured) "**AFTER** the tribulation". Their pre-tribulation teaching is that the Matt 24 elect applies to the 'Jews only' and thus 'the Jews only' are raptured after the tribulation. This deliberately alters the teaching of Paul on the elect. Furthermore, another problem is introduced with the 'Jews only' rapture: "Those who come to faith during the tribulation who are 'Gentiles' are thus excluded from the 'Jews only' rapture: are they not raptured?"

Does the New Testament ever teach that there is a difference between Jewish believers and Gentile believers? No, it does not! Paul often repeats the opposite; "There is no difference between Jew and Greek!" (Gal 3:28-29, Col 3:11-12, Rom 10:12-13)

Did Jesus thus have **all believers** in mind in His' end-time teachings, or just the disciples/Jews? Clearly, **ALL**. (Mark 13:37)

2. **Another resurrection:** The Pre-tribulation teaching attempts to place their Matt 24:29-31 'Jews only' rapture at Jesus' coming on the white horse. Pre-tribulation teaching thus introduces an implied third resurrection of believers as illustrated below. Paul expressly teaches there are only two resurrections of believers in 1 Cor 15.

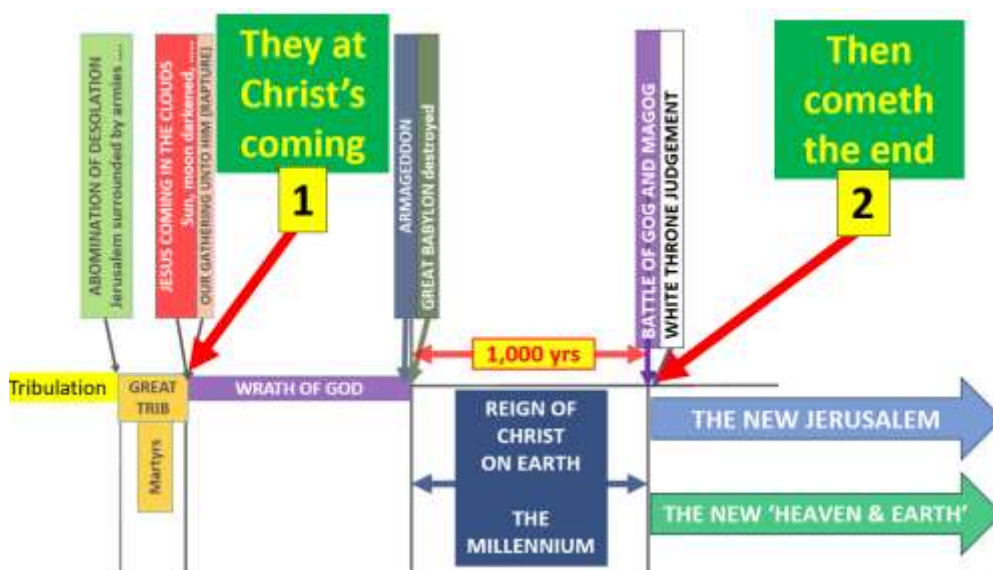
Pre-wrath Rapture:
 There are only 2 'rapture' events (referred to as 'the resurrection of the dead') for believers:
 1. At Christ's coming
 2. Then comes the end (1 Cor 15:21-23)

Pre-Tribulation Rapture:
 By implication this would mean that they say there are 3 'rapture' events:
 1. The church at any moment
 2. The believers when Jesus comes on the White horse
 3. Then comes the end

PRE-WRATH RAPTURE:
 (As per 1 Cor 15:21-23)
 There are only two resurrections for believers:

- At Christ's coming
- 'Then comes the end'

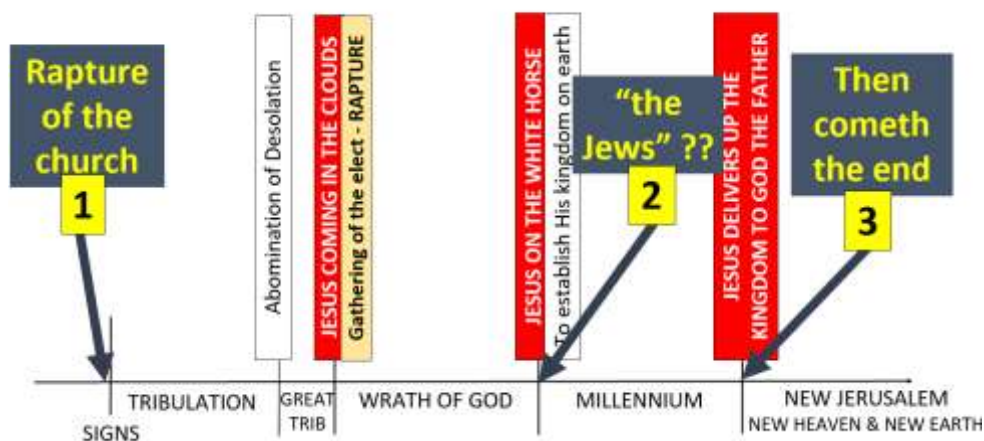
Paul teaches only two resurrections as shown below.



PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE: They teach:

- The rapture of the church is at any moment.
- Jesus' 2nd coming is when He comes on the white horse therefore at the battle of Armageddon.
- At that point 'the Jews' are resurrected, they say.
- Paul teaches that there is a final resurrection after the Millennium, at 'The End'. This would imply a third resurrection.

1 Cor 15:21-23 – Pre-Tribulation Rapture



Hence, they imply that there are 3 resurrections:

a) before the tribulation, b) after the tribulation and c) after the millennium.

This would directly contradict Paul's teaching in 1 Cor 15.

The Second Coming of Jesus:

Jesus second coming is "in the Clouds", as multiple verses illustrate, and not on the White Horse:

1 Thess 4:16-17 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.

Pre-wrath Rapture:
Jesus' 2nd coming is when he comes in the clouds.

Pre-Tribulation Rapture:
They see the 2nd coming as Jesus coming on the white horse.
(Rev 19:11)

Matt 26:64

⁶⁴ Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the **CLOUDS** of heaven

Mark 14:61-62 ⁶¹....., Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? ⁶² And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the **CLOUDS** of heaven.

Luke 21:27 ²⁷ And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a **CLOUD** with power and great glory

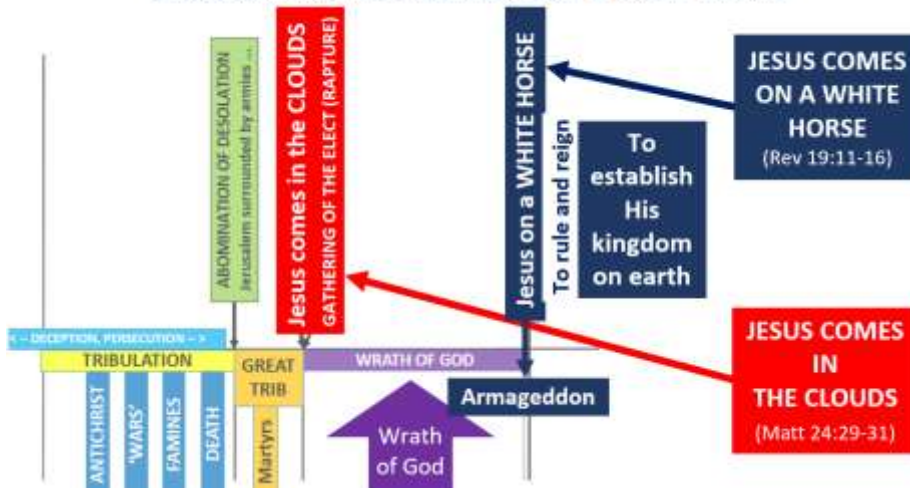
Rev 1:7 ⁷ Behold, **he** comes with **CLOUDS**; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.
Even so, Amen.



Mark 13:26 ²⁶ And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the **CLOUDS** with great power and glory.

Acts 1:9-11 ⁹ And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a **CLOUD** received him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; ¹¹ this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

JESUS COMING: with CLOUDS vs on a WHITE HORSE



Because pre-tribulation teachers promote a sudden/ imminent/ silent rapture, they miss the clear teaching that we see in the verses above.

Jesus' second coming is on the clouds, when he gathers us so we can be with him forever.

This excludes Jesus' later coming on the White Horse as the second coming.

Jesus comes to rescue the Jews and destroy the Antichrist armies at Armageddon when he comes on the White Horse.

Pre-tribulation teaching SEPARATES/DIVORCES the rapture from the second coming of Jesus.

Scripture clearly teaches that the rapture and the second coming are the **SAME** event. The pre-tribulation teaches that they are separate events.

Revelation 1:7 above shows that Jesus coming on the clouds is a momentous event, **EVERY EYE** will see Him, **ALL** unbelievers will **WAIL**. There is no possibility that Rev 1:7 does not describe Jesus' second coming.

Pre-wrath Rapture:
The rapture is at Jesus' 2nd coming. Therefore, when He comes in the clouds. It will be 'visible to every eye'.

Pre-Tribulation Rapture:
The rapture can happen at any moment. They separate the rapture from Jesus' 2nd coming.

Jesus says:

.... I will **come again**, and **receive you** unto myself (John 14:3)

.... the **Son of man coming** in the cloud shall **gather together** his elect ... (Matt 24:29-31, Mark 13:26-27)

Paul says:

.... by the **coming of our Lord Jesus Christ**, and by **our gathering together** unto him.... (2 Thess 2:1)

.... in Christ shall all be **made alive** they that are Christ's **at his coming**. (1 Cor 15:22-23)

.... **in the presence** of our Lord Jesus Christ at **his coming** (1 Thess 2:19)

.... the **coming of the Lord** shall be **caught up together** with them in the clouds ... (1 Thess 4:15, 17)

Both Jesus and Paul clearly link the second coming of Jesus to the receiving/gathering/being made alive/being in the presence of Jesus, i.e. the rapture. (the word 'rapture' comes from the Latin signifying gathering, reaping.)

The Elect:

It important to prove who the elect are because It's the **elect [G1588]** who are gathered (raptured) ...AFTER THE TRIBULATION (Matt 24:29)..

Matt 24:29-31 ²⁹ *Immediately after the tribulation of those days***they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.** ³¹ *And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect [G1588] from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*

Who are the elect [G1588] in the New Testament?

<p>The elect: (Col 3:11-12) Greek & Jew Circumcised & uncircumcised Barbarian & Scythian Bond & Free</p>	<p>The elect: (1 Pet 1:1-2) The strangers in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia</p>
<p>G1588 ἐλεκτός, eλεκτος <i>ek-lek-tos'</i> From G1586; select; by implication favorite: - chosen, elect.</p>	<p>The elect: [G1588] Those in Christ: -> ALL BELIEVERS -> THE SAVED</p>

"I Say Unto ALL":

In addition, Jesus' end time teaching applies to all believers, as he teaches in Mark 13:37 on end times:" And what I say unto you I say unto all: Watch!"

Who does Jesus' teaching apply to?

A key verse: → **Mark 13:37**
37 And what I say to you, I say to **ALL**: Watch!

G3956
πᾶς, pas
pas
Including all the forms of declension; apparently a primary word; **all, any, every, the whole**: - all (manner of, means) **alway** (-s), **any** (one), X daily, + **ever**, **every** (one, way), **as many as**, + **no** (-thing), X **thoroughly, whatsoever, whole, whosoever**.

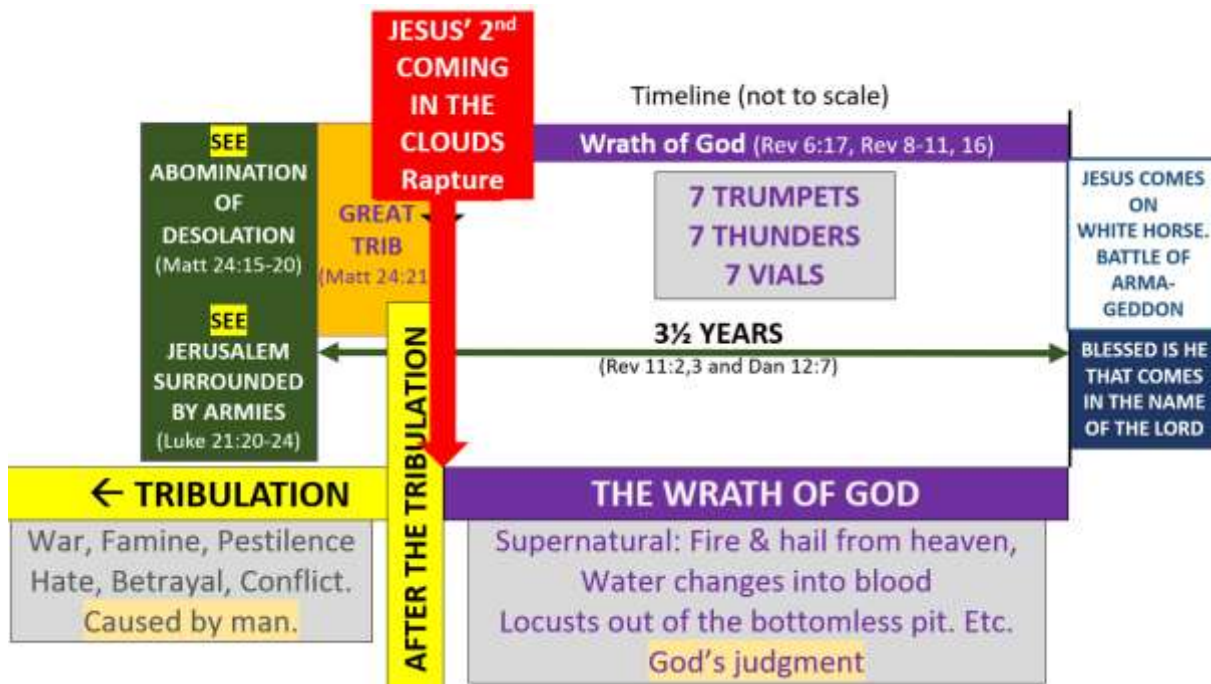
Tribulation vs. The Wrath of God

The Tribulation and the Wrath of God are separate events as shown on the chart below. Tribulations are caused by man (even though Jesus opens the six seals), versus the 'Wrath of God' judgements, which are supernatural. Pre-tribulation teachings fail to note the distinction.

The sequential nature of Jesus' teaching places the 'gathering of the elect' before the 'wrath of God'. Jesus illustrates this with the parables of Lot and Noah. The same day that Lot is 'raptured' out of Sodom, God's wrath starts pouring down on Sodom. As soon as Noah enters the Ark, God's wrath commences with the Flood.

Pre-wrath Rapture:
 The Tribulation is not the judgement of God.
 First the Tribulation, then Jesus coming in the clouds and then God's wrath will be poured out on the earth.

Pre-Tribulation Rapture:
 They don't make a distinction between the Tribulation and the Wrath of God.
 (All part of a 7-year 'tribulation'.)



The Timing:

JESUS SAYS:
 The Abomination of Desolation happens **before** the gathering of the elect. (Matt 24:15, Mark 13:14)

JESUS SAYS:
 The Great Tribulation happens **before** the gathering of the elect. (Matt 24:21, Mark 13:19)

JESUS SAYS:
 The Tribulation happens **before** the gathering of the elect. (Matt 24:29, Mark 13:24)

Paul's teaching on the rapture, the resurrection and the second coming of Jesus:

1 Thess 4:13 – 17 ¹³ 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.

THE COMING OF THE LORD
The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, with the trump of God (1 Thess 4:15)

The dead in Christ shall rise first (1 Thess 4:16)
Then we which are alive and remain (1 Thess 4:17)

shall be caught up together with them **in the CLOUDS** **to meet the Lord in the air** (1 Thess 4:17)

-> **The Rapture**

so shall we ever be with the Lord (1 Thess 4:17)

Paul highlights in 1 Thess. 4 that the rapture is accompanied by five 'markers':

- 1) The Lord descends from Heaven
- 2) There is a shout, the voice of the archangel, i.e. this is not a silent event.
- 3) There is a trumpet being sounded.
- 4) Deceased believers are resurrected and those alive are raptured in the clouds.
- 5) They all meet the Lord in the air and will be with Him forever... i.e this is where we receive our eternal resurrection bodies.

Paul continues in the next verse, **discussing the timing**:

1 Thess 5:1-5 *1 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** 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, brethren, are not in darkness**, that that day should overtake you as a thief.*

5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

The day of the Lord (1 Thess 5:2)
=> **The coming of the Lord** (1 Thess 4:15-16)

The unsaved (Unbelievers): (1 Thess 5:2-3)
The day comes as a thief in the night.
THEY → They shall say 'Peace and safety'.
Then sudden destruction comes upon **them**.
They shall not escape

The Saved (Believers): (1 Thess 5:4-5)
YOU → But you, brethren are **NOT** in darkness
That that day should overtake you as a thief!
You are all children of the light & of the day.
We are not of the night, nor of darkness.

Believers are not in darkness, they **are not surprised** like with a thief in the night.

It's the unbelievers who experience sudden destruction because Jesus' coming to them is like a thief in the night.

But ye, brethren, are NOT in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. (1 Thess 5:4)

Q1. The meaning of "NOT in darkness"? Paul states that we are in the light, we **CAN** know.

Q2. Who are the brethren? The children of the light. The saved. The children of God. (1 Thess 2:5)

Q3. What day is that day? The day of the coming of Jesus & the day believers are caught up (rapture). "**That day**" is also called the 'The day of the Lord' for Unbelievers and 'The day of Christ/Jesus Christ' for Believers.

Q4. For whom will the day of the Lord come as a thief of the night? To "They & them" (1 Thess 5:3). Therefore, those in darkness. The unbelievers. The unsaved.

THOSE THAT ARE NOT WATCHING (Rev 3:3)

Rev 3:3 "..... If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee." (letter to Sardis)

<p>Matt 24:43 ⁴³ But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in <u>what watch the thief would come, he would have watched,</u> and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.</p>
<p>Luke 12:39 ³⁹ And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known <u>what hour the thief would come, he would have watched,</u> and not have suffered his house to be broken through.</p>
<p>2 Pet 3:10-12 ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as <u>a thief in the night;</u> in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. ¹¹ Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, ¹² <u>Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God,</u> wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?</p>
<p>Rev 16:15 ¹⁵ Behold, <u>I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth,</u> and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.</p>

JESUS COMING IN THE CLOUDS: Similarities between Jesus' and Paul's words:

<p>Matt 24:29-31 ²⁹ Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: ³⁰ And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the <u>Son of man coming in the clouds</u> of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And he shall send <u>his angels</u> with a <u>great sound of a trumpet</u>, and <u>they shall gather together his elect</u> from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.</p>	<p>The Son of man coming The coming of the Lord</p> <p>In the clouds</p> <p>Sound of a trumpet Trump of God</p> <p>Angels With a shout Voice of the archangel</p> <p>Gather together His elect Caught up together</p> <p>SAME EVENT</p>	<p>1 Thess 4:15 – 17 ¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the <u>coming of the Lord</u> shall not prevent them which are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven <u>with a shout, with the voice of the archangel,</u> and <u>with the trump of God:</u> and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain <u>shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord</u> in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.</p>
Jesus		Paul

Not appointed to wrath:

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. 7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. 8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. 9 **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.

Paul contrasts the behaviour and attitude of non-believers to those of the believers throughout his teaching in 1 Thess 5.

Unbelievers are **complacent**, saying 'peace and safety', they are 'asleep' and get drunken. Moreover, they are in 'darkness', i.e. have no discernment or enlightenment. They will be caught by surprise, by the 'thief in the night'.

Believers are watching and act soberly. They actively exercise their faith and are ready, awake and walking in the light, expecting their Lord's return with the assured hope of salvation.

Believers also know and are confident that they will not experience God's Wrath.

The unsaved (Unbelievers):
THEY → They sleep in the night (1 Thess 5:6-7)
 They are drunk in the night (1 Thess 5:6-7)

The Saved (Believers):
US → Let us watch and be sober (1 Thess 5:6)
 Let us, who are of the day be sober
 Put on the breastplate of faith and love
 An helmet, the hope of salvation (1 Thess 5:8)
 GOD HAS NOT APPOINTED US TO WRATH
 BUT OBTAIN SALVATION [G4991]
 BY OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST (1 Thess 5:9)

What did Paul say about the bodily resurrection of believers (accompanying the rapture. 1Cor 15)

20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order:

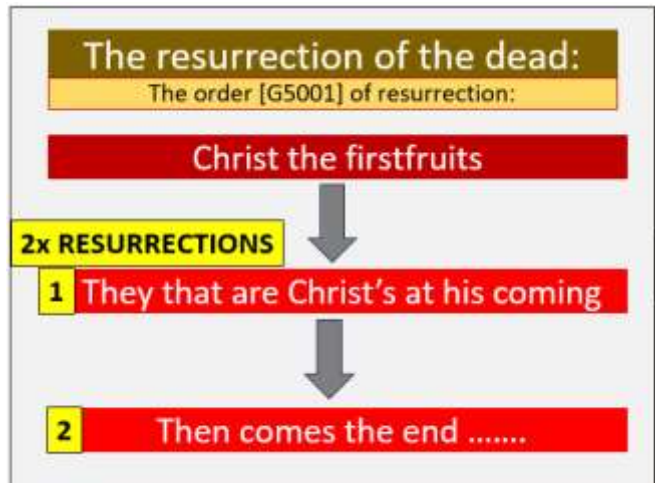
- Christ the firstfruits; afterward
- they that are Christ's at his coming.
- Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father;

when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

1 Corinthians 15 is a **key teaching** about the resurrection of believers. It covers those who have passed away and those who are alive at Jesus' coming.

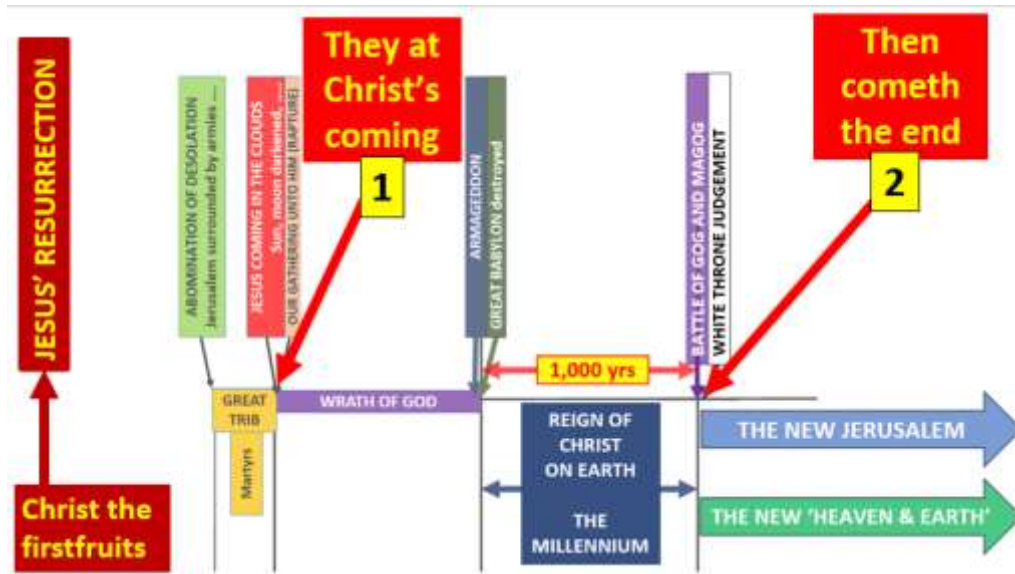
We will all be changed, "in the twinkling of an eye" as we receive our eternal and perfect resurrection bodies.

Afterward there is a second resurrection, at the end of the millennium, for those who are born or pass into the millennial reign of Christ.



The resurrection of the dead:
 -> in Adam all die
 -> in Christ shall all made alive
BUT:
 Every man in his own order [G5001]

G5001
 Τάγμα *tagma tag'-mah*
 From G5021; something orderly in arrangement (a troop), that is, (figuratively) a series or succession: - order.



The resurrection: 1 Cor 15:35, 42-44

35 But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?....

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

44 **It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.** There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

Paul teaches:

- 1) Believers, “they that are Christ's at his coming”, will receive a spiritual body. It will be different to our current mortal body.
- 2) All believers, whether dead or alive at the time, will receive resurrection bodies.
- 3) The change is immediate.
- 4) Our new spiritual bodies will be immortal and incorruptible, bodies of perfection, glory and power.

1 Cor 15:50-54

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.51 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.

In a moment
In the twinkling of an eye
At the last trump
The trumpet shall sound
The dead shall be raised incorruptible
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.

The last trump:

There are three occasions in the Old Testament when a trumpet was blown:

- A trumpet of alarm, call to war. (Joel 2:1)
- A trumpet of gathering, calling for an assembly, a fast, etc. (Num 10:4, Joel 2:15)
- The Jubilee trumpet of the day of atonement (Lev 25:9)

The last trump in 1 Cor 15 would be the for the gathering of the elect, the last call for the assembly of believers before the wrath of god is poured out. In this context, the ‘trumpet of alarm’ is not applicable, hence the 7th trumpet of Revelation 11 is not the ‘last trump’.

Joel 2:1 Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain:
 let all the inhabitants of the land tremble:
 for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand;
Trumpet of alarm

Num 10:4 ⁴ And if they blow but with one trumpet, then the princes, which are heads of the thousands of Israel, shall gather themselves unto thee.

Joel 2:15 ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:
Trumpet of gathering, assembly.

In addition, both Jesus and Paul's end time teaching include the mention of a trumpet call together with the rapture, as per sample alongside.

'And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather his elect.....' (Matt 24:31)
 '..... 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:.....' (1 Thess 4:16)

The Timing of Jesus' second coming: 2 Thess 2:1-4

What did Paul say about the timing of Jesus' second coming?

*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; Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God*

FOR THAT DAY SHALL NOT COME

Paul mentions two things that MUST happen before 'the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ', and our gathering, i.e. the rapture. They are:

- there come(s) **a falling away first**, and
- that **man of sin be revealed**, the son of perdition;

Falling away from the truth:

The word 'apostasia' seems to refer mainly to a **forsaking of the truth** rather than people forsaking the church.

'...except there come a falling away [G646] first....' (2 Thess 2:3)

G646
 ἀποστασία apostasia ap-os-tas-ee'-ah
 Feminine of the same as G647;
 defection from truth (properly the state), ("apostasy"); - falling away, forsake.

Falling away
 -> 'defection of the truth'
 -> Falling away from the truth

There will be a great attack on our society attempting to reverse the truthfulness of God's message, His word and principles.

Those who do not believe the truth will be damned by a strong delusion. Delusion here means losing touch with reality.

Love of the truth: believers are encouraged to maintain a love for the truth!

*2 Thess 2:10-13 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. 11 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.*

The man of sin revealed: the Antichrist.

Paul clearly teaches that the rapture will not occur before the revealing of the Antichrist. Believers at the time will have to endure the antichrists persecution.

In session 4 we have shown in some detail the characteristics of the Antichrist (Daniel 11), of which Antiochus Epiphanes was a type or 'foreshadowing'.

Once the abomination of desolation is erected (Matt 24:15) there is not likely to be any doubt about the identification of the Antichrist, as he'll demand world-wide worship. However, we should be aware of the prophecies relating to the Antichrist so we might identify him beforehand.

This is the intent of the prophecies, not only to show God's unlimited knowledge but also to assist believers in their discernment.

Summary from session 4 on the Antichrist's characteristics:

- Has a fierce countenance, a vile person.
- Obtains the kingdom by flatteries.
- He shall come in peaceably.
- Starts small, a little horn which grows exceedingly great.
- Speaks lies, casts down truth, blasphemes.
- Prospers by deception. Works deceitfully.
- Proud, self-promoting and magnifies himself.
- By peace he shall destroy many.
- He shall destroy the mighty & holy people.

He also "takes away the daily [H8548] 'sacrifice'", and the "sanctuary is cast down" (Dan 12:11).

(the word *sacrifice in the 'daily' [H8548] sacrifice* is assumed, 'daily' is the only word given in Hebrew. The word sacrifice does not occur in the Hebrew. Hence that sentence may read, cryptically: 'taking away the daily')

H8548
 תמיד תמיד *taw-meed'*
 From an unused root meaning to stretch; properly continuance (as indefinite extension); but used only (attributively as adjective) constant (or adverbially constantly); elliptically the regular (daily) sacrifice: - alway (-s), continual (employment, -ly), daily, ([n-]) ever (-more), perpetual.

**THE MAN OF SIN BE REVEALED,
 THE SON OF PERDITION**
 Opposes and exalts himself above God
 He sits in the temple of God
 Showing himself that he is God



What did Paul say about the wrath of God?

Paul teaches about the wrath of God in 1 Thess 5:9, Rom 1:18, Rom 2:5, Eph 5:5-6, Col 3:5-6

Rom 1:18
 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

Rom 2:5
 5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

Eph 5:5-6

5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the **wrath of God** upon the children of disobedience.

Col 3:5-6

5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6 For which things' sake **the wrath of God** cometh on the children of disobedience:

THE SAVED: 'For God hath **NOT appointed us to wrath**, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,' (1 Thess 5:9)

The day of the LORD.

Paul, in 1 Thess 5:1-9, refers to Jesus second coming as the 'DAY OF THE LORD'... "*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.*"

The Day of the Lord is linked to Paul's and Jesus's words (in Matt 24:29) in much of Old Testament scripture as well, prophesying that **the sun & moon will darkened**, the stars falling and the powers of the heavens shaken. There is great consistency in the prophecies regarding these 'marker' events, as shown below. These same marker events also occur in Rev 6:12-15, linking the "The Day of the Lord" to the sixth seal.

Some Old Testament "Day of the Lord" prophecies:

Each prophecy below has preceding verses to the prophecy indicating that these are 'end-time' prophecies. A marker verse is provided, associated with this prophecy, which links this prophecy to Jesus's words in Matt 24:29; i.e. linking to His second coming. (the **sun & moon darkened**, stars falling and the **powers of the heavens shaken**):

- **Isaiah 13:6 & 9** : v6 "*Howl ye; for the day of the Lord is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.... 9 Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it*"

The markers (Isaiah & Matt 24 coincident events) Is 13v10 "*For the **stars** of heaven and the constellations thereof shall **not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.***"

-
- **Joel 1:15**; "*Alas for the day! for the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.*" "**Joel 2:1** "*Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand;*"
 - **Joel 2:11**; "*And the Lord shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executes his word: for the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?*"
 - **Joel 2:31**; "*The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord*"

The markers (Joel & Matt 24 coincident events): Joel 2: v30,31; "*And I will show **wonders in the heavens** and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. **The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord** come*".

-
- **Amos 5:18-20**: *Woe unto you that desire the day of the Lord! to what end is it for you? the day of the Lord is darkness, and not light. 19 As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him. 20 Shall not the day of the Lord be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?*

The markers (Amos & Matt 24 coincident events) Amos 5:18-20: *Woe unto you that desire the day of the Lord! to what end is it for you? the **day of the Lord is darkness, and not light.** 20 Shall not the day of the Lord be **darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?***

- **Zephaniah 1:7-10:** *Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord God: for the day of the Lord is at hand: for the Lord hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests...*

Zephaniah 1: 4 *The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hastes greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly.*

The markers (Zephaniah & Matt 24 coincident events) Zeph 1:15 *That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a **day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,** 16 A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers.18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them **in the day of the Lord's wrath**; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.*

The Day of the Lord

Paul's teaching in:

1 Thess 4:13 to 1 Thess 5:5

Old Testament references:

Is 13:6-13

Joel 1:15, Joel 2:10, Joel 2:30-31

Zeph 1:14-18, Amos 5:18-20, 8:9-10

Ez 30:3, Zech 14:1-2, Ob 1:15, Mal 4:5-6

Other New Testament references:

Acts 2:19-21, 2 Pet 3:7-13

Summary of the DAY OF THE LORD 'markers':

COMING OF THE LORD

Sun shall be darkened.

Moon not give light.

BEFORE the day of the LORD! (Joel 2:30-31, Acts 2:19-20)

Stars of heaven & constellations
not give light. Withdraw their shining.

Earth remove out of its place.

Earth shall quake, heavens shall tremble.

Day of clouds and thick darkness.

Day of trumpet and alarm.

Men (unbelievers) will be afraid.

OT Prophets 'Day of the LORD' verses:

Summary of the outpouring of God's wrath

(clearly showing that these verses apply to unbelievers):

Comes as a thief in the night. Sudden destruction comes upon THEM.

As travail upon a woman with child. They shall not escape.

Come as a destruction from the Almighty. Cruel both with wrath and fierce anger.

The land desolate, shall destroy sinners out of it. Punish world for their evil.

Punish wicked for iniquity. Arrogancy of the proud to cease.

Great and terrible day. Day of wrath. Day of trouble.

Day of wasteness and desolation. Day of darkness and gloominess.

Distress upon men. Whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy.

Riddance of all them that dwell in the land.

OT Prophets 'Day of the LORD' verses:

Summary of the reaction of unbelievers:

All hands be faint. Every man's heart shall melt. They shall be afraid.

Pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them. Pain as a woman that travaileth.

Mighty man shall cry bitterly. They shall walk like blind men.

Their blood shall be poured out as dust. Their flesh as the dung.

The day of judgement and perdition of ungodly men.

Matt 24:30 "... then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn"

Luke 21:26 "Men's hearts failing them for fear ..."

Rev 1:7 "... and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him."



The Day of Christ. Jesus' second coming is 'the day of Christ', as per 2 Thess 2:1-2 *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.*

THE DAY OF JESUS CHRIST - BELIEVERS
1 Cor 1:8 ⁸ Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Cor 5:5 ⁵ To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.
2 Cor 1:14 ¹⁴ As also ye have acknowledged us in part, that we are your rejoicing, even as ye also are our's in the day of the Lord Jesus.
Phil 1:6 ⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:
Phil 1:10 ¹⁰ That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ.
Phil 2:16 ¹⁶ Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

The Day of Christ is thus both the second coming and the gathering, the rapture, as per 2 Thess 2:1-2.

The letters of Peter, John, James and Jude

The epistles of 1 & 2 PETER
<p>1 Pet 1:3b-5 ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,</p> <p>⁴ To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,</p> <p>⁵ Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.</p> <p>1 Pet 1:13 ¹³ Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;</p> <p>1 Pet 5:4 ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.</p> <p>2 Pet 1:11 ¹¹ For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.</p>

The epistles of 1 & 2 PETER
<p>1 Pet 4:5 ⁵ Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.</p> <p>2 Pet 2:4 ⁴ For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;</p> <p>2 Pet 2:9 ⁹ The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished;</p> <p>2 Pet 3:3 ³ Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,...</p> <p>2 Pet 3:7 ⁷ But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.</p> <p>2 Pet 3:13 ¹³ Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.</p>

The epistles of 1 JOHN

1 John 2:18 ¹⁸ Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that **antichrist shall come**, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

1 John 2:28 ²⁸ And now, little children, abide in him; that, **when he shall appear**, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him **at his coming**.

1 John 3:2 ² Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, **when he shall appear**, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

1 John 4:17 ¹⁷ Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in **the day of judgment**: because as he is, so are we in this world.

The letter of JAMES

Jam 2:5 ⁵ Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and **heirs of the kingdom** which he hath promised to them that love him?

Jam 5:7-8 ⁷ Be patient therefore, brethren, unto **the coming of the Lord**. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

⁸ Be ye also patient; stablish [G4741] your hearts: for **the coming of the Lord** draweth nigh.

Jam 5:3 ³ Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.

The epistles of 1 & 2 JOHN

DECEPTION:

Many false prophets are gone out into the world.
(1 John 4:1)

Antichrist (and a liar) – He that denies that Jesus is the Christ. He who denies the Son has not the Father. (1 John 2:22-23)

Spirit of antichrist – Those that deny that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. (1 John 4:2)

A deceiver and an antichrist – He that confesses not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. (2 John v7)

Those that do **not abide in the doctrine of Christ** – do not have God. (2 John v9)

The epistles of JUDE

Jude v6 ⁶ And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto **the judgment of the great day**.

Jude v7 ⁷ Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the **vengeance of eternal fire**.

Jude v14-15 ¹⁴ And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, **the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints**, ¹⁵ **To execute judgment** upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

Jude v18 ¹⁸ How that they told you there should be **mockers in the last time**, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

FOR QUESTIONS:

anko.griffioen@gmail.com

theresa.griffioen@gmail.com