

1 Thessalonians

A man with brown hair and a beard is running across a sandy beach. He is wearing a dark, long-sleeved shirt and dark pants. He is looking back over his shoulder. There are several dark, elongated shadows of him cast onto the light-colored sand behind him, creating a sense of motion and repetition.

Rapture

1 Thessalonians

Preparation for the Rapture

1 Thessalonians

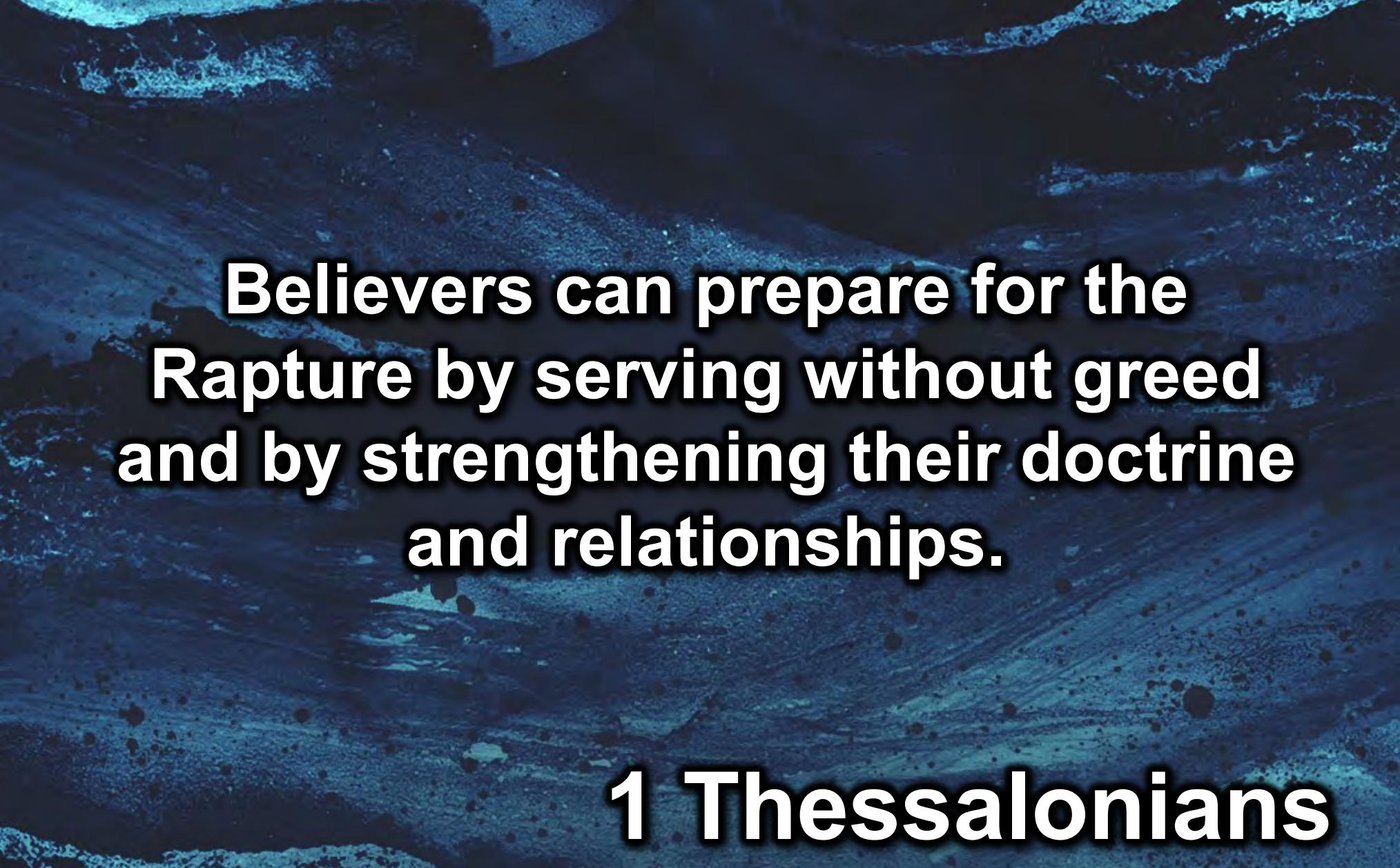
Key Verse

“May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones” (3:12-13).

1 Thessalonians

Summary Statement

203



**Believers can prepare for the
Rapture by serving without greed
and by strengthening their doctrine
and relationships.**

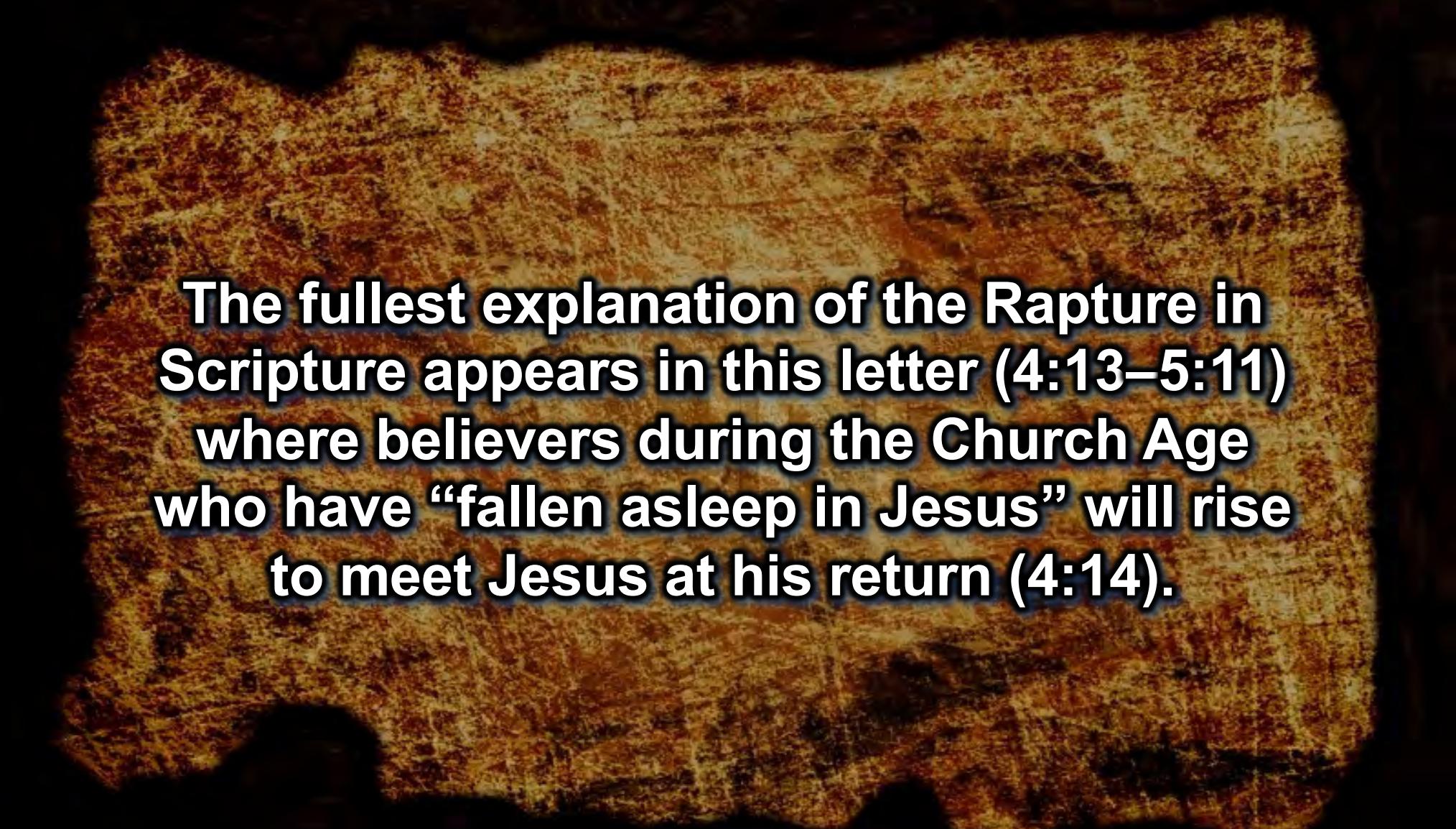
1 Thessalonians

Kingdom Statement

Kingdom teaching is practical: “We pleaded with you, encouraged you, and urged you to live your lives in a way that God would consider worthy. For he called you to share in his Kingdom and glory” (2:12).

1 Thessalonians

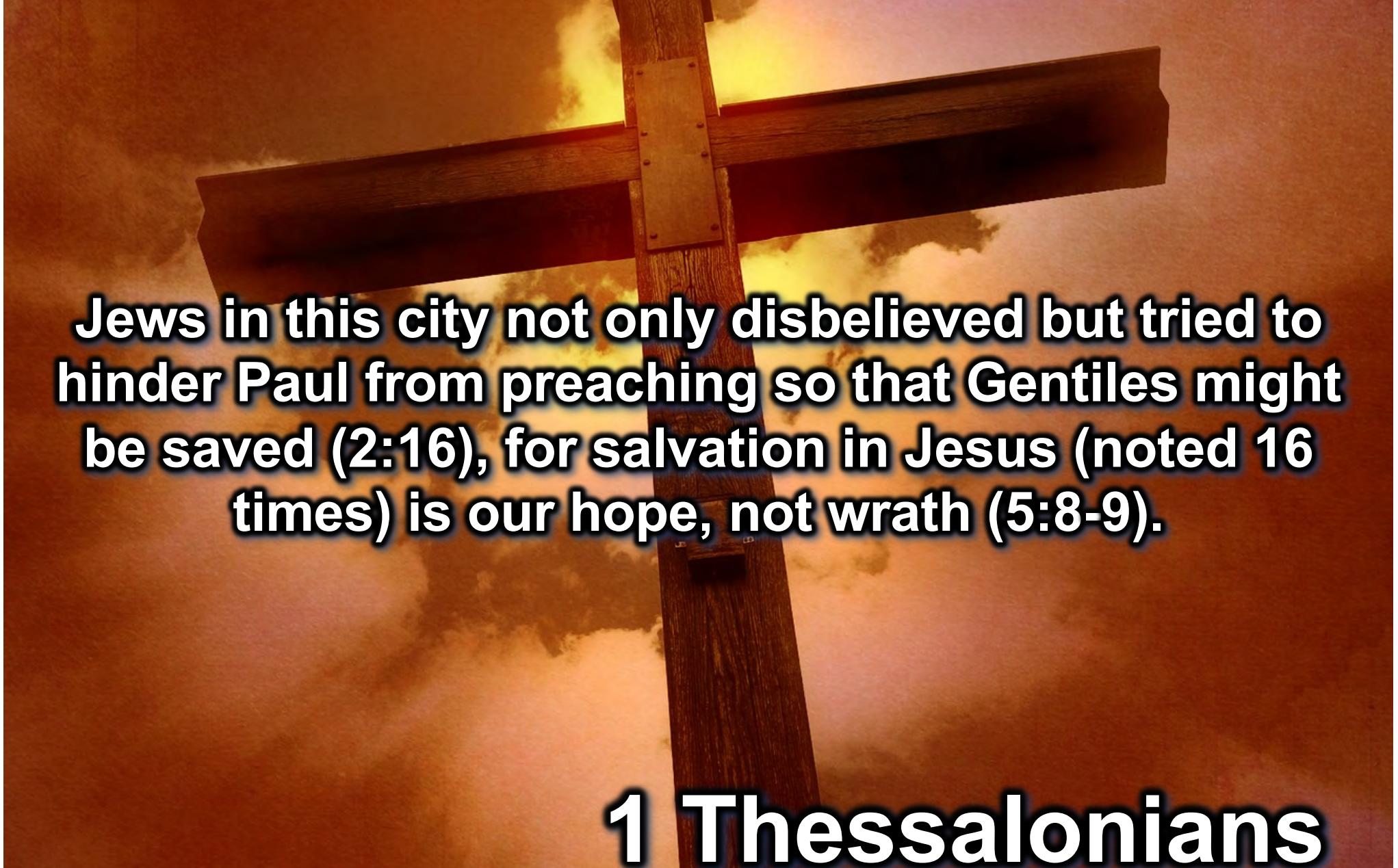
Covenant



The fullest explanation of the Rapture in Scripture appears in this letter (4:13–5:11) where believers during the Church Age who have “fallen asleep in Jesus” will rise to meet Jesus at his return (4:14).

1 Thessalonians

Redemption



Jews in this city not only disbelieved but tried to hinder Paul from preaching so that Gentiles might be saved (2:16), for salvation in Jesus (noted 16 times) is our hope, not wrath (5:8-9).

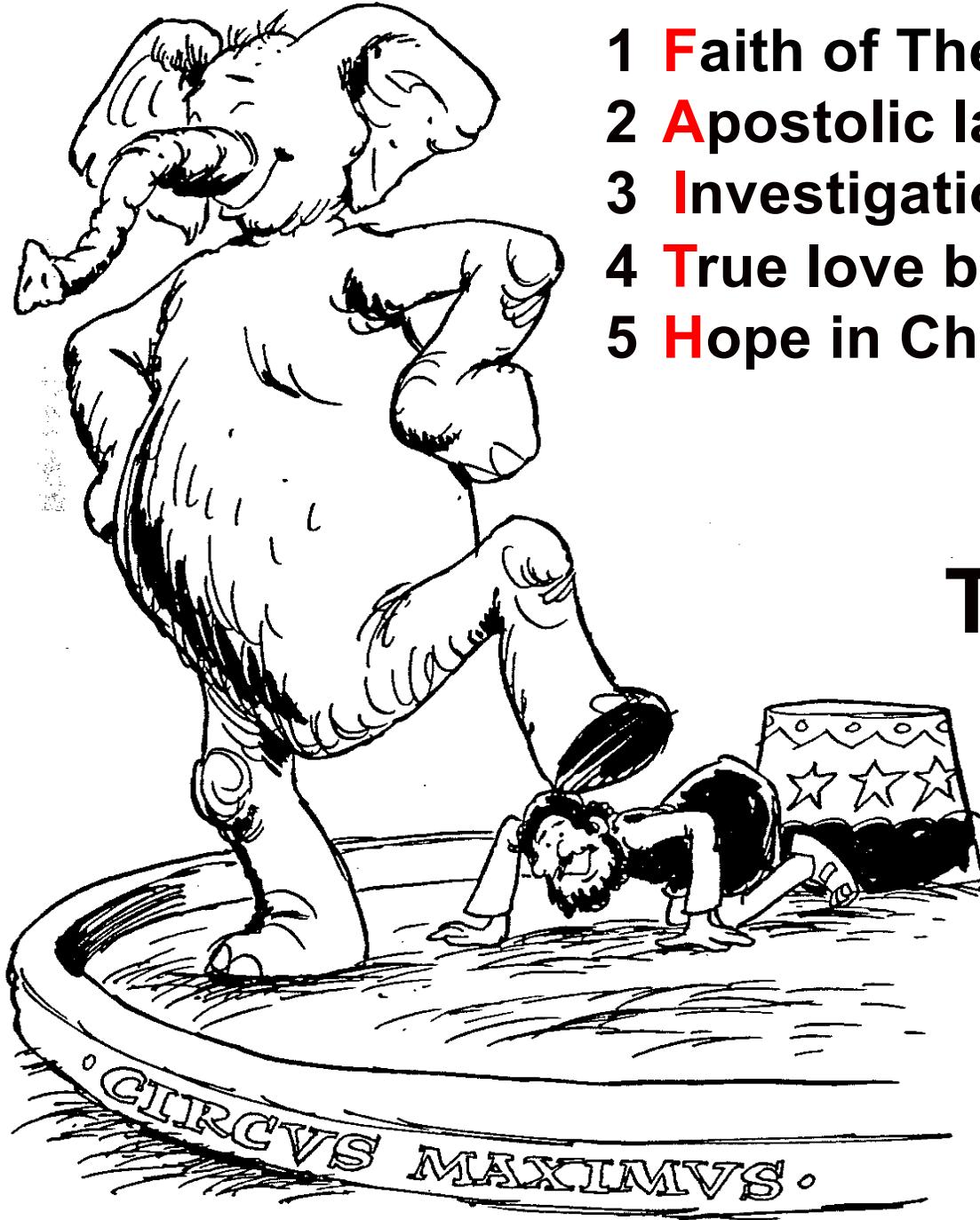
1 Thessalonians

Prophecy (Lord, Deity)

Jesus is called “Lord” 24 times in five short chapters of only 89 verses, emphasizing that “He is the Sovereign who is to be obeyed” (Thomas L. Constable, in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, 2:690).

1 Thessalonians

Innocence of Greed		Principles for Growth			
Chapters 1–3		Chapters 4–5			
Personal		Practical			
Silence Slanders		Strengthen Stand			
Historical		Hortatory			
Reflections		Exhortations			
Looking Back			Looking Forward		
Commendation 1:1-10	Conduct 2:1-16	Concern 2:17–3:13	Love 4:1-12	Eschatology 4:13–5:11	Church Life 5:12-28
"You're great!"	"I'm innocent!"	"I care for you"	"Please God"	"Be comforted but watchful"	"Live holy"
Corinth					
Early Summer AD 51 (on second missionary journey)					



- 1 **Faith of Thessalonian church**
- 2 **Apostolic labors in Thessalonica**
- 3 **Investigation of church's welfare**
- 4 **True love between Christians**
- 5 **Hope in Christ's return**

FIRST THESSALONIANS

Be Prepared

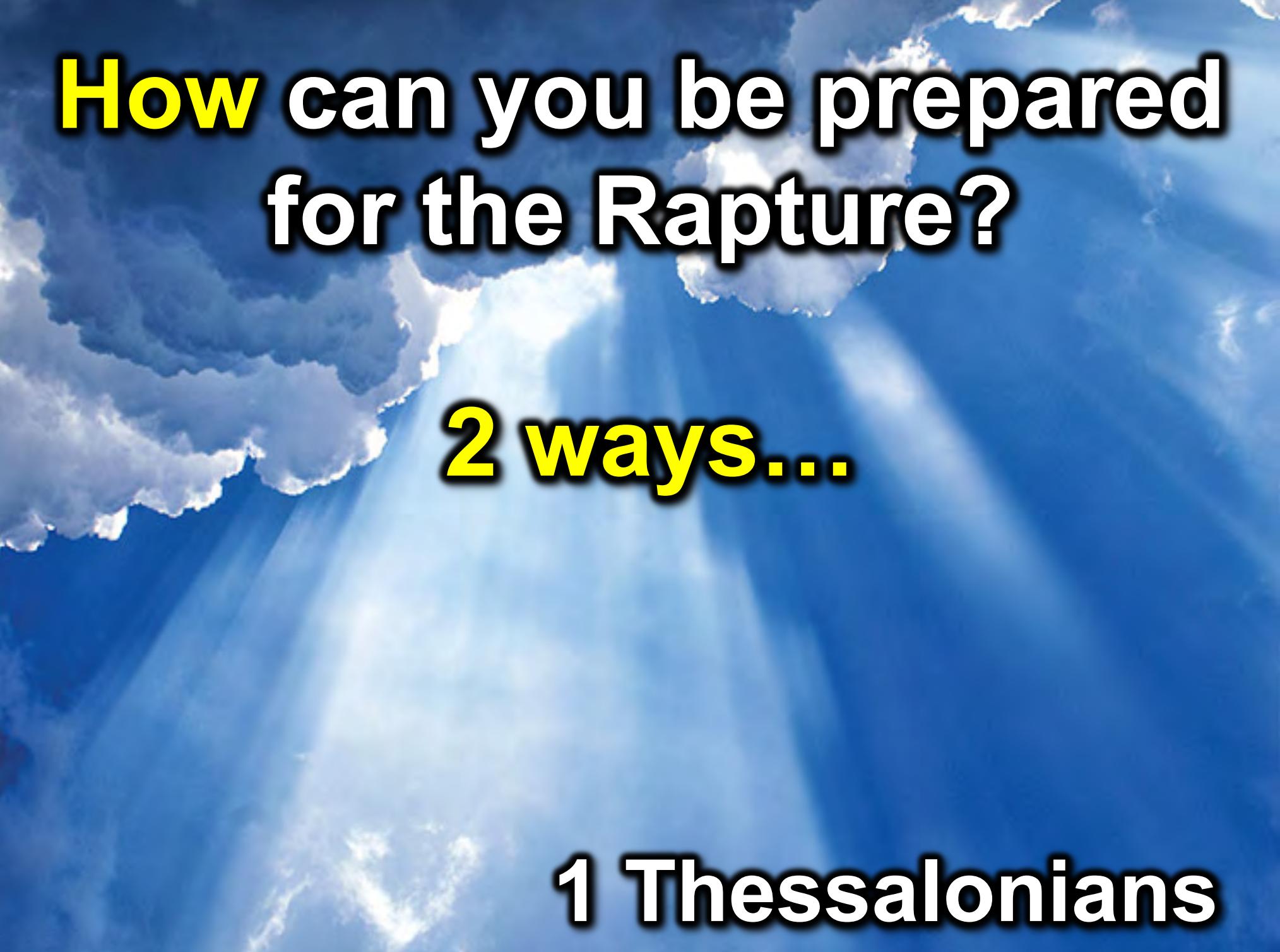


1 Thessalonians

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1 Thessalonians



**How can you be prepared
for the Rapture?**

2 ways...

1 Thessalonians

I. Serve Jesus without **greed** (Chapters 1–3).

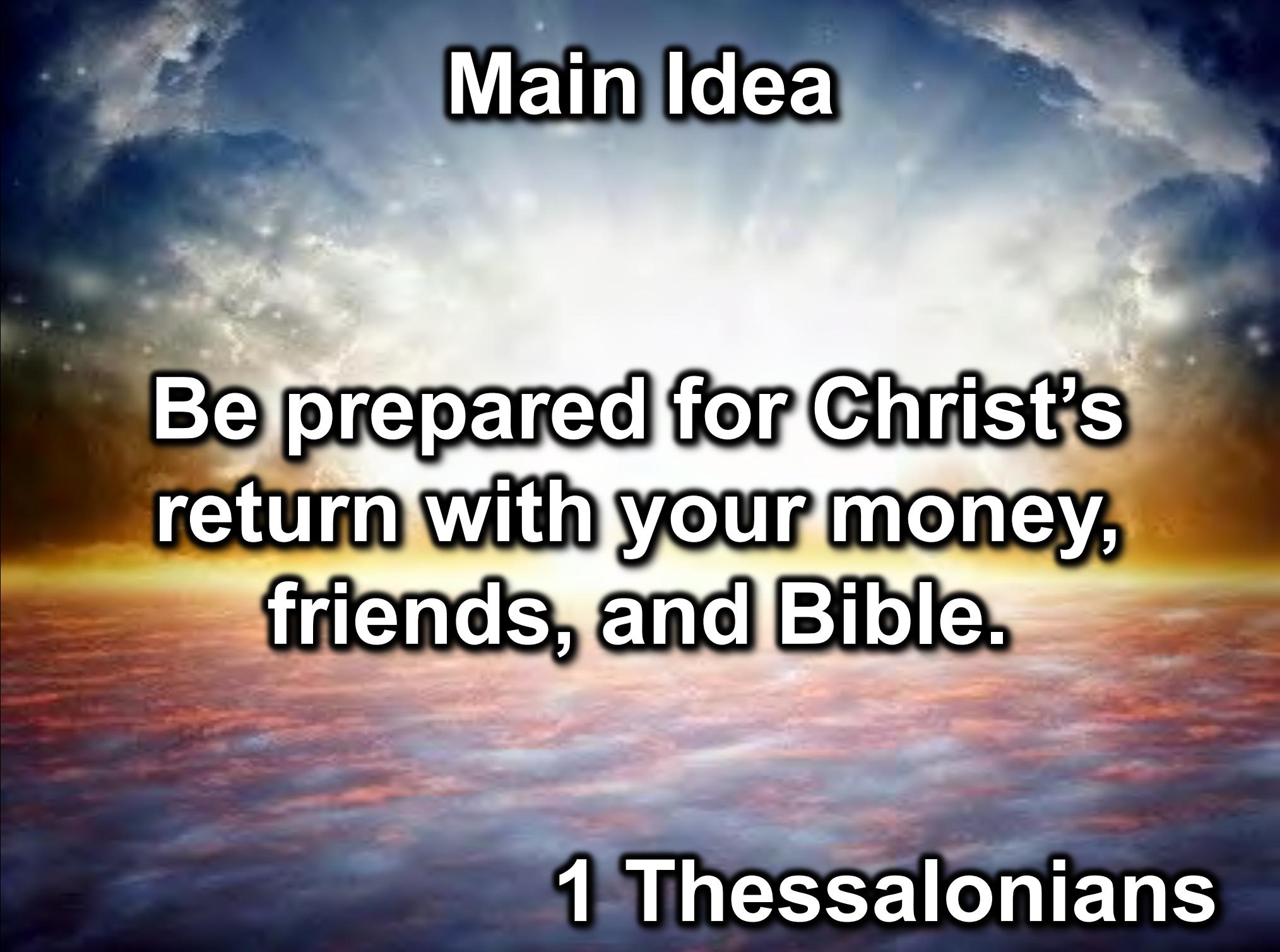


1 Thessalonians

II. Care about both **people** and **theology** (Chapters 4–5).



1 Thessalonians



Main Idea

**Be prepared for Christ's
return with your money,
friends, and Bible.**

1 Thessalonians

We will all give an account.

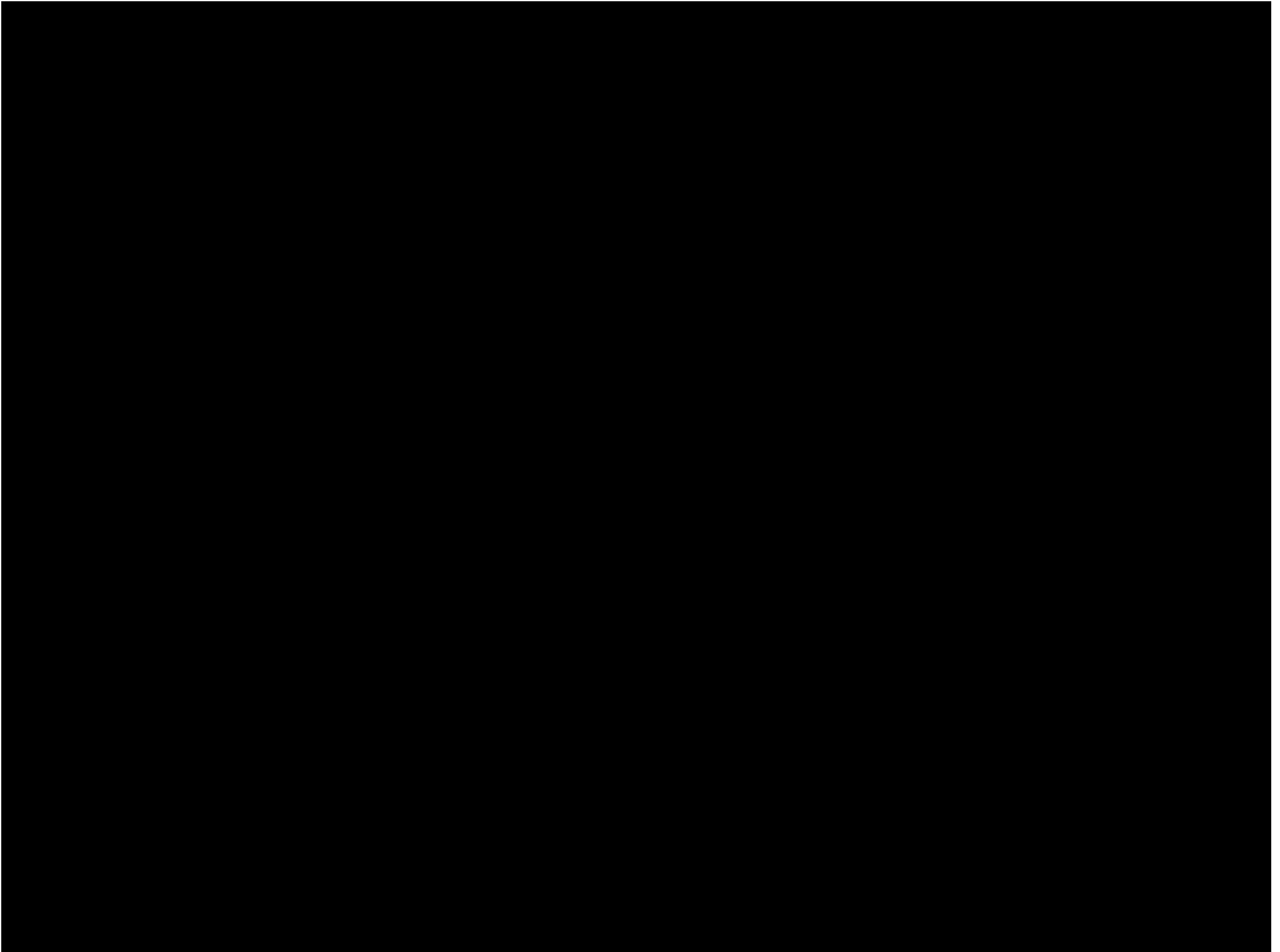


1 Thessalonians

"like a thief in the night"



1 Thessalonians 5:2



Preparing for the Rapture

What common theme(s) do you find at the end of all five chapters?

Although Paul appeared to be writing about and addressing 5 different issues in his letter, there is one topic which he repeatedly mentions: **the Rapture**.

--> Exhortations on the Rapture of believers to meet the Lord as end markers ending each chapter:

1:10 - "...and to wait for his Son from heaven..."

2:19 - "...in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes..."

3:13 - "...when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones."

4:16-18 - "...we who are still alive and are left will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air..."

5:23 - "...at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

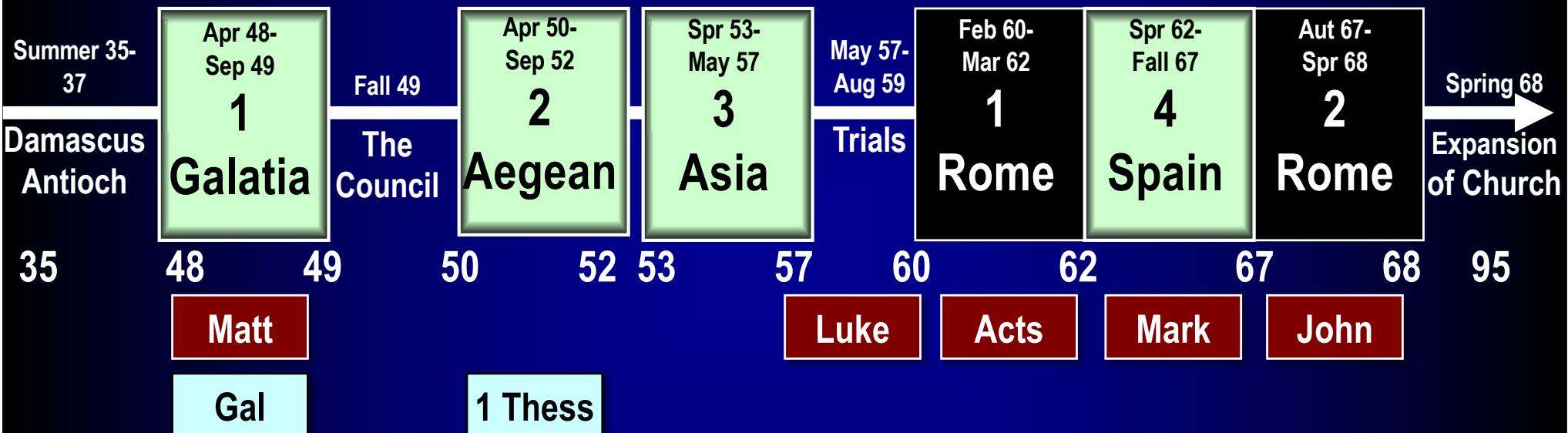


NT Overview (Paul's Letters)

38
124
39-41

"To the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

Acts 9 13 14 15 16 18 21 27 28



Gospels & Acts

Pauline Epistles

1234

Journeys

Rome

Imprisonments

Pauline

This presentation will focus on:-

1) Background

- The city of Thessalonica
- Authorship
- When the epistle was written
- Length of Paul's stay

2) Content

- Paul's Purpose in Writing
- Unifying theme

3) Review

4) Application



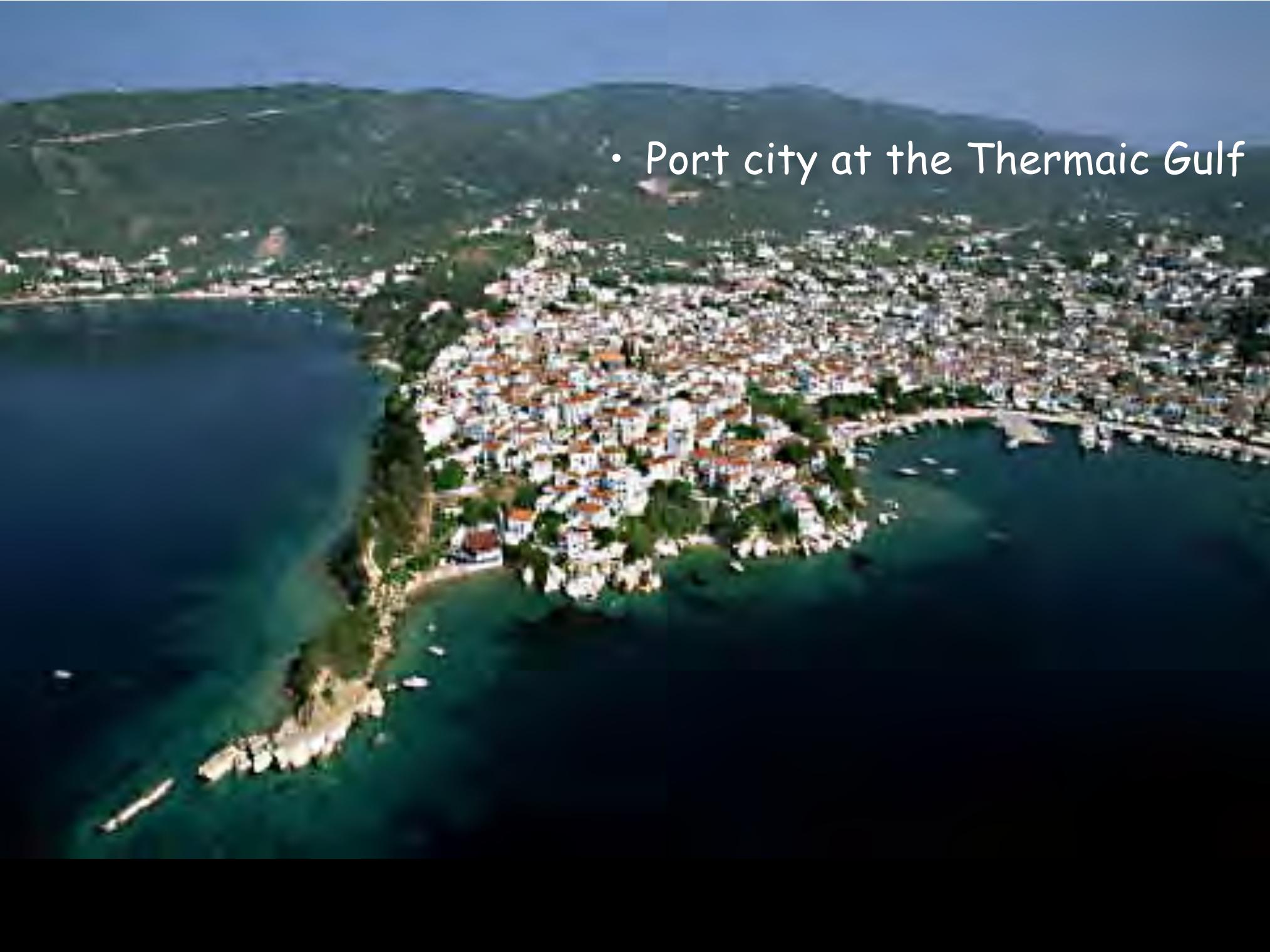
Thessalonica

(now called Salonica or Thessaloniki)



- Founded by the Macedonian General Cassander in 315 BC
- Named after his wife, Thessalonike, daughter of Philip II and half sister of Alexander the Great
- In 167 BC, it became capital of one of the 4 districts of Macedonia
- In 146 BC, it was made a province and became the seat of provincial administration
- From 42 BC, it was declared a free city, governed by its own politarchs

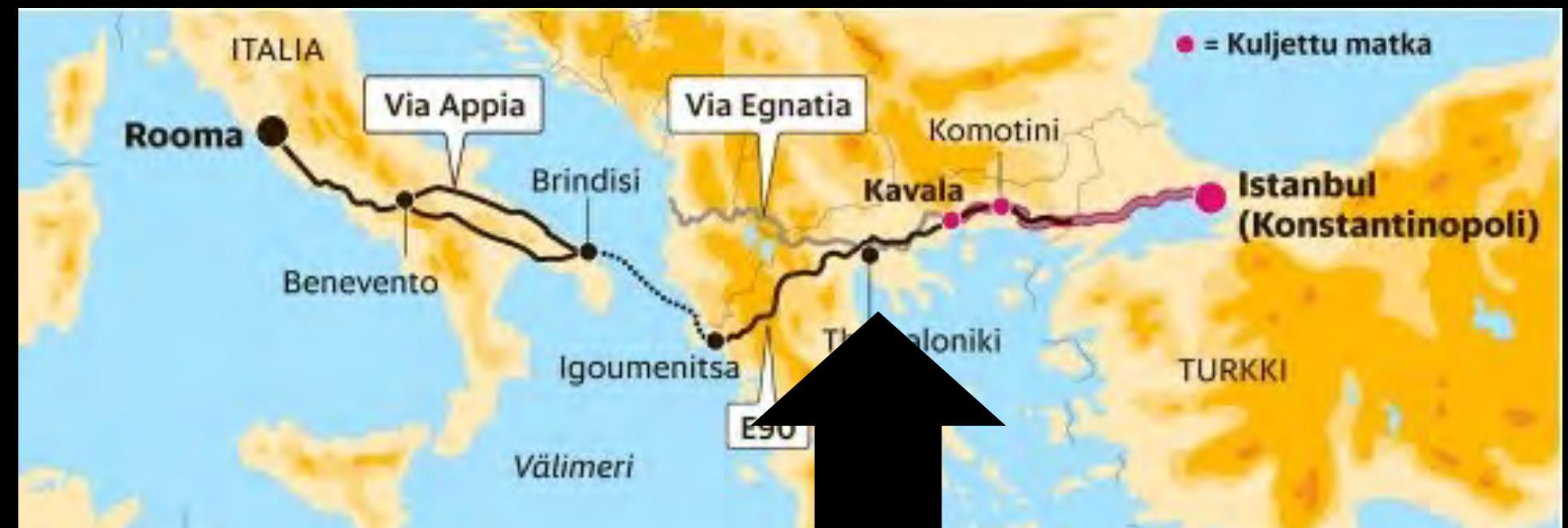
A model of ancient Thessalonica



- Port city at the Thermaic Gulf



- Port city at the Thermaic Gulf
- Knitted together 26 villages
- Main seaport and naval base of Macedonia



Thessalonica



Thessalonica Arches

Authorship

Controversy 1

Authorship

Joint authorship of Paul,
Silas and Timothy?

- » Some have pointed out that verse 1 suggests joint authorship: "Paul, Silas and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonica..."
- » But there is a lack of strong evidence.





Authorship

External Evidence	Internal Evidence	Attacks	Responses
Marcion Canon (ca. AD 140)	Epistle named Paul as author.	Lack of Pauline ideas & OT citations.	Church was largely Gentile so OT not cited as frequently.
Muratonian Canon	Primitive church organisation fitted into Paul's time.	A reference to fall of Jerusalem in AD 70, which places the epistle after Paul's death (AD 68).	Supposed reference to fall of Jerusalem is very ambiguous.
Early Church Fathers – Irenaeus (c. AD 180)	No later writer would have attributed to Paul the unfulfilled expectation of living to see the rapture.	A large amount of non- Pauline vocabulary.	One of Paul's earliest letters & thus does not reflect the same theological vocabulary as later letters.

Length of Paul's Stay

Controversy 2



Length of Paul's Stay

3-Week Stay

FOR: Paul preached for 3 Sabbaths in the synagogue (Acts 17:2).

AGAINST: Luke's writing of Acts accurate and reliable but selected only *some* materials according to his focus.

3-Month Stay (Nov 50-Jan 51)

FOR: Enough time for Paul to establish a church (1 Thess 1:1) with its own leaders (1 Thess 5:12).

FOR: Possible to set up a church in such a short time but would lack sufficient teaching time that gave rise to tension with leaders (1 Thess 5:12).

Be Prepared



1 Thessalonians

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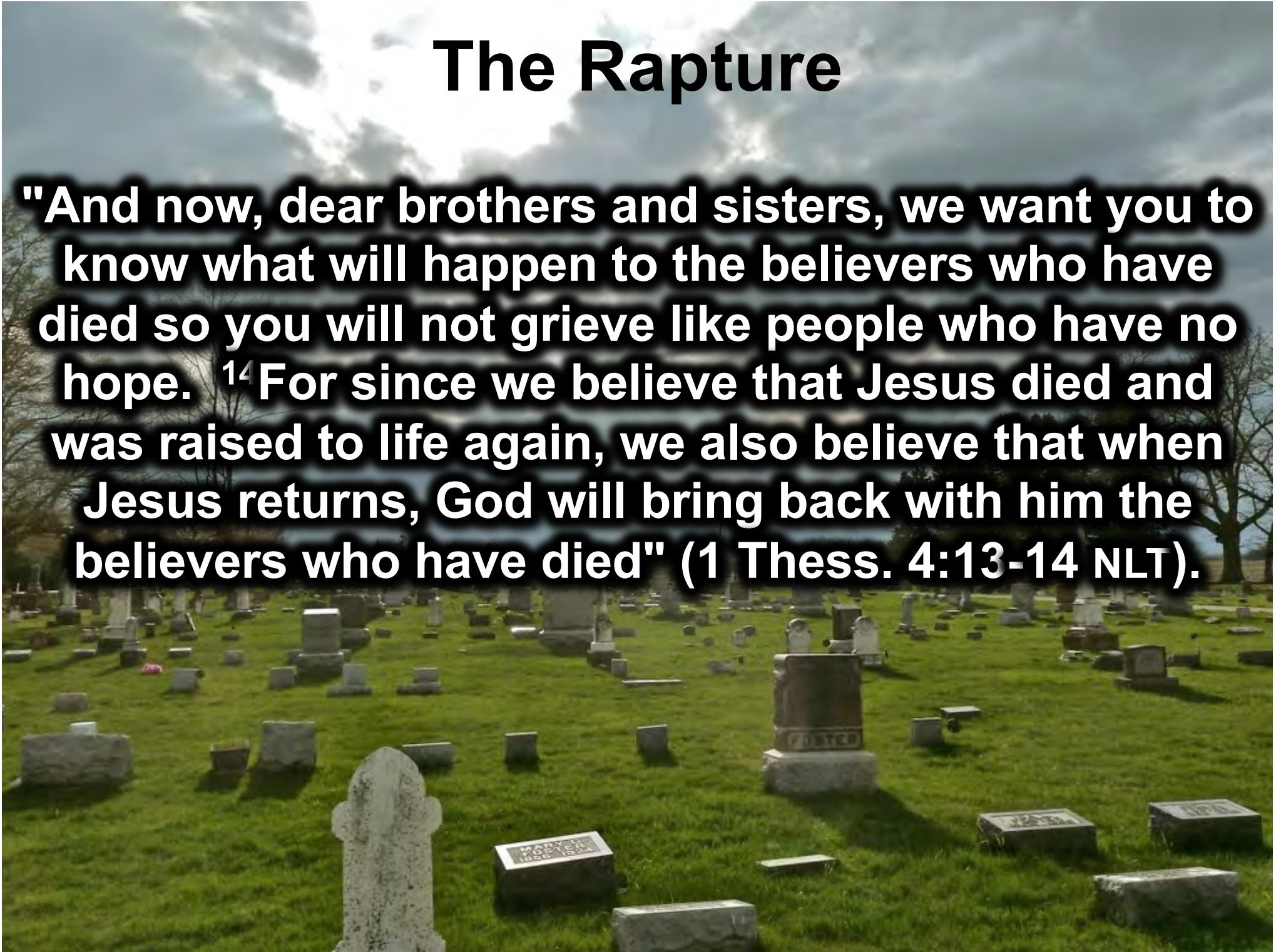




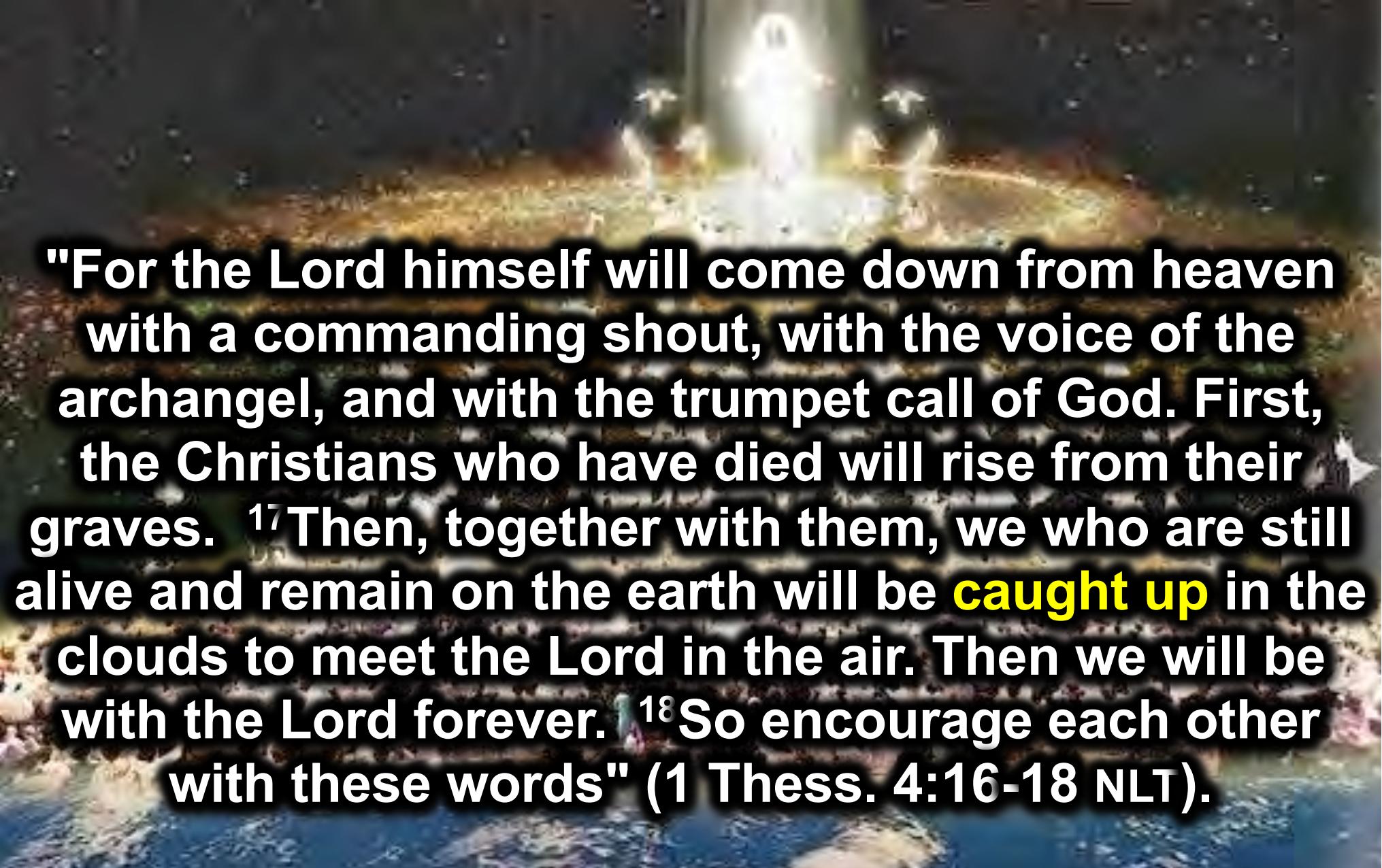


The Rapture

"And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died" (1 Thess. 4:13-14 NLT).



The Rapture



"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. ¹⁷Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be **caught up** in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸So encourage each other with these words" (1 Thess. 4:16-18 NLT).

Our Need

PLAN AHEAD

Christ's Return





Are You Expecting the Lord's Return?

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Christ's First Coming



Christ's Two Comings

420



FIRST COMING

Laid in a manger

Came as a lamb

Lowly and poor

Died *for* His enemies

Tempted by Satan

Lived in a world of unrighteousness

Died for sins and rose again

(CHURCH AGE)



SECOND COMING

Lands on a mountain

Comes as the Lord

Lavish and powerful

Death *to* His enemies

Traps Satan in bottomless pit

Leads the world in righteousness

Directs and reigns

Are you ready for his return?



Premillennialism



Eschatology

eschatos

+

ology

"last"

"study of"

= study of the last things
(future)



Two Stages of His Return





Two Stages of His Return

Literal
Christ
Future
"Coming"

Rapture

Revelation

The Rapture





**How can you be prepared
for the Rapture?**

Harold Camping • 1994

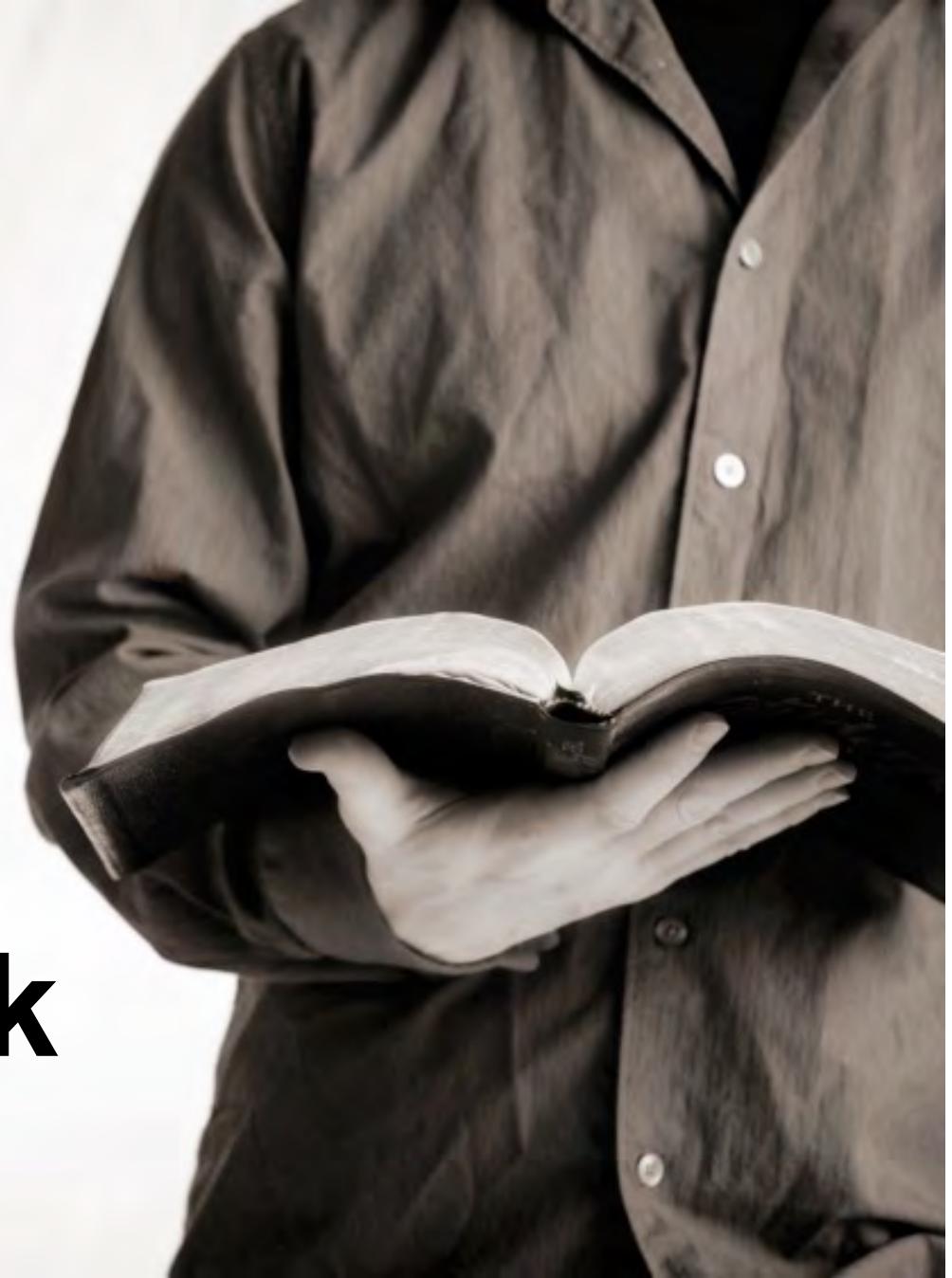
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Let's Study Through Scripture

The Bible: Book by Book



Preparation for the Rapture

1 Thessalonians



What to do?...



Some Geographical Perspective

The City of Corinth

204



Innocence of Greed			Principles for Growth		
Chapters 1–3			Chapters 4–5		
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Corinth					
Early Summer AD 51 (on second missionary journey)					



**How can you be prepared
for the Rapture?**

2 ways...

I. Serve Jesus without greed (1 Thess 1–3).



1 Thessalonians 1

Silas and Timothy (co-laborers in Thessalonica) wrote with Paul, who did not note his apostleship to show his concern (1:1).

“This letter is from Paul, Silas, and Timothy. We are writing to the church in Thessalonica, to you who belong to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. May God give you grace and peace” (1 Thess 1:1 NLT).



**Paul commended their
lifestyle of godly living...**



**in view of Christ's return
(1:2-10).**

Paul's Advice to Troubled Thessalonians: Focus on God!

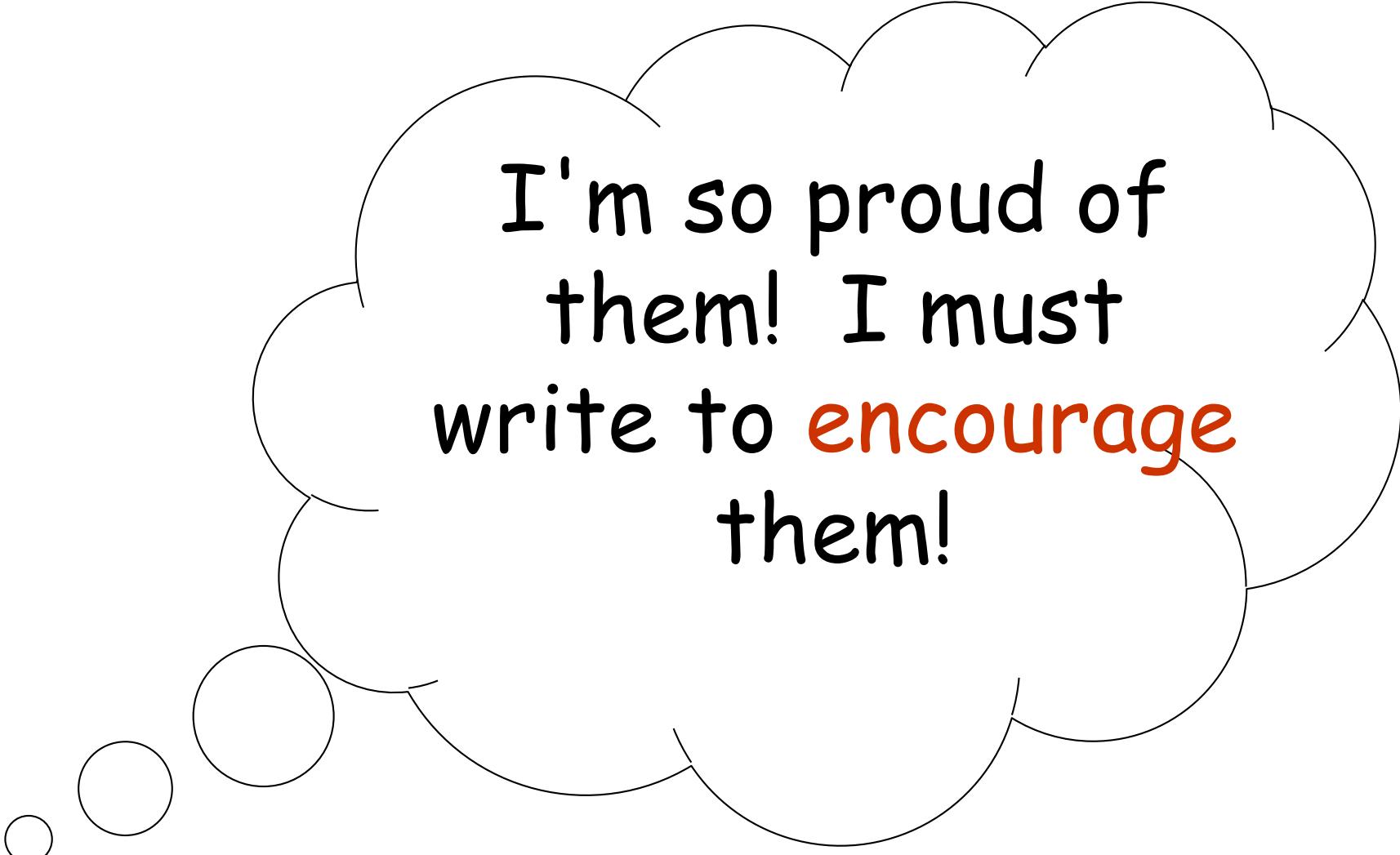
Total Verses	"God"	"Jesus"	"Lord"	"Christ"	Total
1 Thess. (89)	36	16	24	10	86
2 Thess. (47)	18	13	22	10	63
Total (136)	54	29	46	20	149

Number of Greek occurrences from Elwell & Yarbrough,
Encountering the New Testament, 332

1 Thessalonians 2

**Paul was not motivated by greed
since he made tents and cared
for them (2:1-16).**

**“Don’t you remember, dear brothers and
sisters, how hard we worked among you?
Night and day we toiled to earn a living so
that we would not be a burden to any of you
as we preached God’s Good News to you”
(2:9 NLT).**



I'm so proud of
them! I must
write to **encourage**
them!

The Suzuki Method





How can we **strengthen** others?

This epistle was written in AD 51



• Three ways we can encourage others...

Written in Corinth after hearing Tim's report

*How can we **strengthen** others?*



Go in
person
(2:17-20).

Paul Tried to Go in Person

But, brothers, when we were torn away from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing **we made every effort to see you.** ¹⁸**For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan stopped us" (1 Thess 2:17-18 NIV)**

Paul's greatest blessing = People!

"For what is our **hope**, our **joy**, or the **crown** in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not **you**? ²⁰Indeed, **you** are our **glory** and **joy**"
(1 Thess 2:19-20 NIV)

The best way to
show people how
valuable they are
is in person

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*How can we **strengthen** others?*



Go in
person
(2:17-20).

1 Thessalonians 3

*How can we **strengthen** others?*

Bring others into their lives (3:1-9).



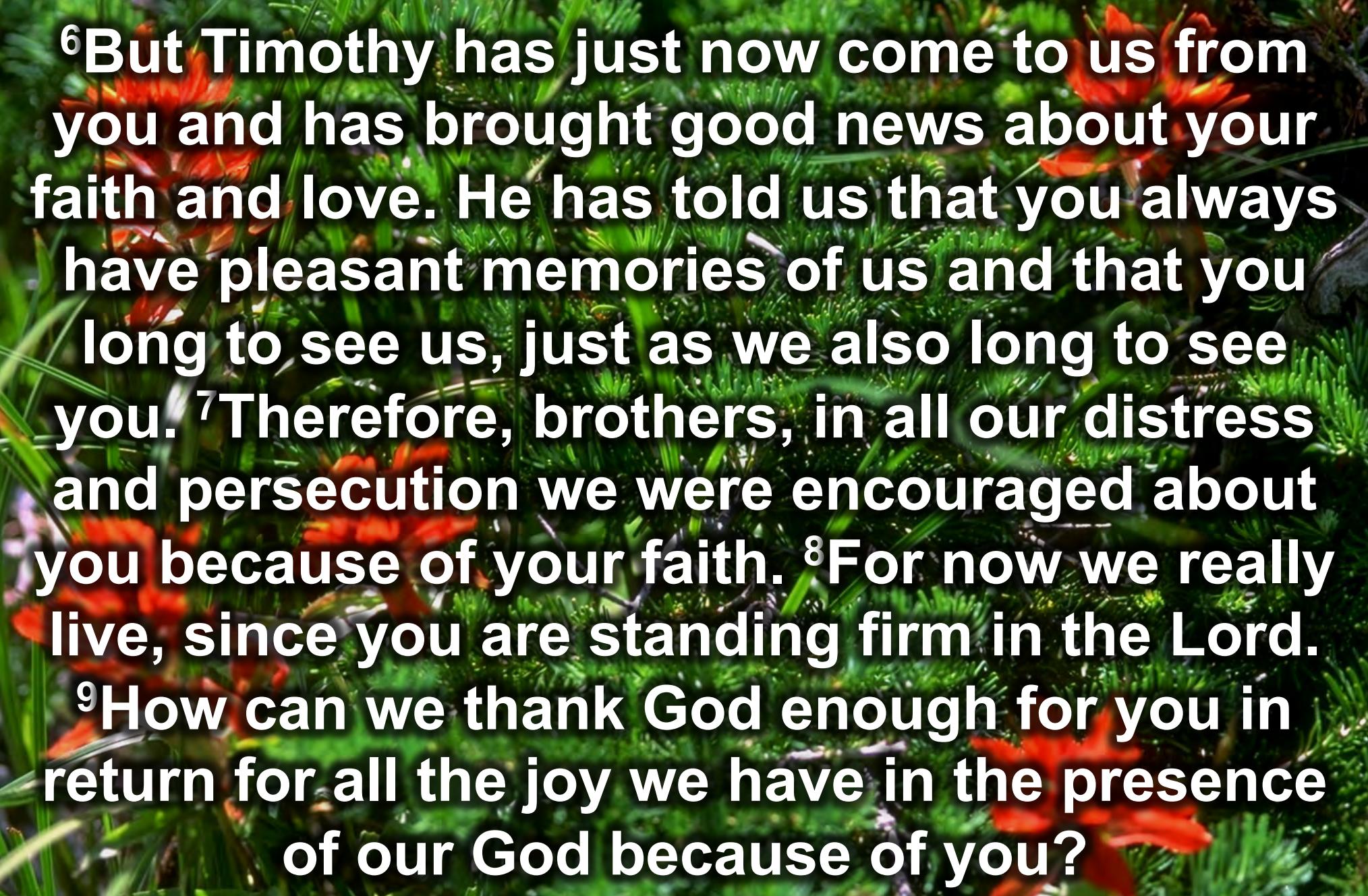
Paul sent Timothy to strengthen the church (3:1-5)

So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens. ²**We sent Timothy**, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, **to strengthen and encourage you in your faith**, ³so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. You know quite well that we were destined for them.

Paul sent Timothy to strengthen the church (3:1-5)

4In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know. **5**For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless.

Paul was encouraged (3:6-9)

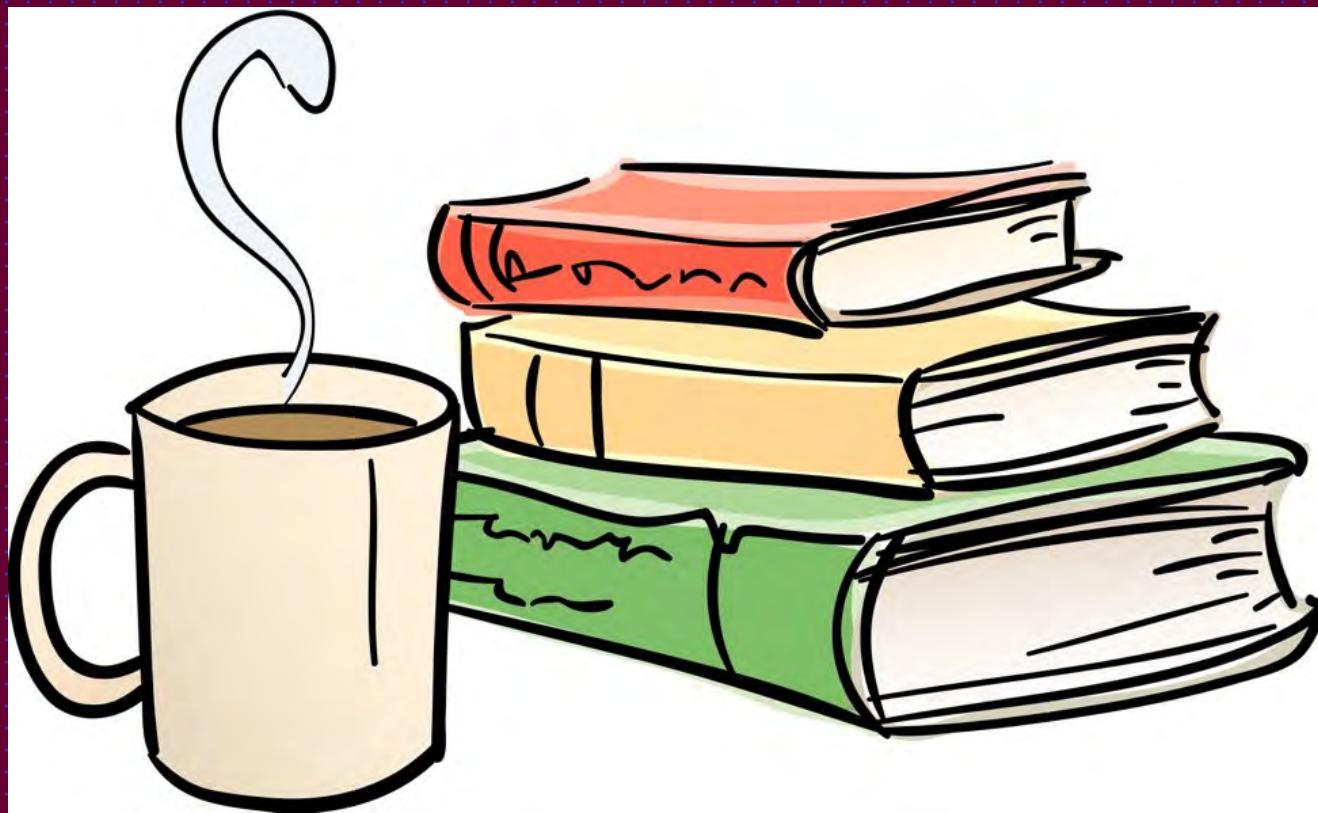


6But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you. **7**Therefore, brothers, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. **8**For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. **9**How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?



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Gospels

Holy Spirit
(Pneumatology)

Jesus (Christology)



Leadership



Life of Christ



Missions

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Monologues



English

NT Backgrounds



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NT Preaching

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OT Backgrounds



English

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English

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English

Preaching (Homiletics)



English

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NT Survey

English



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- [00 路加福音_13-21_302_11英文_cmn_ns_3193_v12.pptx](#)



Survey Dari Perjanjian Baru

Indonesian



TRANSLATIONS

[Het Nieuwe Testament](#)

[Pagsisiyasat sa Bagong
Tipan](#)

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Шинэ Гэрээний Тойм

Mongolian



TRANSLATIONS

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[신약 조사](#)

Библийн Хуучин болон Шинэ Гэрээгээр мэргэшсэн Др. Рик Гриффит Монгол итгэгчдэд зориулан өөрийн 35 жилийн нэр их хөдөлмөрөөр бий болгосон судалгаа, хичээлийн слайдаа бүрэн нээлттэй, үнэгүйгээр толилуулж байна. Хичээл бүрийг слайд дээр бэлтгэсэн бөгөөд сонирхож буй хичээлийн холбоос дээр дарснаар (эсвэл компьュтерийнхээ хулганы баруун товчийг дарж “хадгалах” командыг сонгосноор) өөрийн компьютертээ хуулж авч болно.

1. Шинэ Гэрээний тойм хичээлийг Монгол, Англи хэлээр хуулан авч болно. Веб сайт дээрх англи нэр нь: “NT Survey Mongolian & English” гэсэн байгаа.

2. Мөн Библийн газарзүй хичээл байгаа. Веб сайт дээрх англи нэр нь: “NT Backgrounds Mongolian” гэсэн байгаа.

3. “Да Винчигийн коод” ном хэрхэн Христитгэлийг булингартайгаар харуулсан залийг илчилсэн лекцийн слайд баруун баганы доор байгаа болно. Веб сайт дээрх англи нэр нь: “Da Vinci Code Rebuttal in Mongolian” гэсэн байгаа.

танилцуулга

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Tân Ước Lược Khảo (NT Survey In Vietnamese)

Vietnamese



TRANSLATIONS

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Arabic



العروض التقديمية أقل من متوسط 605 شريحة باربوبينت لكل سفر من إسفار العهد الجديد، لكن بعض الكتب الأكبر حجمًا مثل أعمال الرسل أو الترسويا تحتوي على أكثر من 1500 شريحة. (انظر عدد الشرائح في كل اسم ملف.)

راجع رابط وعظ العهد الجديد هنا لمزيد من الدراسات التقليدية حول سفر أو فقرة.

انظر على الصورة أدناه لتنزيل ملف باربوبينت أو الفيديو المرتبط، أو قم بالتمرير لأسفل للحصول على صوت جلسات باربوبينت أو ملفات وورد الموجودة في إسفار العهد الجديد.

يمكنك أيضًا الحصول على هذه المساق التدريسي في النسخة التفاعلية عبر الإنترنت التي تسمى الدراسات المتقدمة في العهد الجديد في كلية الكتاب المقدس على الإنترنت.

العروض التقديمية PDF

هذه العروض التقديمية غير قابلة للتعديل، وهي أكبر حجمًا من عروض بوربوبينت التقديمية أدناه، ولكنها ستبدو رائعة على جهاز الكمبيوتر أو الهاتف. بعضها عبارة عن مقاطع فيديو.

*How can we **strengthen** others?*



Go in
person
(2:17-20).

*How can we **strengthen** others?*

Bring **others** into their lives (3:1-9).

- A. Minister with others as peers (3:1-2a).
- B. Minister as a partner with God (3:2b).
- C. Minister as an encourager during other's trials (3:2c-4).
- D. Minister face-to-face in person (3:5).
- E. Send others when you can't go in person (3:6-9).

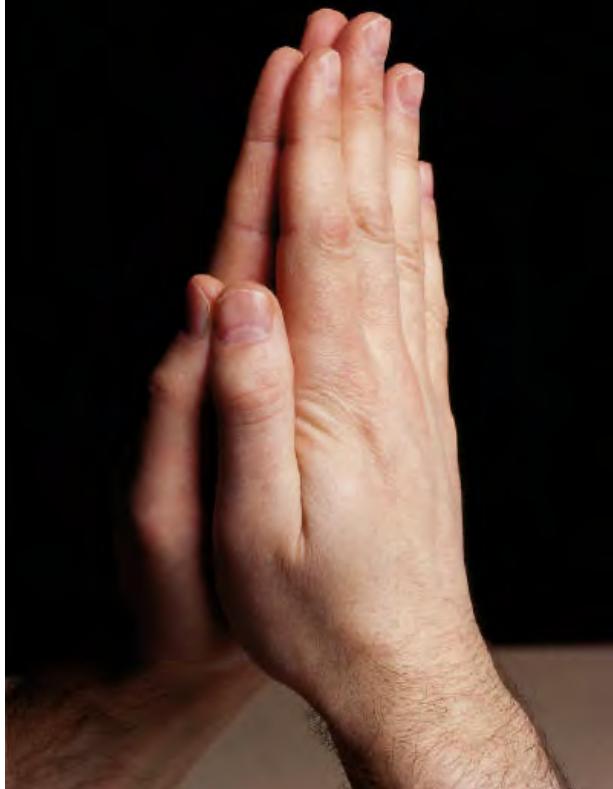
Since Paul could not personally go back to Thessalonica due to opposition, he was concerned that the believers might not have received enough teaching. Thus he sent Timothy to check on their progress.

*How can we **strengthen** others?*

Pray for them (3:10-13).

¹⁰ Night and day we **pray** most earnestly **that we may see you again** and supply what is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus **clear the way for us to come** to you.



*How can we **strengthen** others?*

Pray for them (3:10-13).



12 May the Lord make your **love** increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.

13 May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be **blameless and holy** in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

Main Idea of 1 Thess 2:17–3:13

Strengthen others to show you
care for them

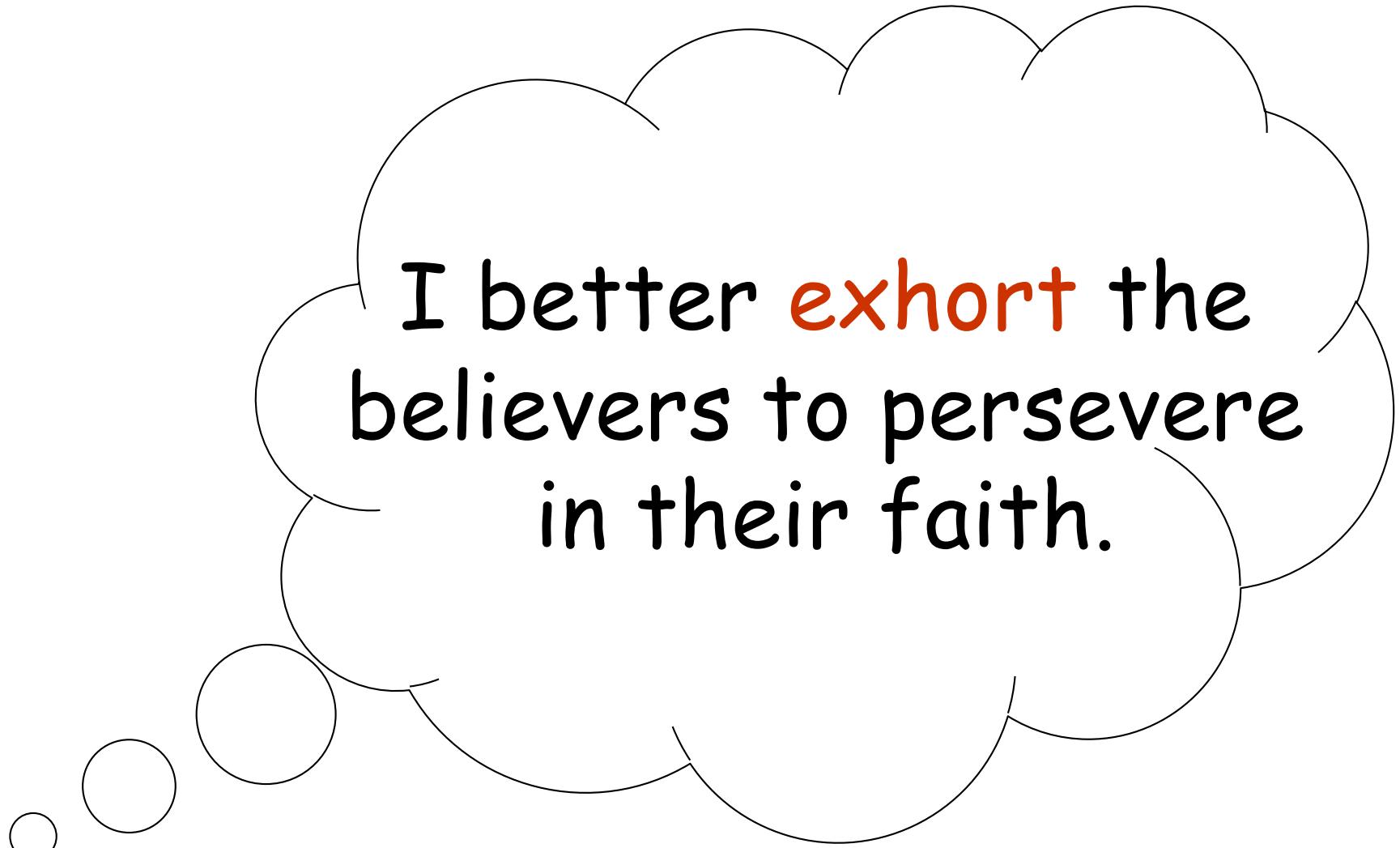
How?

- Visits: Go in **person** (2:17-20)
- Co-laborers: Bring **others** (3:1-9)
- Prayer: **Pray** for them (3:10-13)



Encouragement

How dare these
slanderers! I must
defend my ministry in
my letter to the
church.



I better **exhort** the
believers to persevere
in their faith.

Exhortation

*Also called the gift of
encouragement*

Exhortation?



"Be ye kind" like the Bible says or
I'll hit you over the head!

Defining "Exhorting"

"While the **teacher** communicates **facts** and truths of the Word of God, the **exhorter** is able to encourage the hearer to **act** upon that which he has heard.

The teacher gives the **what** of the Scripture, while the exhorter gives the **how**" (Swindoll, "Spiritual Gifts," 4)

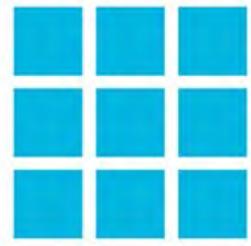


What are exhorters like?

- Action steps
- Application
- Optimism
- Believes in you

**Live on what you need and
invest the rest for eternity.**

**“Lay up for yourselves
treasures in heaven
—not on earth”
(Matthew 6:20)**



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A RICH YOUNG MAN QUESTIONS JESUS

Matthew 19:16-30; Mark 10:17-31; Luke 18:18-30

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**How can you be prepared
for the Rapture?**

2 ways...

I. Serve Jesus without greed (1 Thess 1–3).



II. Care about both **people** and **theology** (1 Thess 4–5).



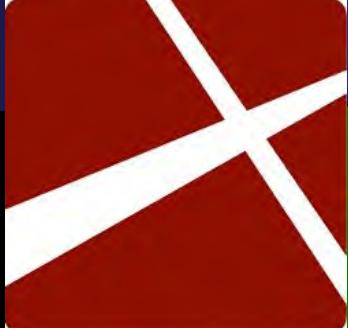
1 Thessalonians 4

What's Most Important?



Mark 12:29-31 -- Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. ³⁰ And you must **love the Lord** your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.'

³¹ The second is equally important: '**Love your neighbor** as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these.”



Our Vision

Love the Nations

Love the Church

Love
God

Preparing for the Rapture

Although Paul appeared to be writing about and addressing 5 different issues in his letter, there is one topic which he repeatedly mentions: **the Rapture**.

--> Exhortations on the Rapture of believers to meet the Lord as end markers ending each chapter:

1:10 - "...and to wait for his Son from heaven..."

2:19 - "...in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes..."

3:13 - "...when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones."

4:16-18 - "...we who are still alive and are left will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air..."

5:23 - "...at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."





Are You Ready for the Lord's Return?

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore
CICFamily.com • BibleStudyDownloads.org

The Rapture will be both a comfort and a warning



1 Thessalonians 4:13–5:11

Christ's First Coming



Are you ready for his return?



Christ's Two Comings

420



FIRST COMING

Laid in a manger

Came as a lamb

Lowly and poor

Died *for* His enemies

Tempted by Satan

Lived in a world of unrighteousness

Died for sins and rose again

(CHURCH AGE)



SECOND COMING

Lands on a mountain

Comes as the Lord

Lavish and powerful

Death *to* His enemies

Traps Satan in bottomless pit

Leads the world in righteousness

Directs and reigns

Amillennialism

Millennium is Church Age:
Spiritual reign
of Christ

Tribulations
Satan Bound

Revelation 6–18

Revelation 20

Second
Coming

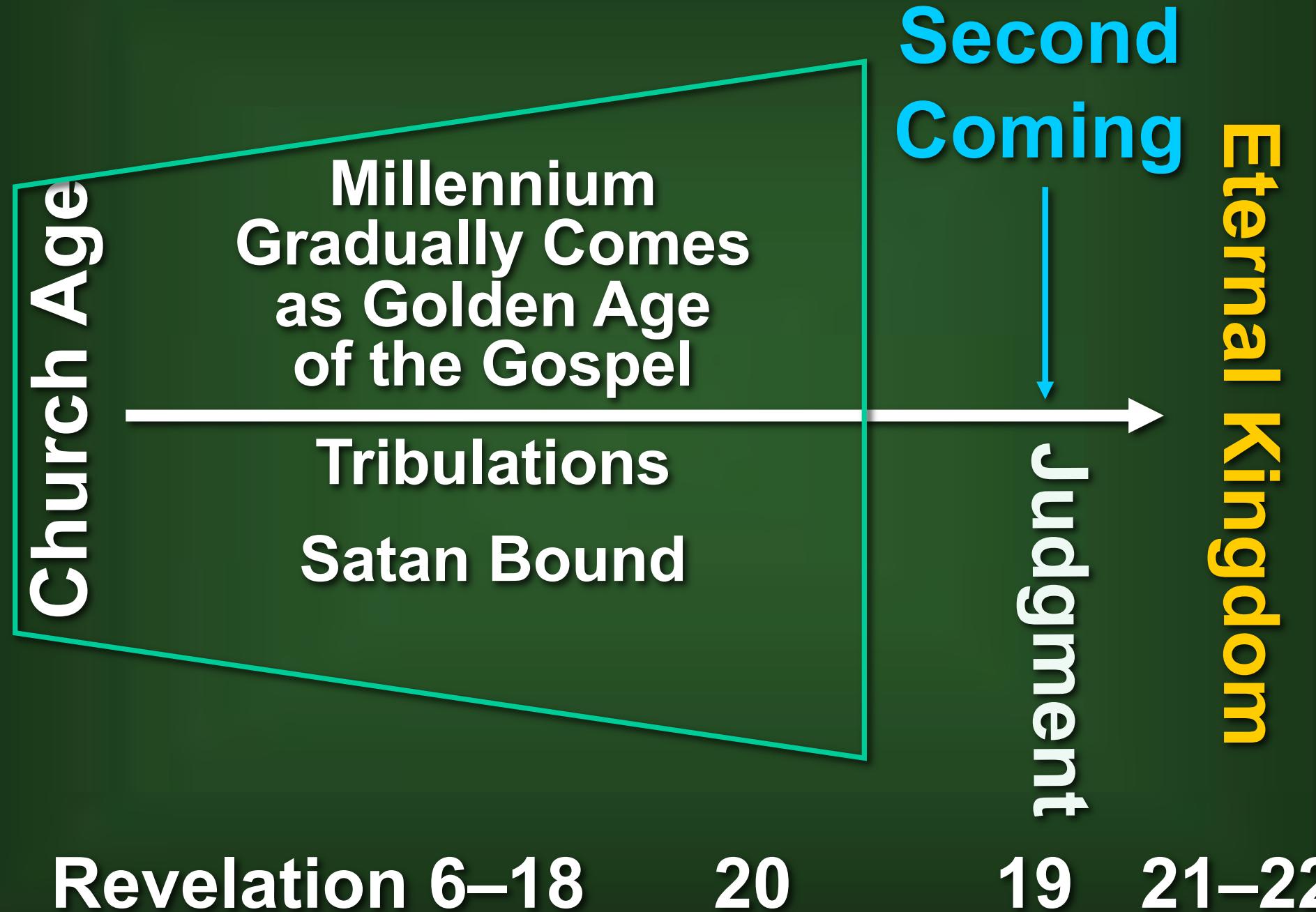
Judgment

Eternal Kingdom

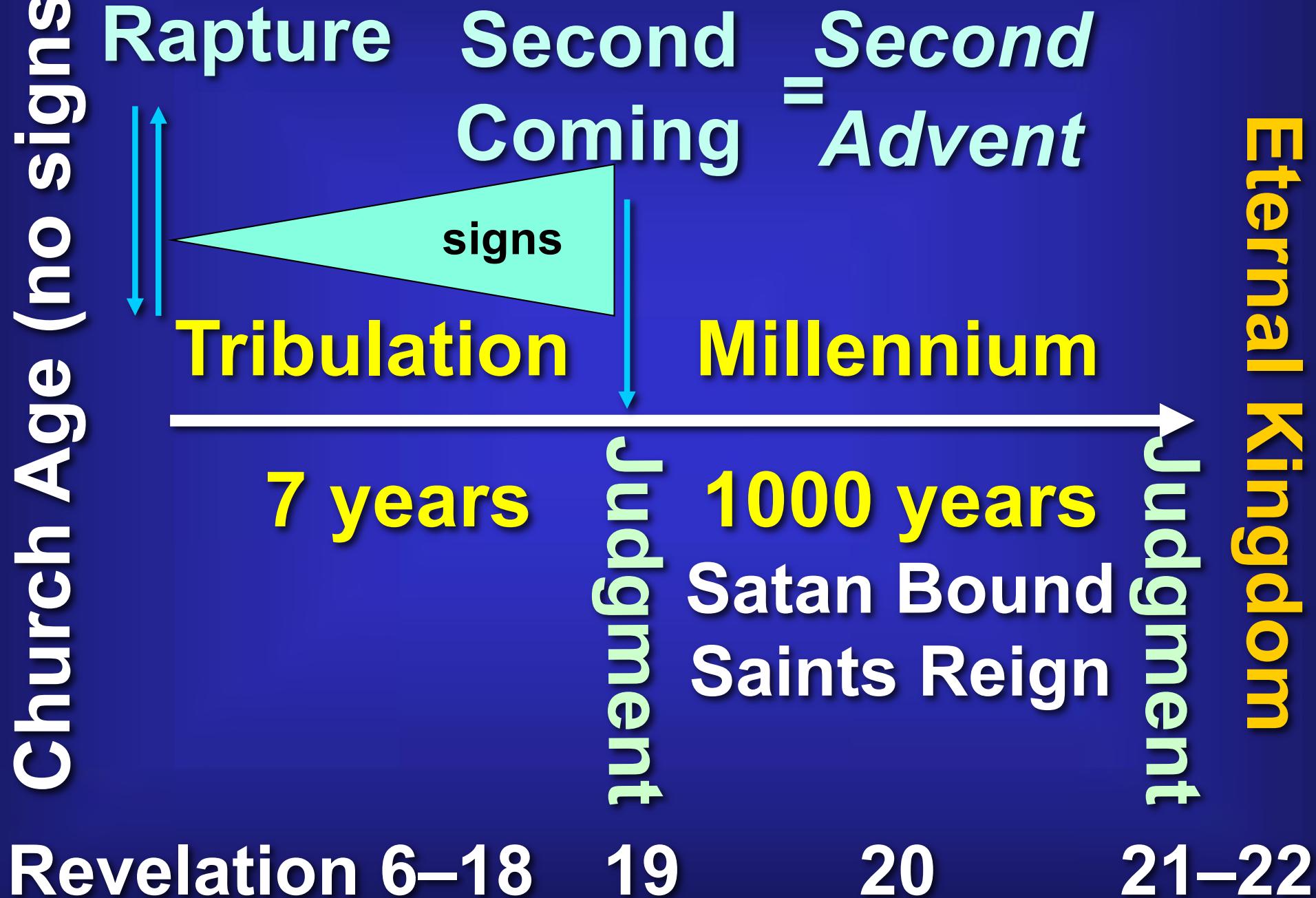
19

21–22

Postmillennialism



Premillennialism



Eschatology

eschatos

+

ology

"last"

"study of"

= study of the last things
(future)



Two Stages of His Return





Two Stages of His Return

Literal
Christ
Future
"Coming"

Rapture

Revelation

208
433

Premillennialism

Second Coming = Second Advent

Church Age

Tribulation

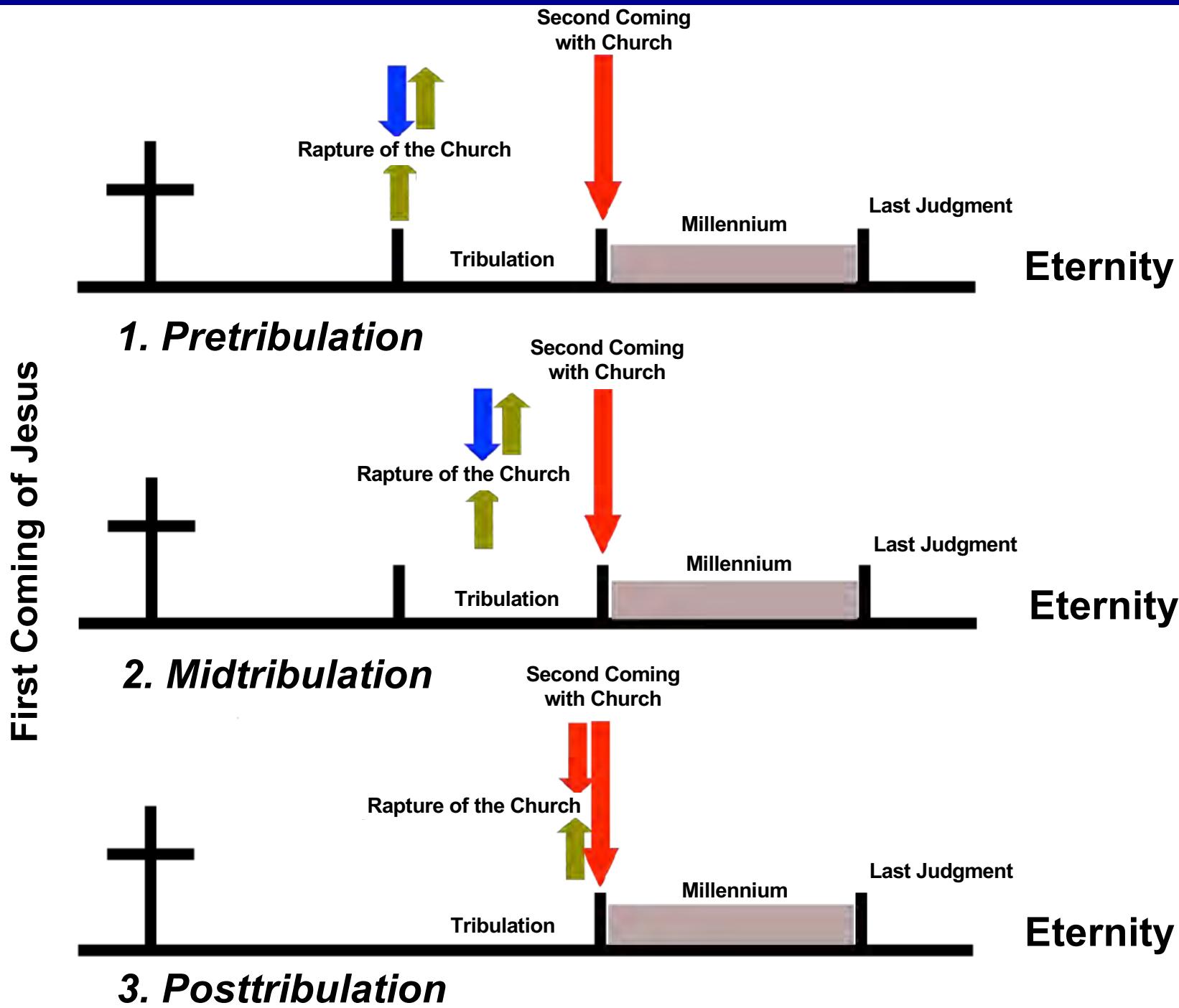
Millennium

Eternal Kingdom

Judgment

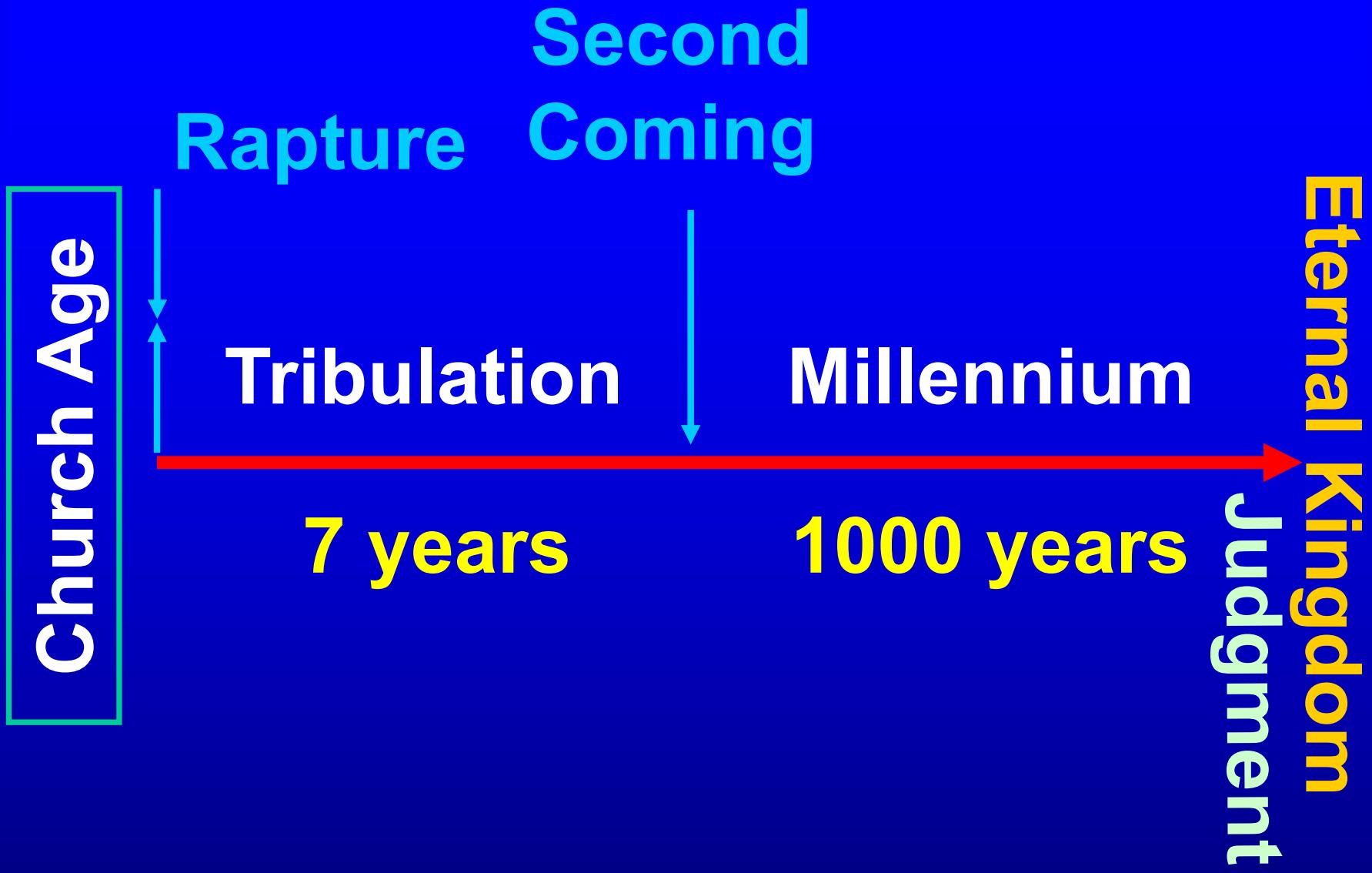
7 years
1000 years
ALL 5 RAPTURE
VIEWS ARE
PREMILLENNIAL

The Main Tribulation Views



209
361

"Pre-Trib" Rapture



Stages of the Second Coming

210

The Rapture	The Revelation
1 <u>Pretribulational</u> (Rev. 3:10)	<u>Posttribulational</u> (Rev. 19:11-21)
2 Christ will <u>come in the air</u> (1 Thess. 4:16)	Christ will <u>come to the earth</u> , His feet touching the Mt. of Olives (Zech 14:4)
3 A coming <u>for</u> the saints (John 14:1-2; 1 Thess. 4:15-17)	A coming <u>with</u> the saints (Matt. 25:31; 1 Thess. 3:13; Rev. 19:14)
4 <u>Saints</u> (dead and alive) will be <u>caught up</u> ("raptured") from the earth to meet the Lord in the air and taken to heaven (1 Thess. 4:16-17)	<u>Saints</u> already on earth will <u>remain on the earth</u> (no Rapture) to be ushered into the Millennium (Acts 15:16; Rev. 5:10; cf. Matt. 4:10; chap. 24)
5 Produces <u>comfort and hope</u> (1 Thess. 4:18)	Produces <u>fear and judgment</u> (Matt. 24:27-31; Luke 21:20-28; Rev. 4:15-17)

Stages of the Second Coming

210

The Rapture	The Revelation
6 <u>Mystery</u> truth revealed only in the New Testament age (1 Cor. 15:51)	<u>Central</u> in OT prophecy but clarified in the NT (Jer. 30:7; Zech 14:1-3; Matt. 24:30; Col. 3:4)
7 <u>Bodies of church saints glorified</u> (1 Cor. 15:51-58; Phil. 3:20-21) and brought to heaven for seven years (1 Thess. 4:17)	<u>Bodies of tribulation saints left in mortal state to continue to live on the earth in the millennium</u> (Matt. 25:31-34)
8 <u>Imminent</u> , no signs needed (1 Thess. 4:16)	<u>Not imminent</u> but preceded by spectacular signs in the heavens and on the earth (Matt. 24:29-31; Luke 21:25-28; Acts 2:19-21; Rev. 1:7; chs. 6-19)
9 Primary purpose is <u>deliverance</u> of the saints from this world (1 Thess. 1:10)	Primary purpose is <u>judgment</u> of unbelieving (Matt. 25:31-46)

Stages of the Second Coming

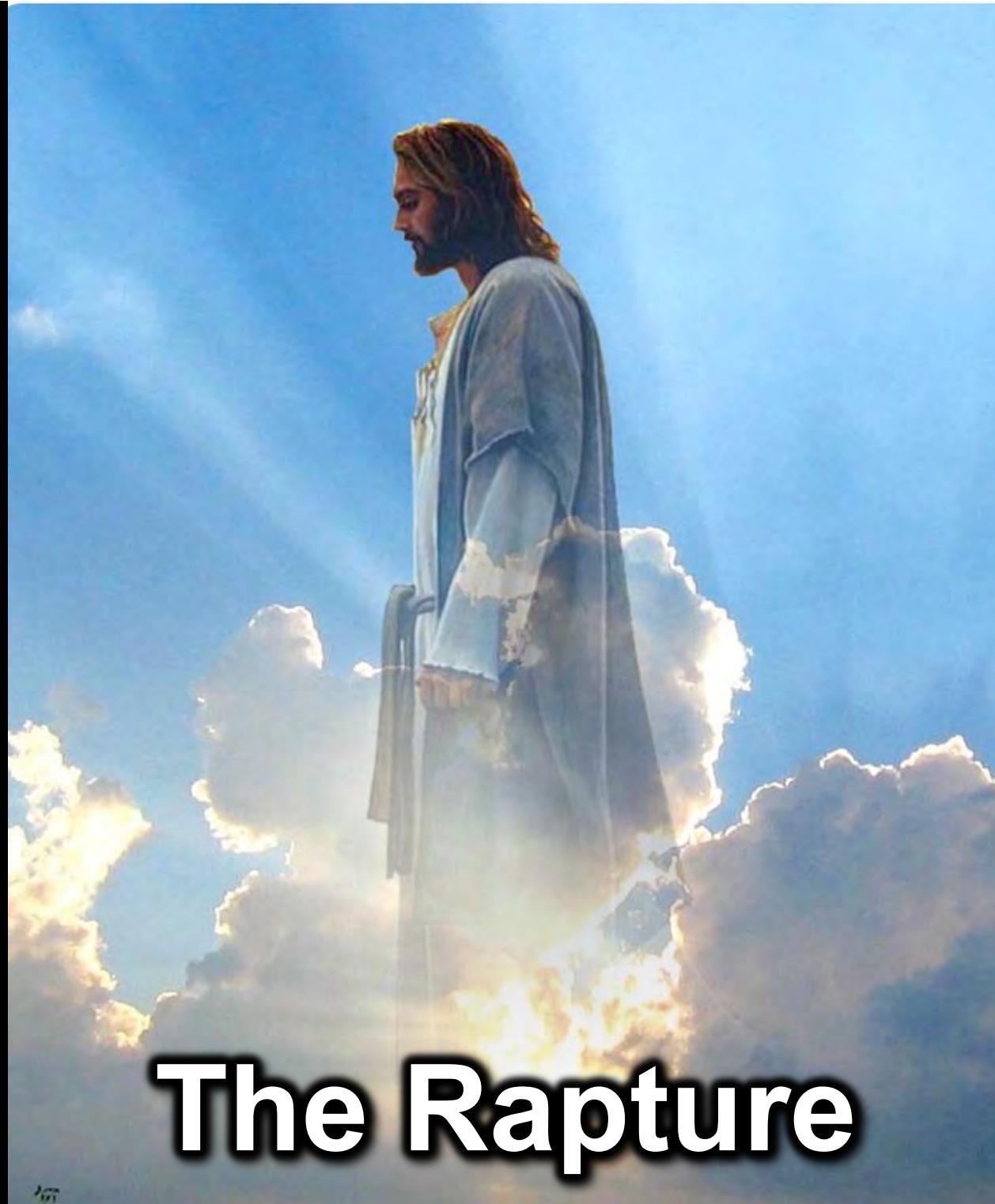
210

The Rapture	The Revelation
10 Invisible and private as only believers see Christ and since God sends a powerful delusion through the Antichrist (2 Thess. 2:11)	Visible and public since "every eye shall see Him" (Rev. 1:7)
11 Fulfills a promise to the <u>Church</u> where Jew-Gentile distinctions do not exist (1 Thess. 4:15; cf. John 14:1-3; Eph. 2:11-16)	Fulfills promises to <u>Israel</u> of covenants made in the Old Testament (Gen. 12:1-3; Ps. 89; Isa. 11:11-14; cf. Rom. 11:26-27)
12 Evil begins to <u>increase</u> (2 Thess. 2:1-12)	Evil is <u>suppressed</u> (2 Thess. 1:7; Ps. 37:9-10)
13 <u>Church</u> removed (1 Thess. 4:13-18)	<u>Satan</u> removed (Rev. 20:1-3)

Stages of the Second Coming

210

The Rapture	The Revelation
14 Christ shown as <u>Head</u> of the Church and all things (Eph. 1:10, 22; 4:15; Col. 1:18; 2:10)	Christ vindicated as <u>Messiah</u> to Israel (Zech. 14:3-4; cf. Acts 1:6 with v. 11)
15 Judgment seat of Christ for <u>believers</u> (2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 3:13)	Judgment of <u>Israel and Gentiles</u> (Ezek. 20:34-38; Matt. 25; Zech. 14:4; cf. p. 160)
16 The <u>Lord</u> is at hand (Phil. 4:5)	The <u>kingdom</u> is at hand (Matt. 24:14)
17 Nature subsequently <u>ruined</u> (Rev. 6–16)	Nature subsequently <u>restored</u> (Rom. 8:19-22; Isa. 11:6-9; 35:9; 65:25)



The Rapture

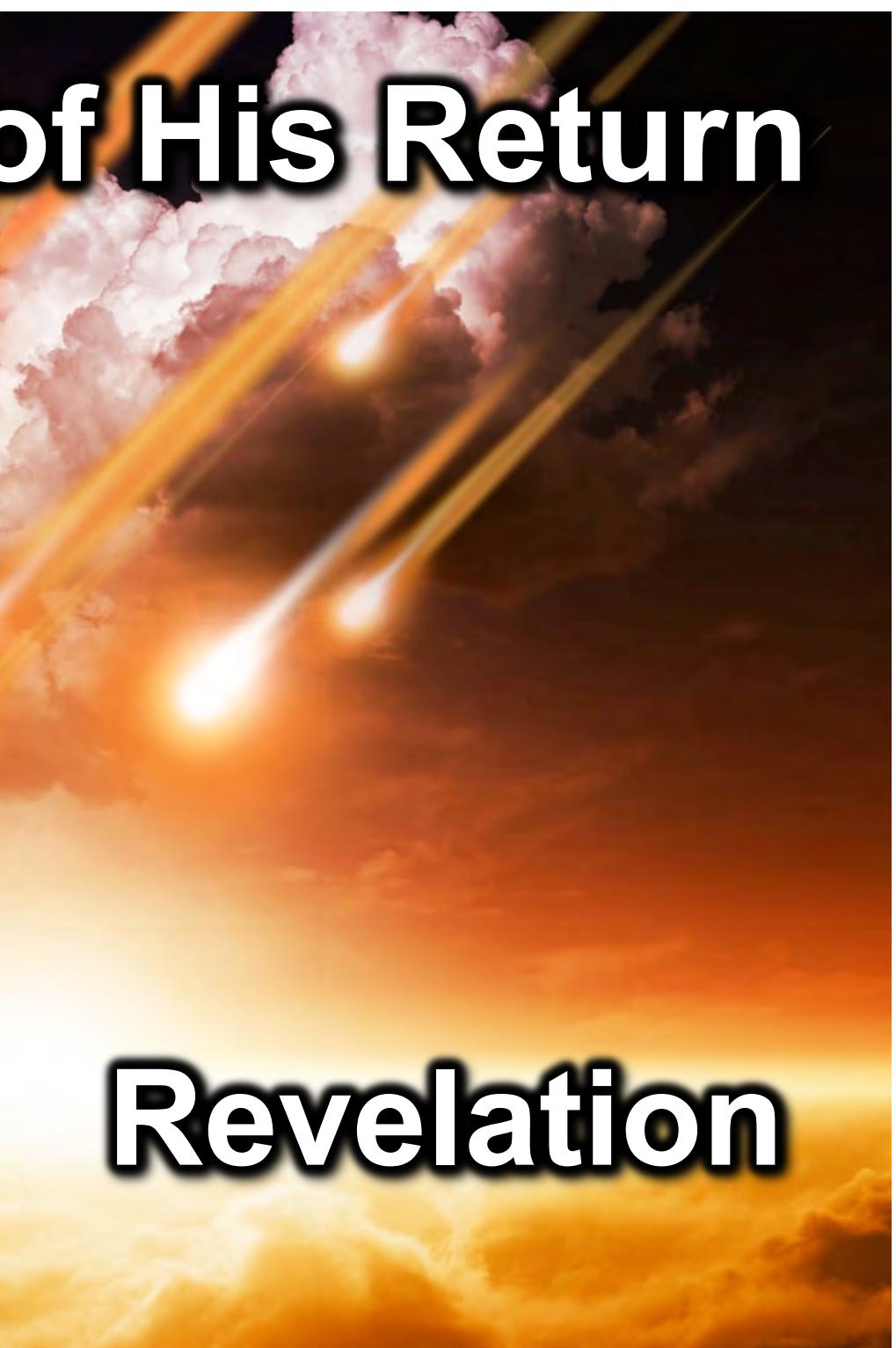
Why should we look forward to the Rapture with **expectancy**?



Two Stages of His Return



Rapture



Revelation

Why should we look forward to the Rapture with **expectancy**?

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

3 Reasons

I. The Rapture helps
us grieve with

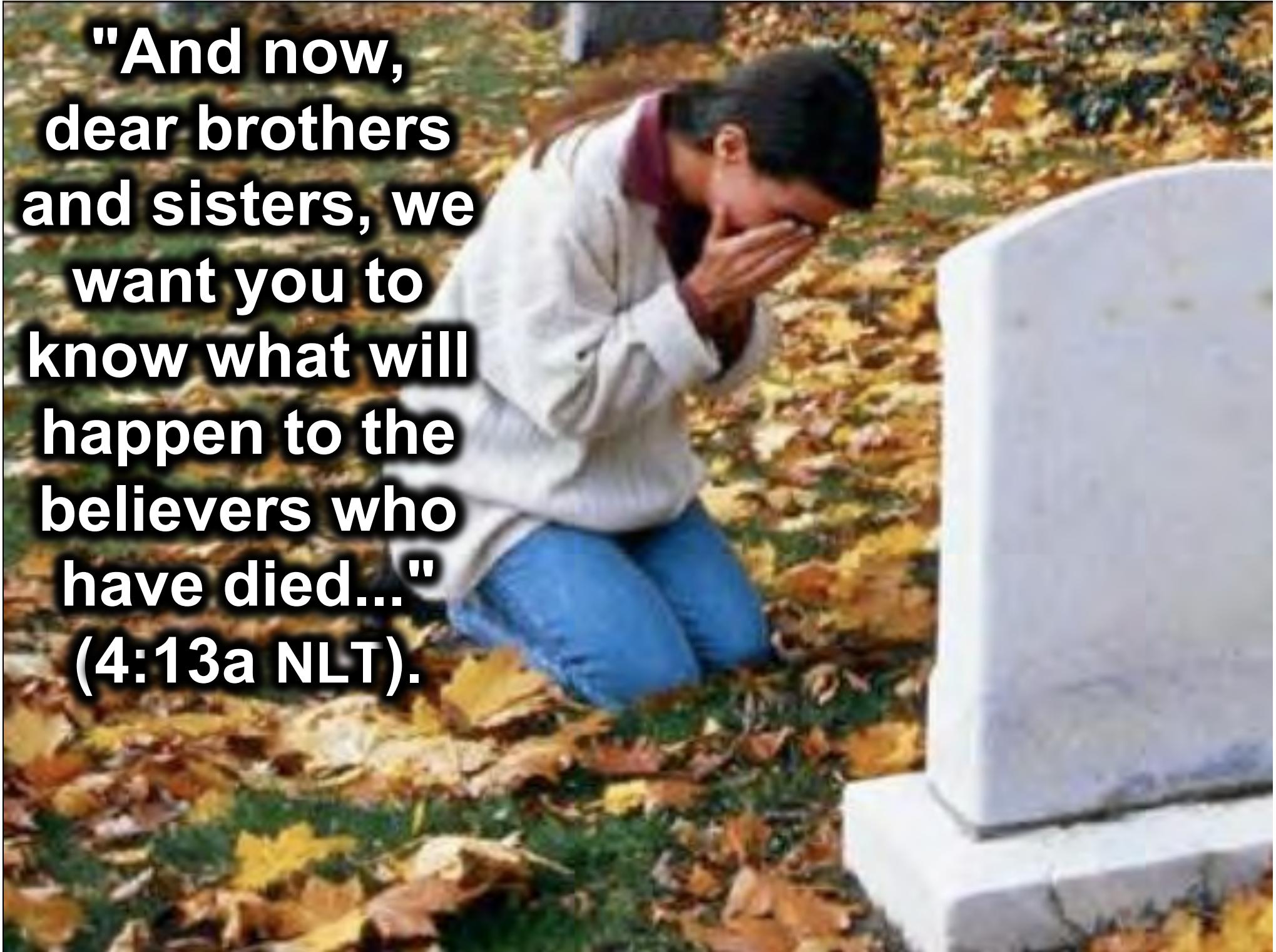
hope

(1 Thess 4:13-14).



**"And now,
dear brothers
and sisters, we
want you to
know what will
happen to the
believers who
have died..."**

(4:13a NLT).





**Know about the future destiny of
believers who die (4:13a).**



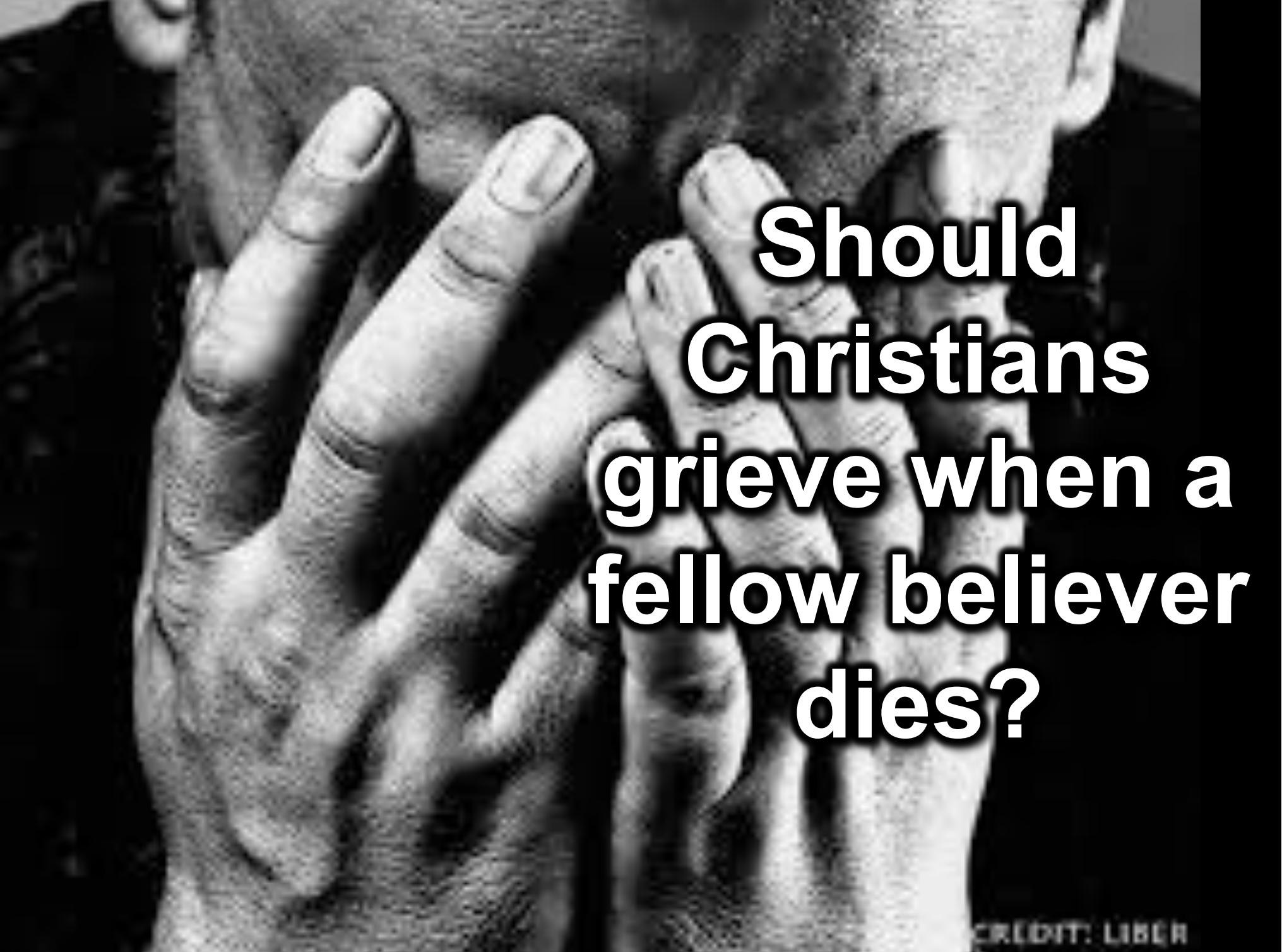
Grief is hard

"Grief is the price we pay for love."
Queen Elizabeth II





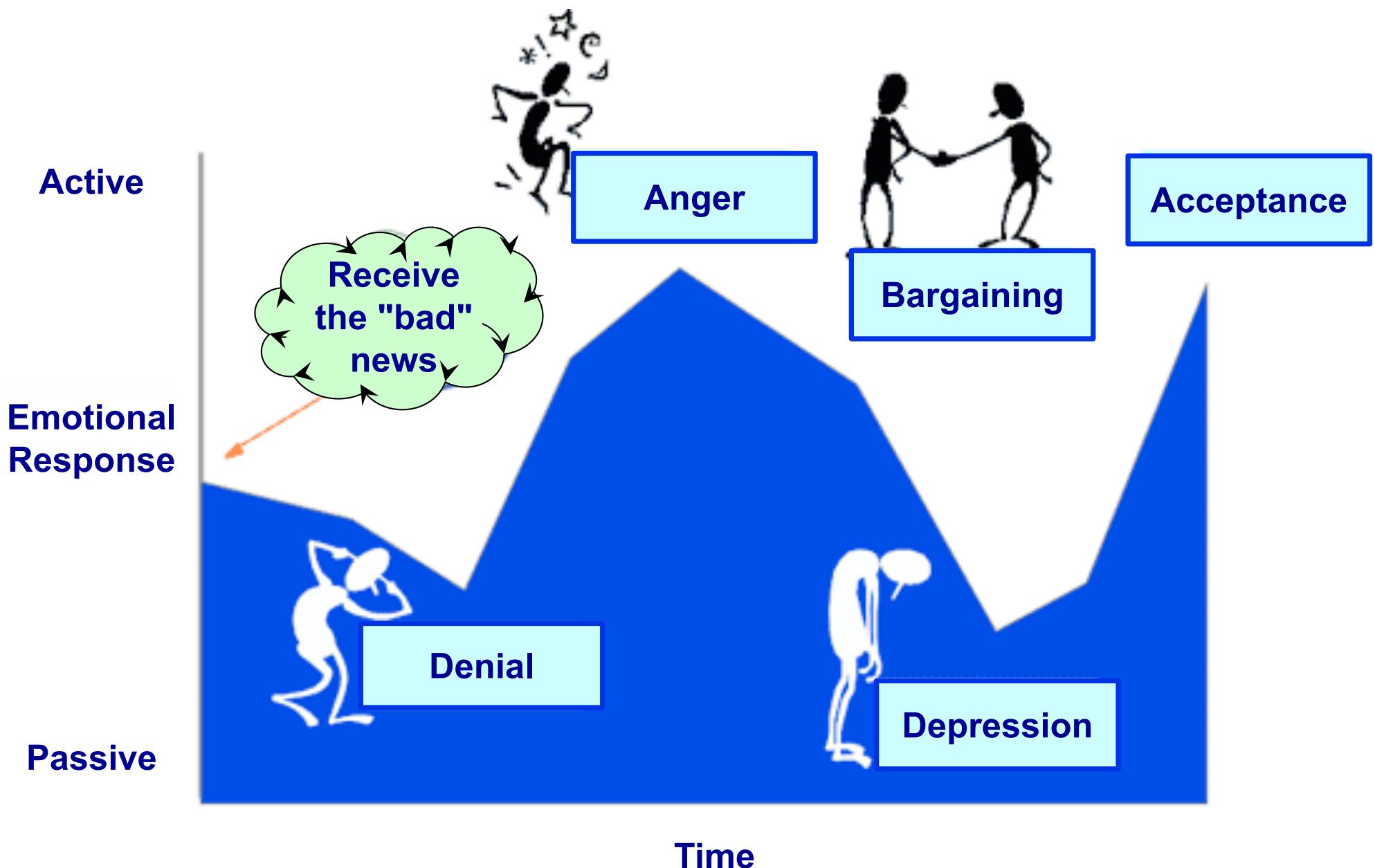
**Being informed about believers
who have died will prevent us
from hopeless grief (4:13b).**



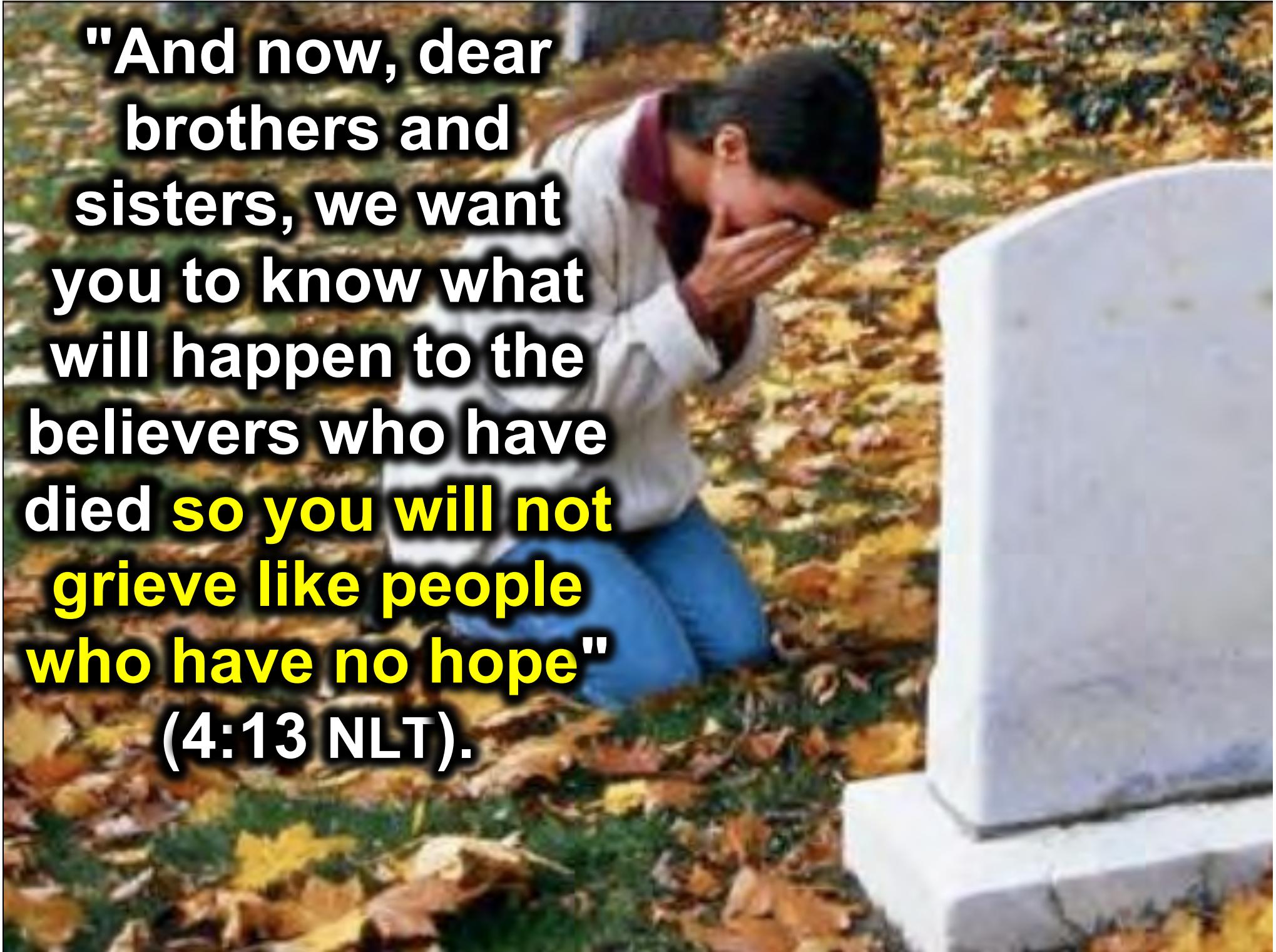
Should
Christians
grieve when a
fellow believer
dies?

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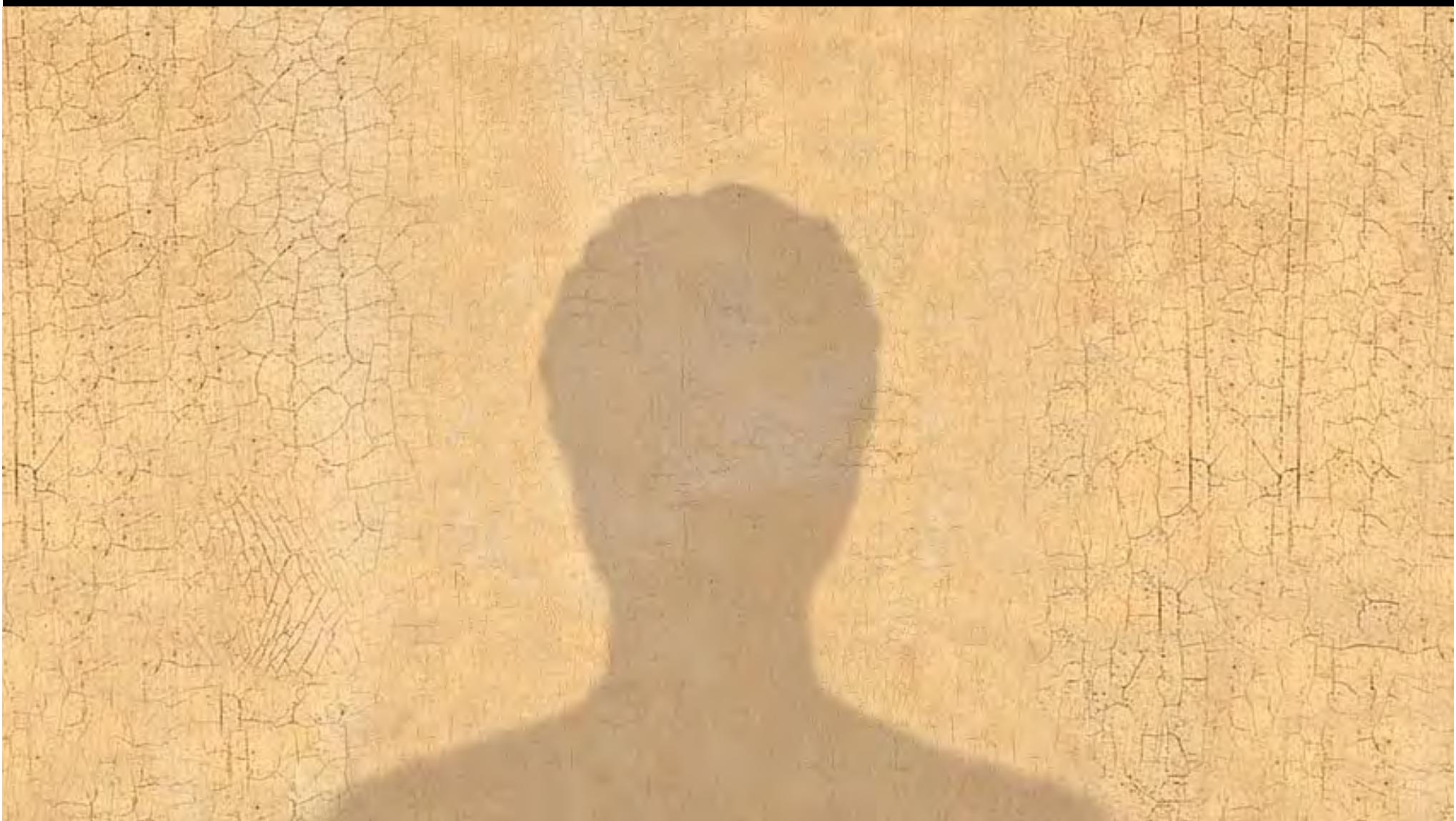
Five Stages of Grief

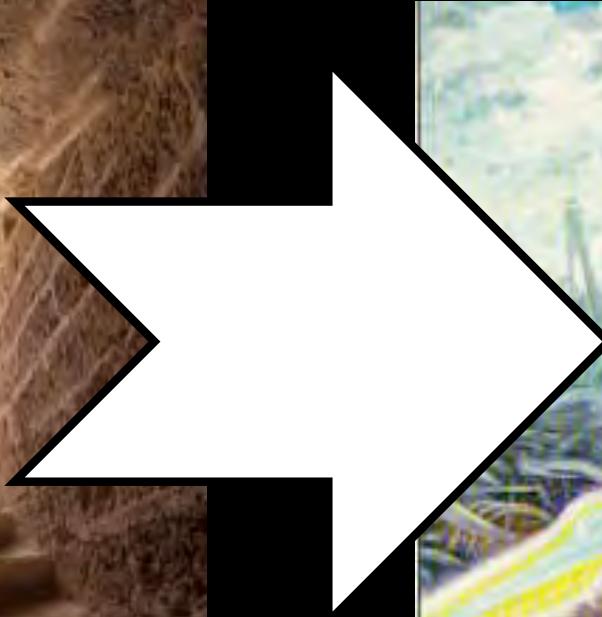


"And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died **so you will not grieve like people who have no hope" (4:13 NLT).**

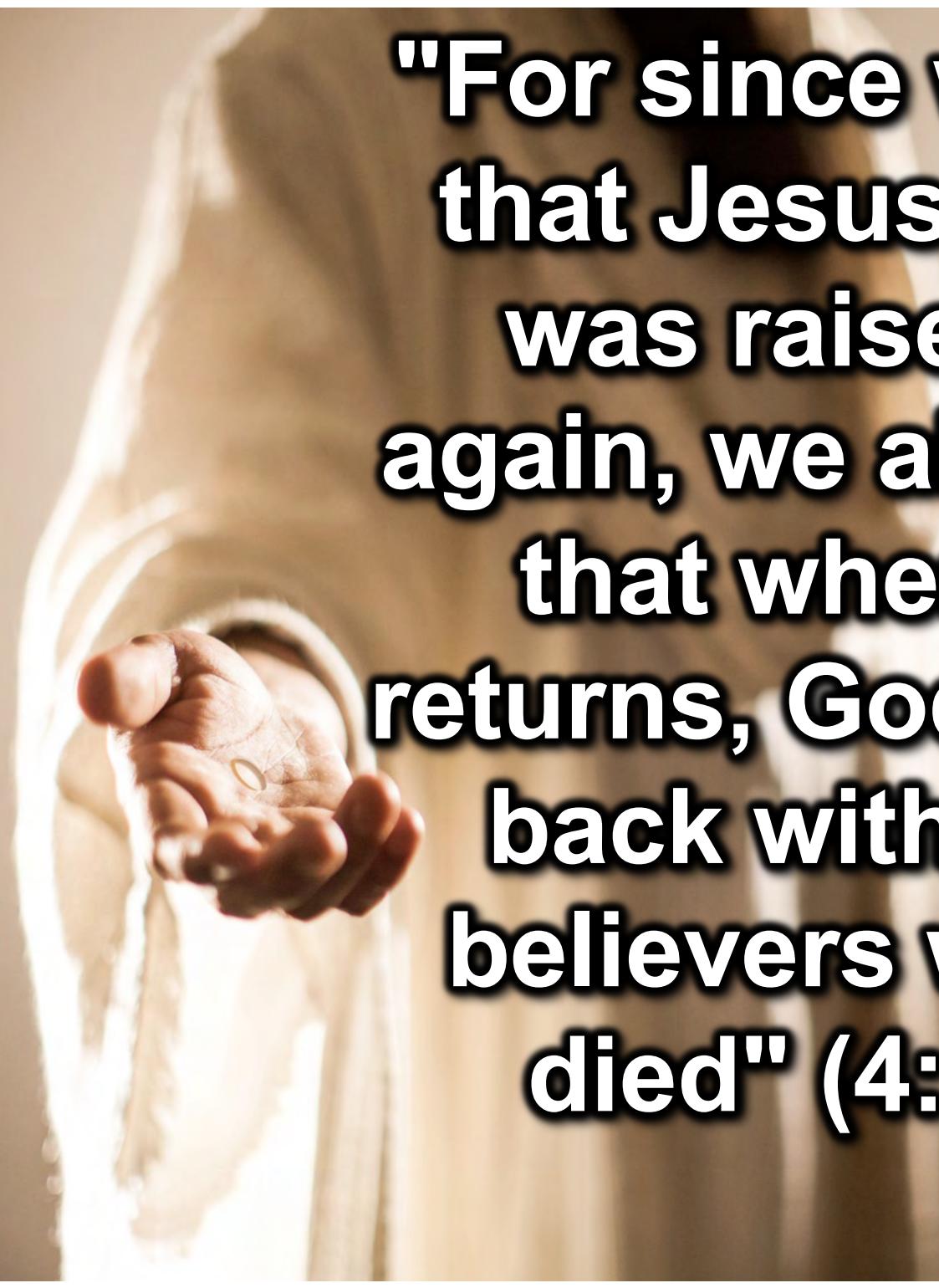


The Rapture





Christ's resurrection guarantees the believer's resurrection (4:14).



"For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died" (4:14 NLT).

The Implications



I. The Rapture helps
us grieve with

hope

(1 Thess 4:13-14).



**II. Christians who have died
will meet Christ in the air
before those living (4:15-17).**



"We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died"
(1 Thess 4:15 NLT).





Some future day
4 amazing events
will happen without
a moment's notice
(4:16-17)

Return

**"For the Lord
himself will come
down from heaven
with a commanding
shout, with the voice
of the archangel, and
with the trumpet call
of God"**

(1 Thess 4:16a NLT).





Christ's Commanding Shout



Voice of an Archangel



The Trumpet Call of God

Resurrection



"First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves"
(1 Thess 4:16b NLT).

**“The dead in
Christ will rise
first”**
(1 Thess. 4:16b)



Rapture

"caught up"—
not "disappear"



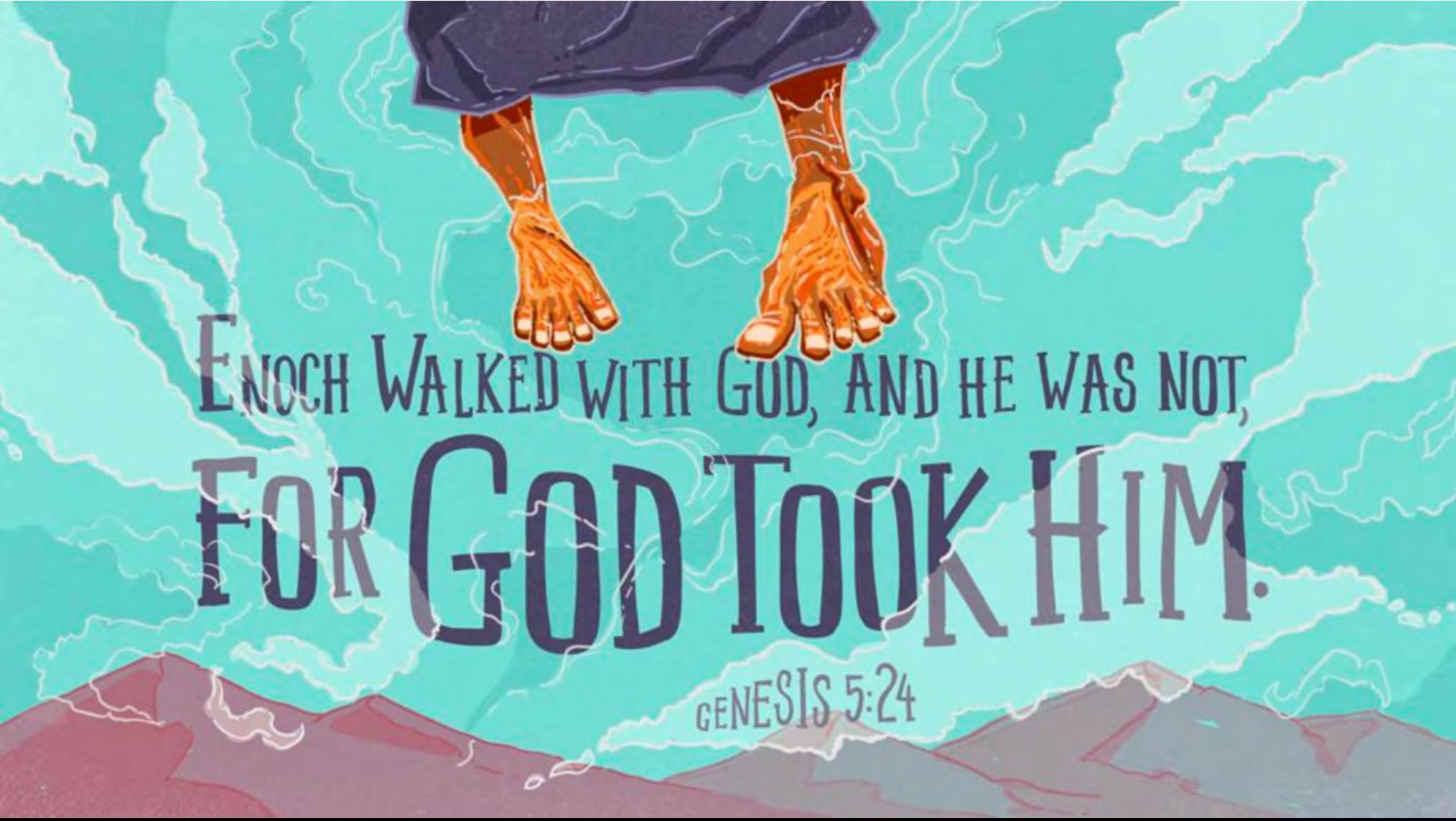
"Then,
together with
them, we who
are still alive
and remain on
the earth will
be **caught up** in
the clouds to
meet the Lord
in the air"
(1 Thess 4:17a
NLT).

From *rapturo*, "to catch up" (Latin)





nipped by the
binary vixen



ENOCH WALKED WITH GOD, AND HE WAS NOT,
FOR GOD TOOK HIM.

GENESIS 5:24



Christ Ascended



"I was caught up to the third heaven"
(2 Cor 12:2 NLT)

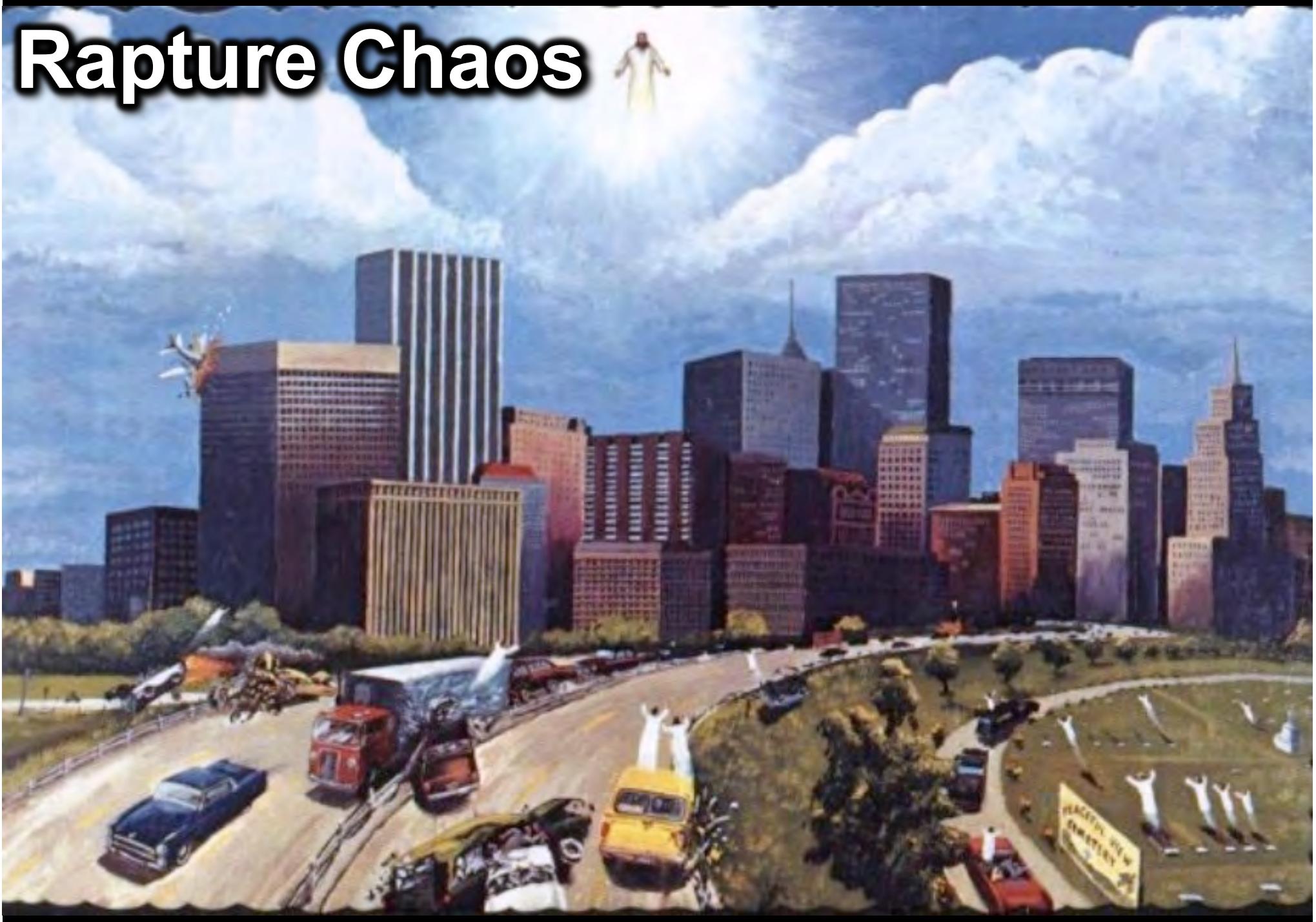


1 Thessalonians 4:17

Rapture Chaos



Rapture Chaos





The Translation

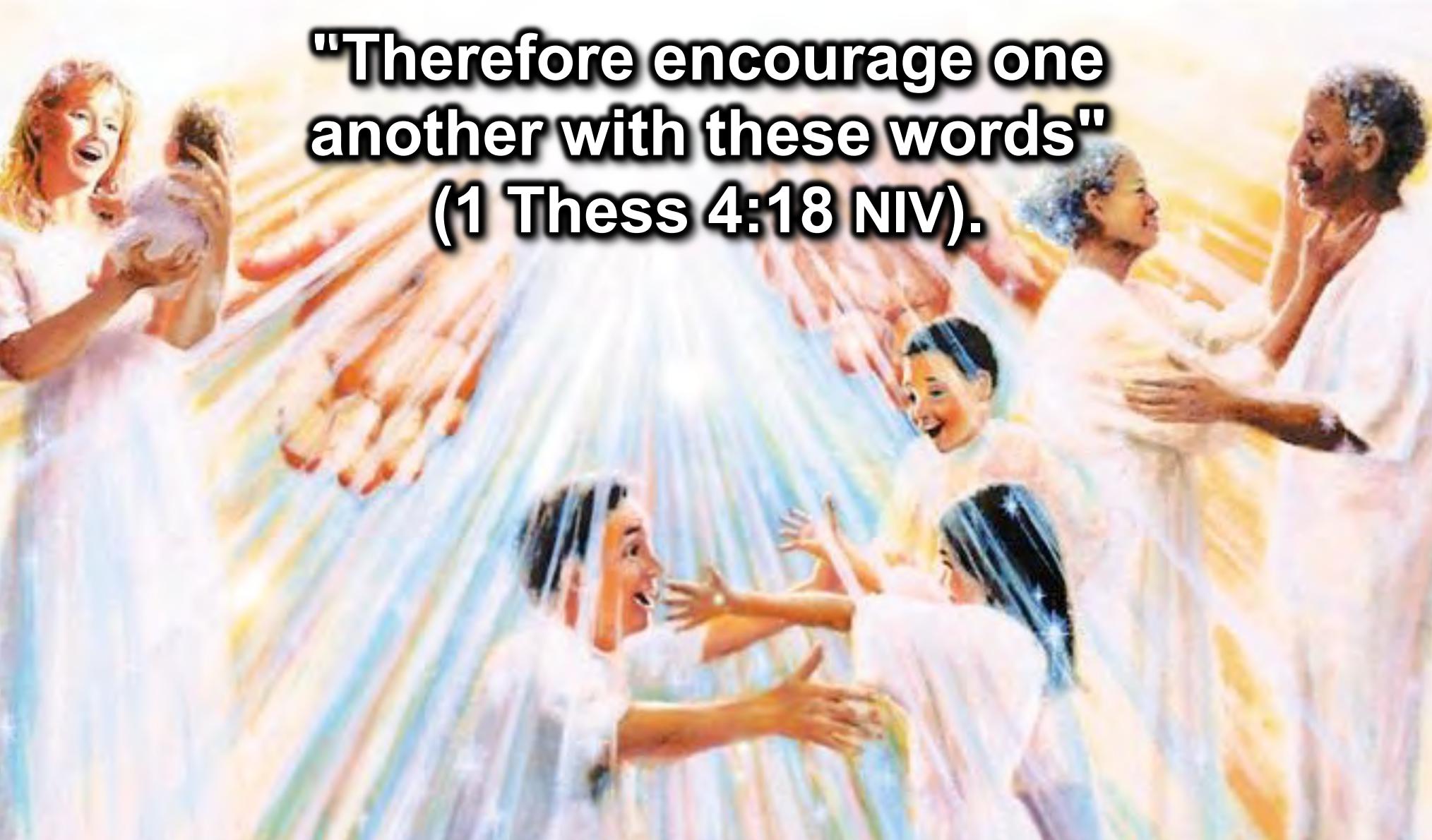
Reunion

"Then we will be with the Lord forever"
(1 Thess 4:17b NLT).



We will join him in the clouds





"Therefore encourage one another with these words"
(1 Thess 4:18 NIV).

III. Christ's return helps us encourage one another (4:18).

Why should we look forward to the Rapture with **expectancy**?





The Rapture
gives hope and
encouragement
that he will
come for **you**.

Main Idea of
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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Premillennialism

Second Coming = Second Advent

Church Age

Tribulation

Millennium

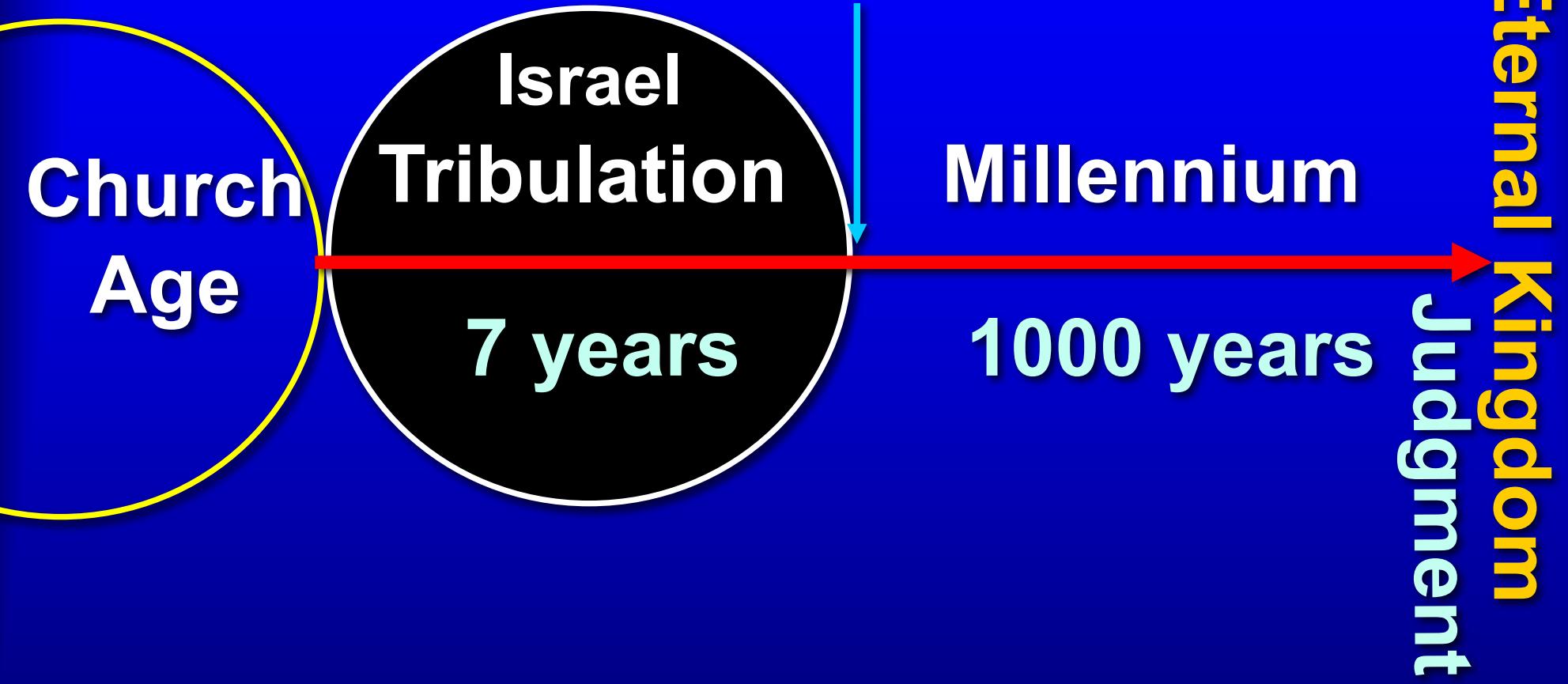
Eternal Kingdom

Judgment

7 years
1000 years
ALL 5 RAPTURE
VIEWS ARE
PREMILLENNIAL

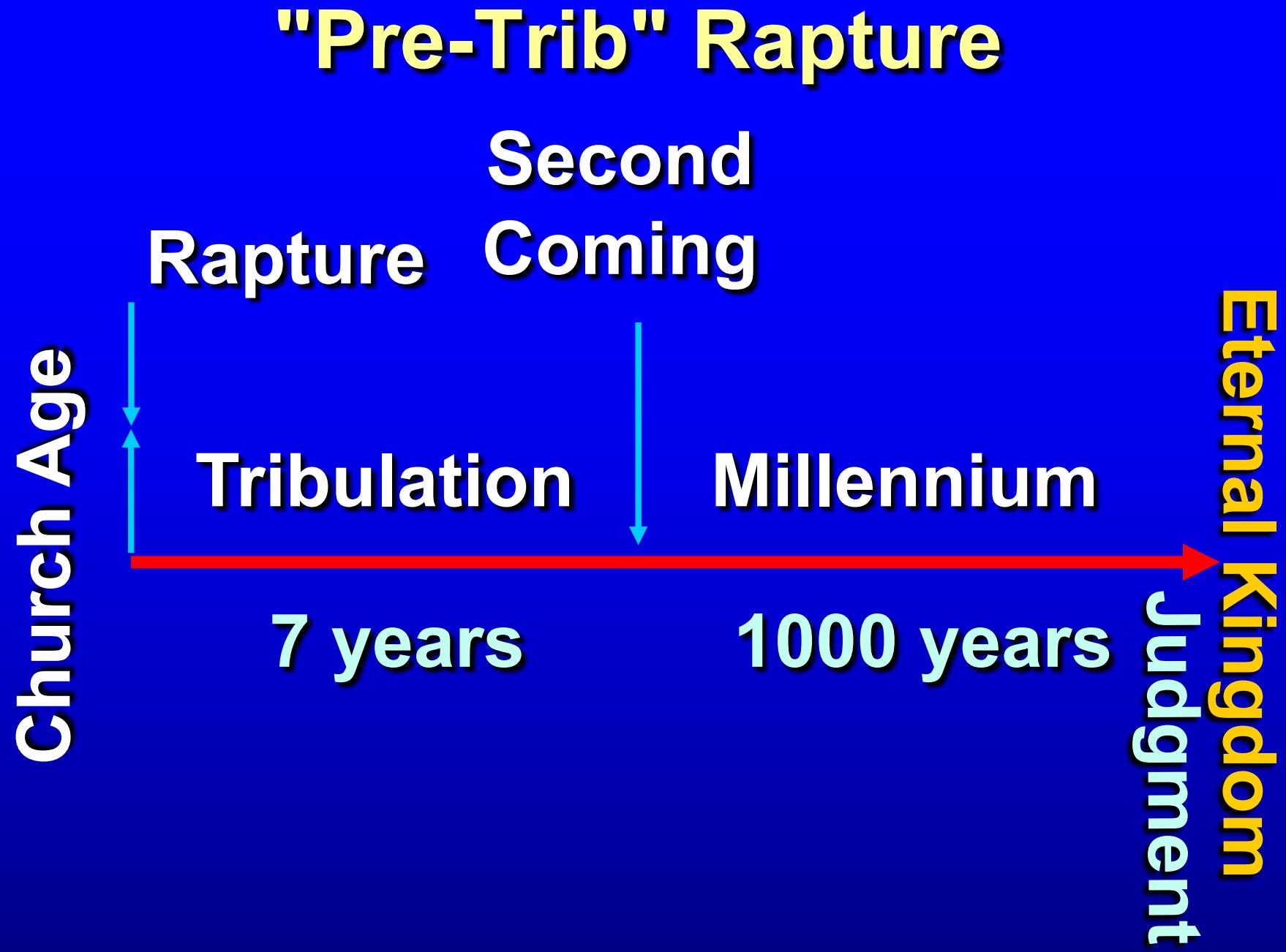
Dispensationalism

Second
Coming



When will the Rapture occur?

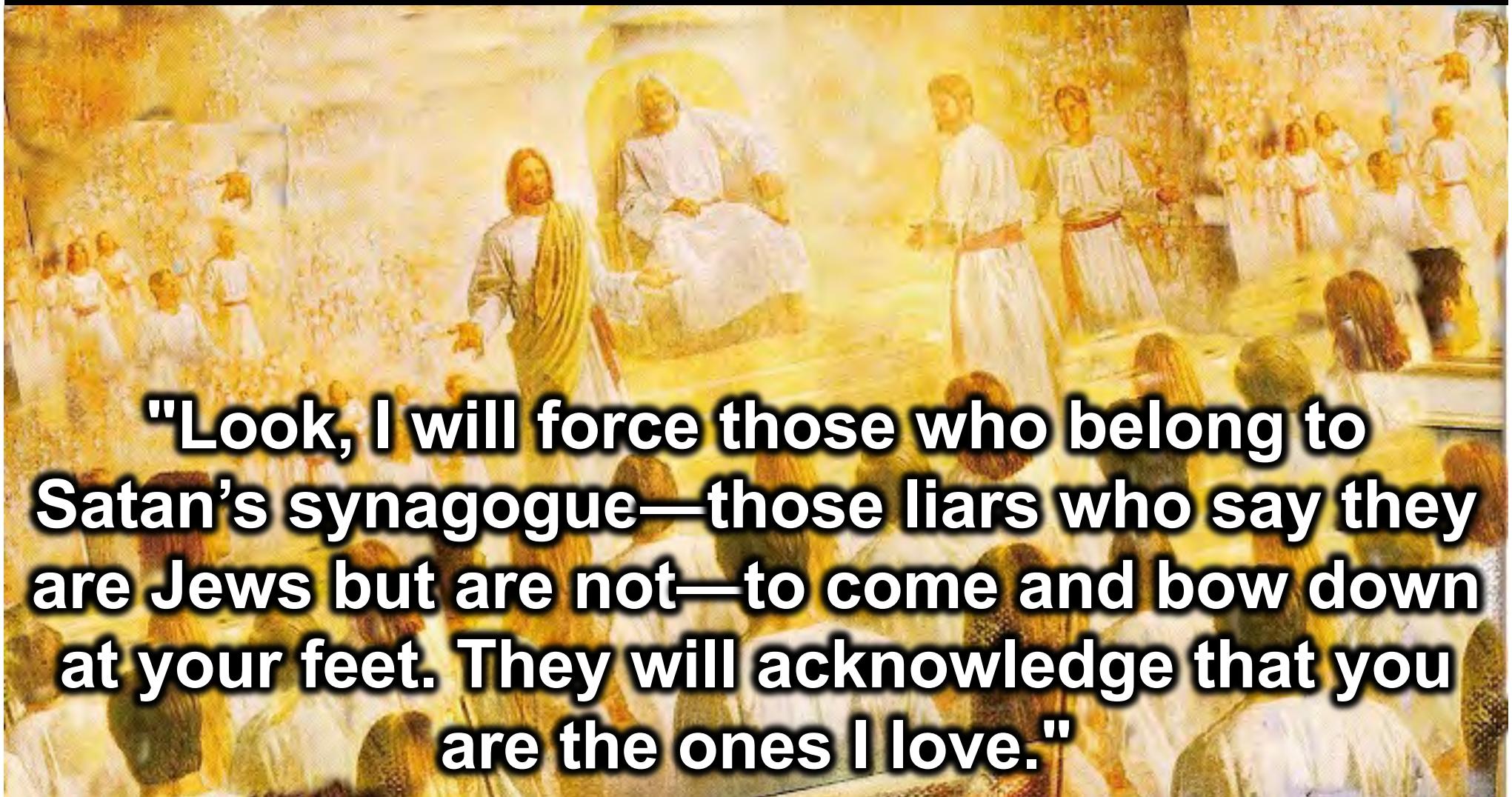




Why Am I Pretrib?

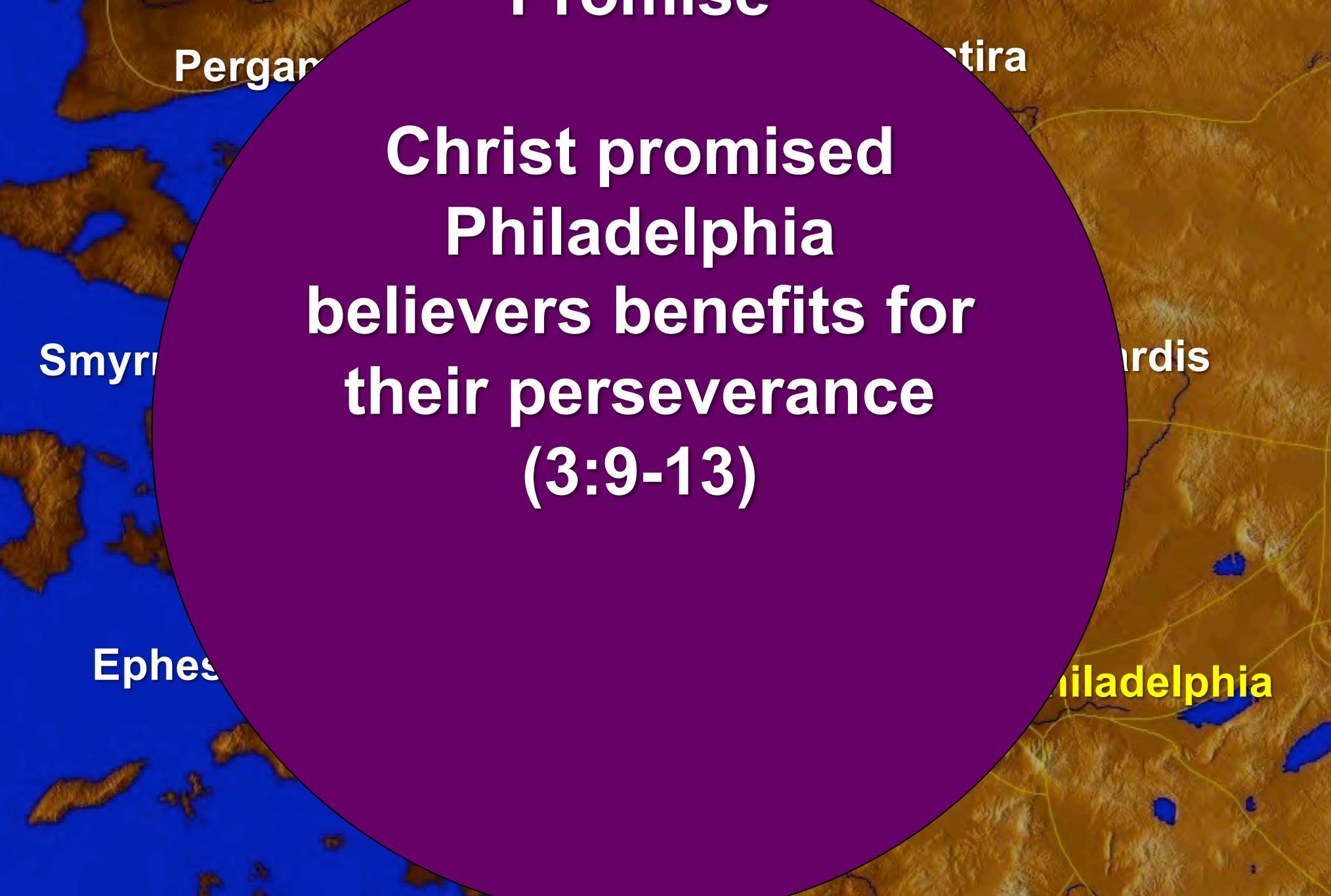
1. Believers will be kept from (ἐκ) this "hour," or time period (Rev. 3:10)

Christ promises honor before enemies (Rev 3:9).



**"Look, I will force those who belong to
Satan's synagogue—those liars who say they
are Jews but are not—to come and bow down
at your feet. They will acknowledge that you
are the ones I love."**

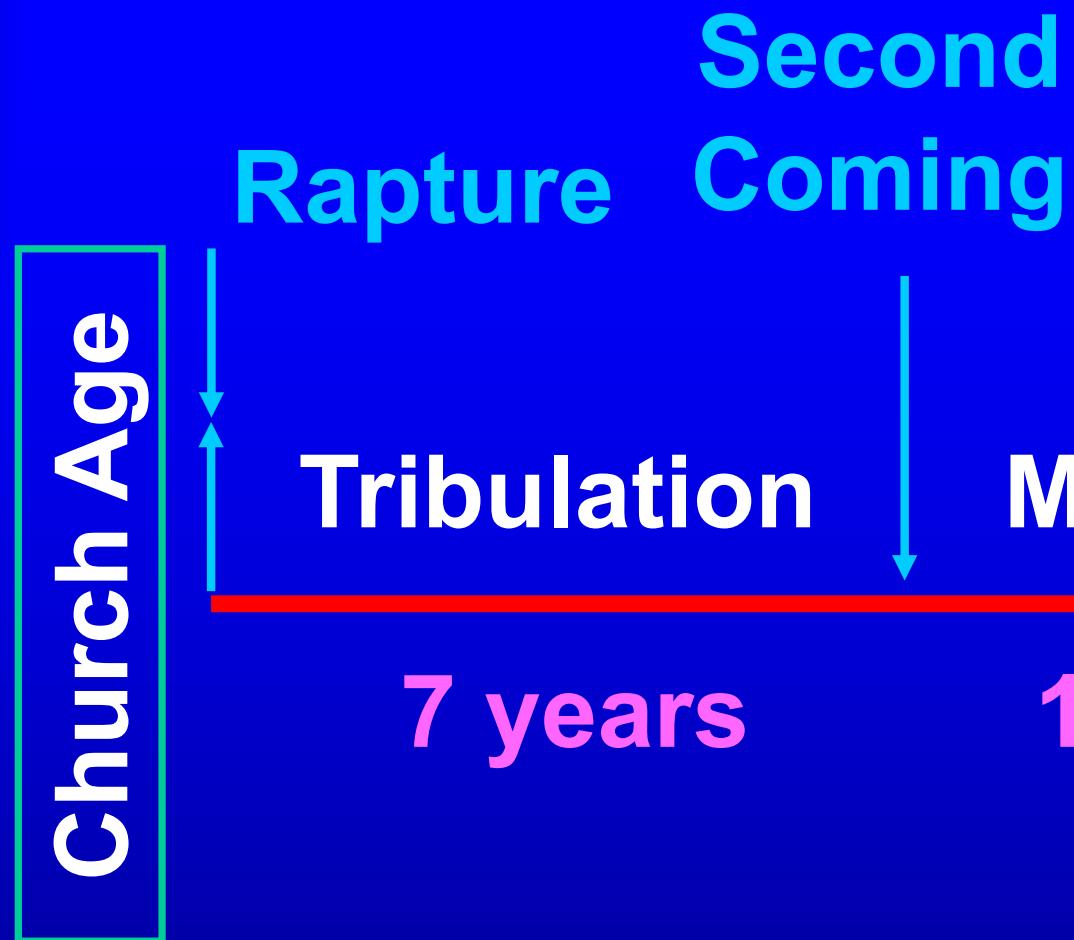
Promise



A map of the Seven Churches of Revelation, showing the locations of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Philadelphia, Sardis, and Laodicea. The city of Philadelphia is highlighted in yellow. The map is set against a background of a coastal town with a church tower.

Christ promised
Philadelphia
believers benefits for
their perseverance
(3:9-13)

"Pre-Trib" Rapture



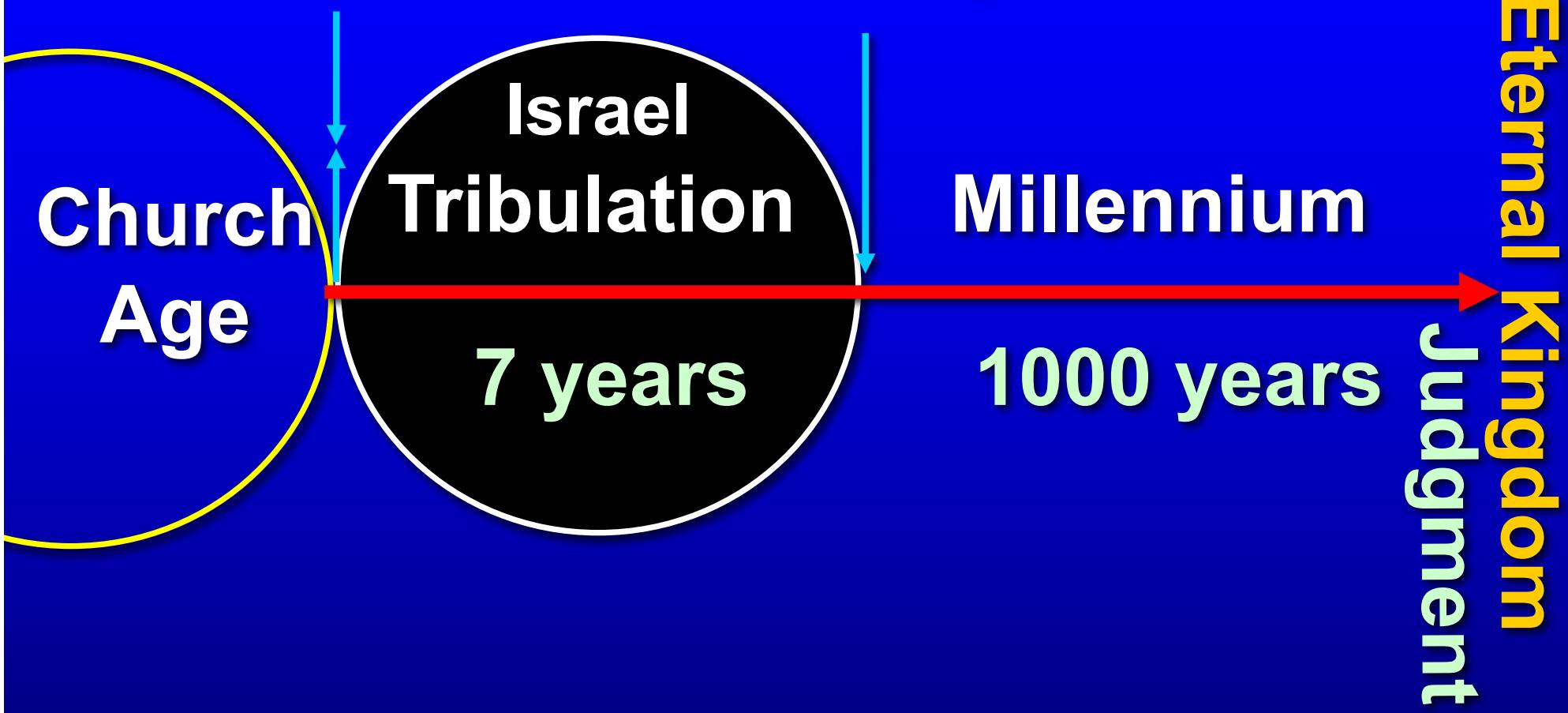
1. "I will keep you from (*έκ*) the hour of testing that will come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth"

(Rev. 3:10)

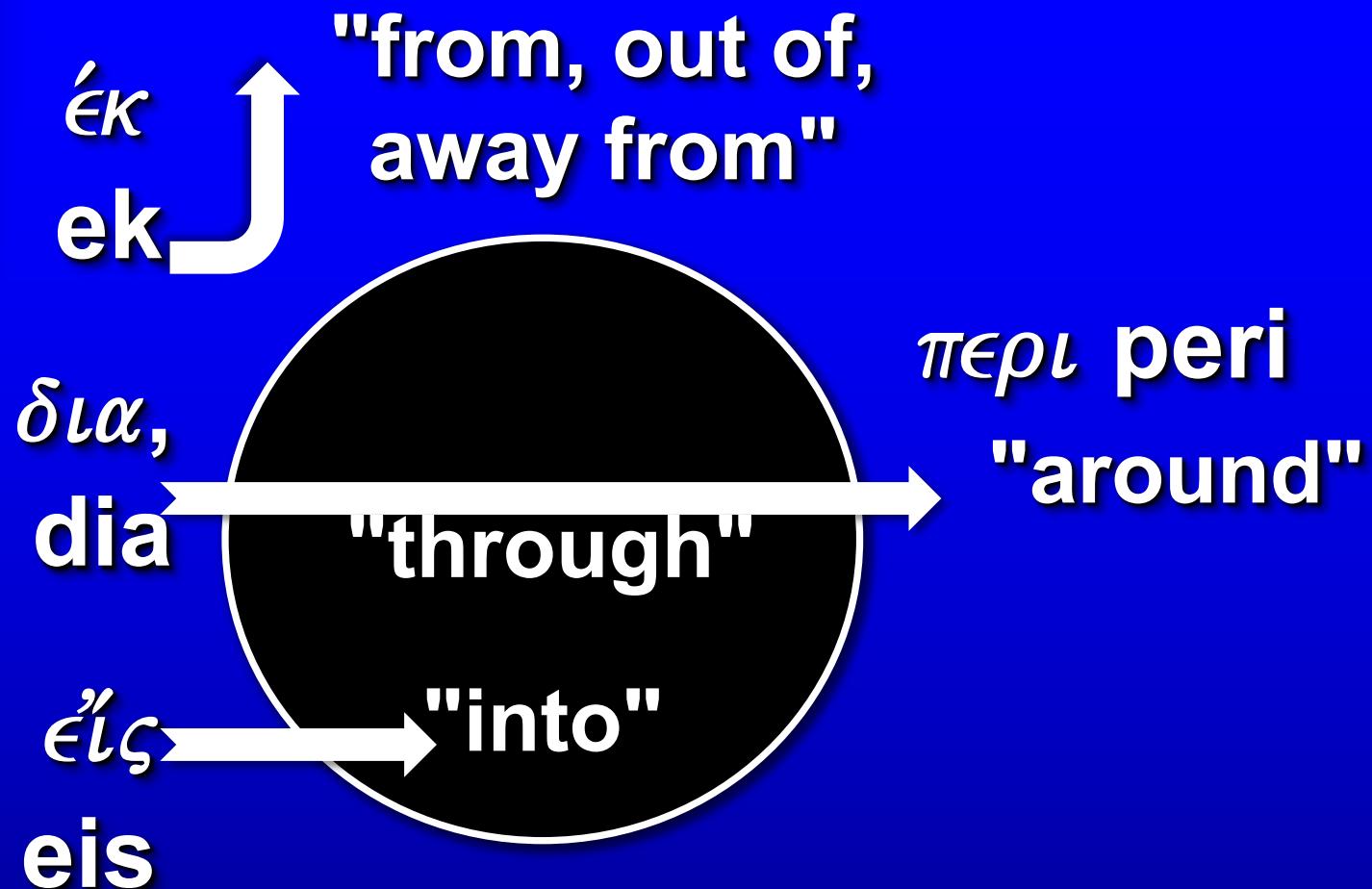


Deliverance from the Tribulation

Second
Coming



Greek Prepositions



"Pre-Trib" Rapture



1. "I will keep you from (*έκ*) the hour of testing that will come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth"

(Rev. 3:10)



The Only Other NT Occurrence of "Keep From" ($\tauηρέω \epsilon\kappa$) 209

The idea of being taken out of the world relates to being removed from the world

sphere of
"the evil
one"

$\epsilon\kappa$
ek

"from, out of,
away from"

1. "I do not ask you to take them out of ($\epsilon\kappa$) the world, but to keep them from ($\epsilon\kappa$) the evil one"
(John 17:15)

Not kept in Satan's sphere
parallels
not kept in Tribulation Period

"Pre-Trib" Rapture



Each time this "phrase occurs... **the enemies** of the church are always in mind"

—Mounce, 120

2. "I will keep you from (έκ) the hour of testing that will come upon the whole world, **to test those who dwell upon the earth**"

(Rev. 3:10)



Why Am I Pretrib?

1. Believers will be kept from ($\epsilon\kappa$) this "hour," or time period (Rev. 3:10)
2. The Tribulation tests unbelievers (3:10) under God's wrath (6:16-17)
3. The Holy Spirit's work of restraining evil will be absent (2 Thess. 2:6-7).

$\tauὸ\ \kappaτέχον$

"what restrains" = neuter, 2:6 = gospel preaching)

$\delta\ \kappaτέχων$

("he who restrains" = masculine, 2:7 = a

person)

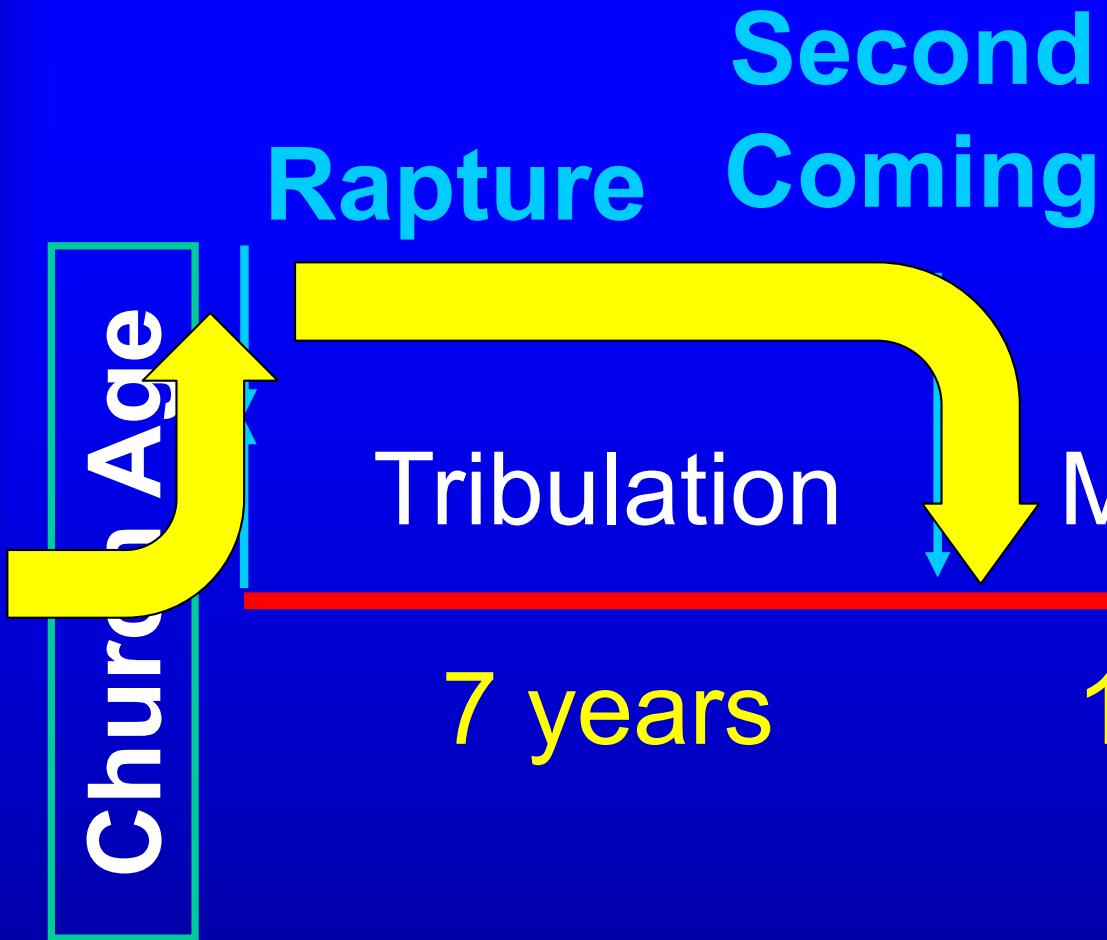
$\piνυ\epsilon\mu\alpha$

("Spirit" = neuter noun but used of a person)

Why Am I Pretrib?

4. The church is never mentioned in the Tribulation chapters (Rev. 4-19) except as the "tabernacle of God" in heaven (13:6; cf. Eph. 2:21-22)
5. The Church will never come under God's wrath (John 5:24, Rom. 5:9; 8:1; 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9). Persecution and wrath are completely different!

"Pre-Trib" Rapture



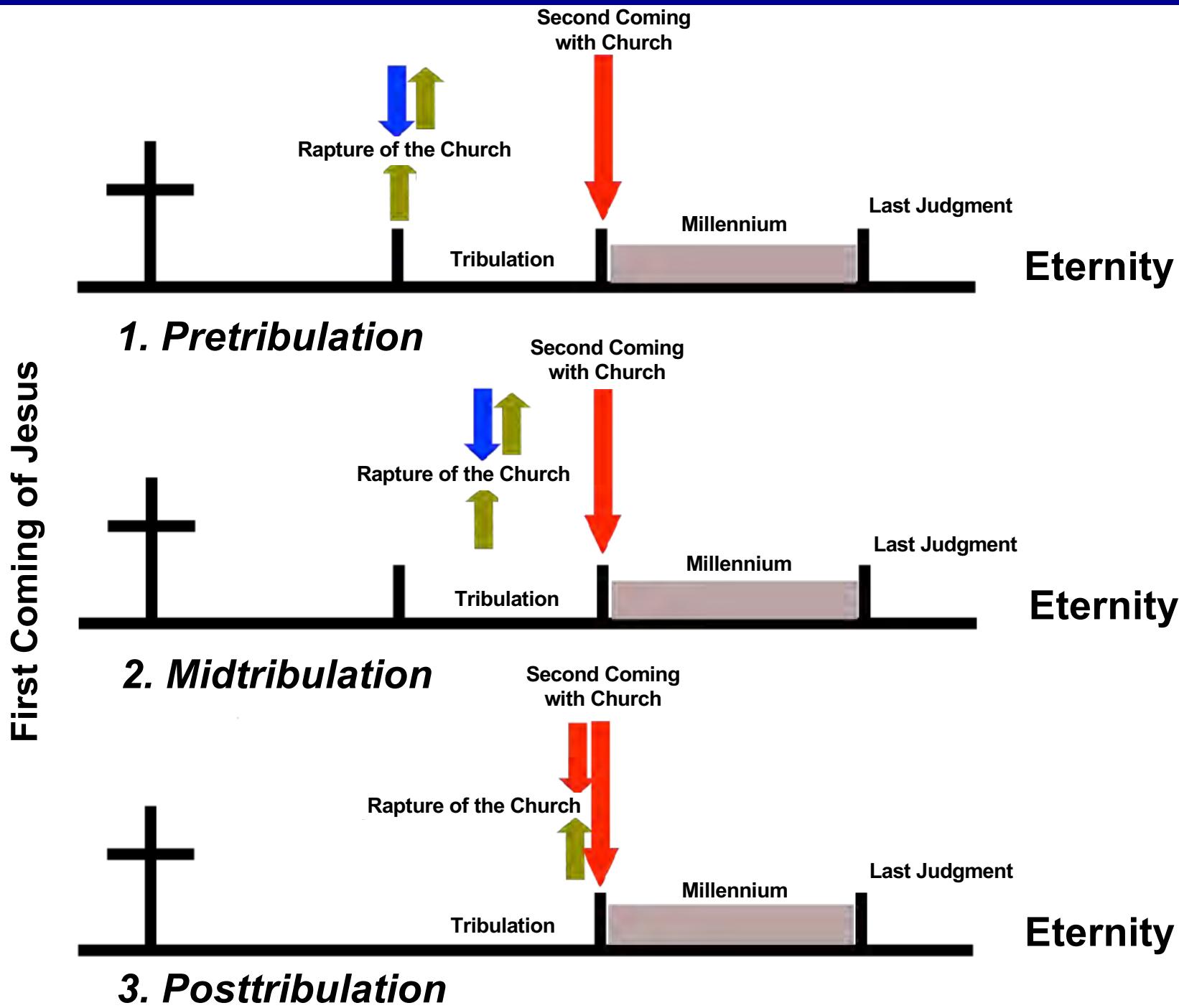
5. The Church will never come under God's wrath:

- John 5:24
- Rom. 5:9; 8:1
- 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9
- Rev. 6:15-17
- Rev. 11:18
- Rev. 14:10, 19

Why Am I Pretrib?

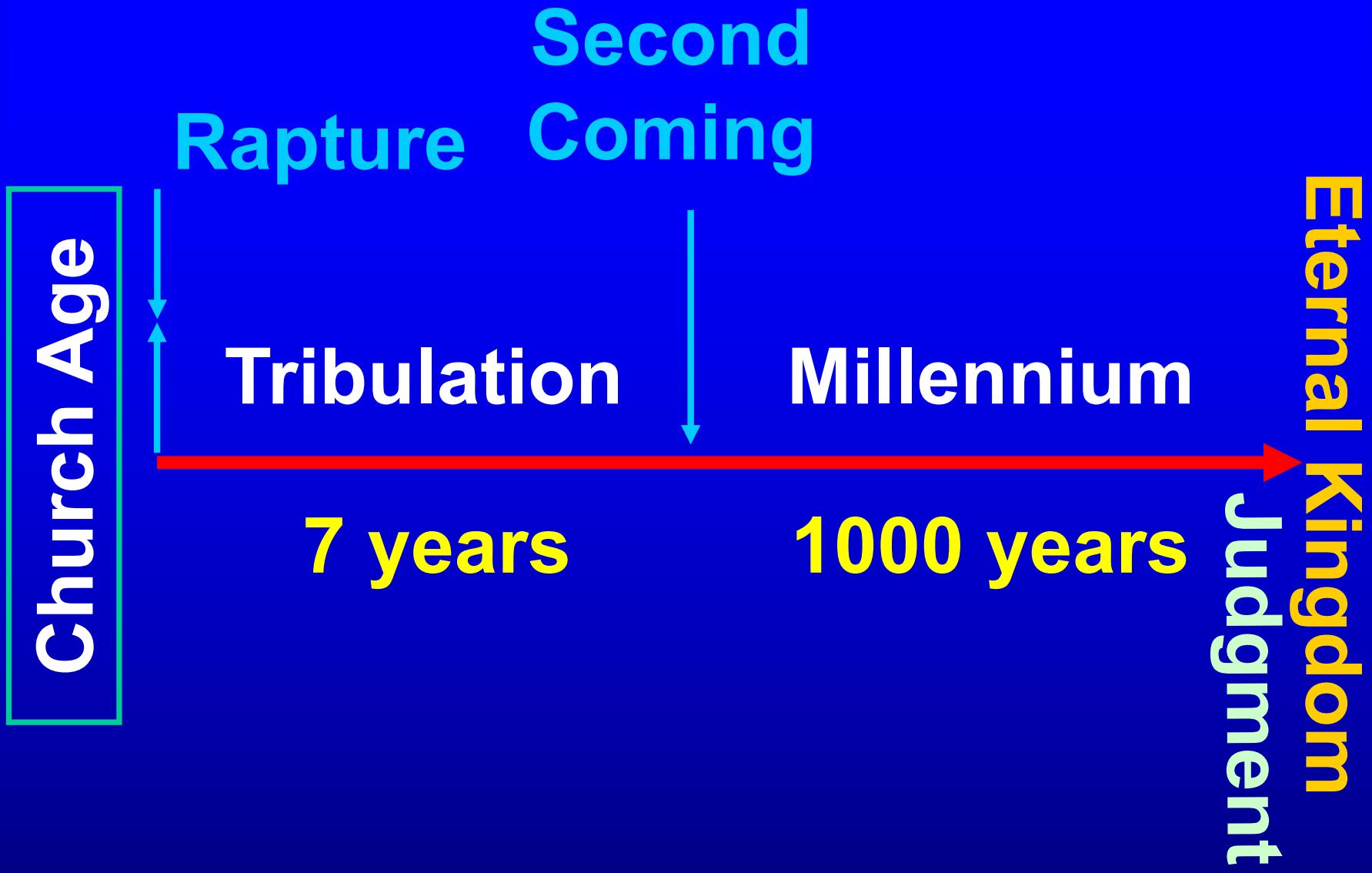
6. The Rapture is imminent ("can happen at any time"), so it must also be pretribulational:
 - a. "...the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night" (1 Thess. 5:2)
 - b. "I will come back and take you to be with me" (John 14:3) = "I am coming" in immediate future without signs
 - c. James 5:8-9; Tit. 2:13; Heb. 9:28; 1 Pet. 1:6-7; 1 John 2:28; 3:2-3; Rev. 22:10, 12

The Main Tribulation Views



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"Pre-Trib" Rapture



Stages of the Second Coming

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The Rapture	The Revelation
1 <u>Pretribulational</u> (Rev. 3:10)	<u>Posttribulational</u> (Rev. 19:11-21)
2 Christ will <u>come in the air</u> (1 Thess. 4:16)	Christ will <u>come to the earth</u> , His feet touching the Mt. of Olives (Zech 14:4)
3 A coming <u>for</u> the saints (John 14:1-2; 1 Thess. 4:15-17)	A coming <u>with</u> the saints (Matt. 25:31; 1 Thess. 3:13; Rev. 19:14)
4 <u>Saints</u> (dead and alive) will be <u>caught up</u> ("raptured") from the earth to meet the Lord in the air and taken to heaven (1 Thess. 4:16-17)	<u>Saints</u> already on earth will <u>remain on the earth</u> (no Rapture) to be ushered into the Millennium (Acts 15:16; Rev. 5:10; cf. Matt. 4:10; chap. 24)
5 Produces <u>comfort and hope</u> (1 Thess. 4:18)	Produces <u>fear and judgment</u> (Matt. 24:27-31; Luke 21:20-28; Rev. 4:15-17)

Stages of the Second Coming

210

The Rapture	The Revelation
6 <u>Mystery</u> truth revealed only in the New Testament age (1 Cor. 15:51)	<u>Central</u> in OT prophecy but clarified in the NT (Jer. 30:7; Zech 14:1-3; Matt. 24:30; Col. 3:4)
7 <u>Bodies of church saints glorified</u> (1 Cor. 15:51-58; Phil. 3:20-21) and brought to heaven for seven years (1 Thess. 4:17)	<u>Bodies of tribulation saints left in mortal state to continue to live on the earth in the millennium</u> (Matt. 25:31-34)
8 <u>Imminent</u> , no signs needed (1 Thess. 4:16)	<u>Not imminent</u> but preceded by spectacular signs in the heavens and on the earth (Matt. 24:29-31; Luke 21:25-28; Acts 2:19-21; Rev. 1:7; chs. 6-19)
9 Primary purpose is <u>deliverance</u> of the saints from this world (1 Thess. 1:10)	Primary purpose is <u>judgment</u> of unbelieving (Matt. 25:31-46)

Stages of the Second Coming

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The Rapture	The Revelation
10 Invisible and private as only believers see Christ and since God sends a powerful delusion through the Antichrist (2 Thess. 2:11)	Visible and public since "every eye shall see Him" (Rev. 1:7)
11 Fulfills a promise to the <u>Church</u> where Jew-Gentile distinctions do not exist (1 Thess. 4:15; cf. John 14:1-3; Eph. 2:11-16)	Fulfills promises to <u>Israel</u> of covenants made in the Old Testament (Gen. 12:1-3; Ps. 89; Isa. 11:11-14; cf. Rom. 11:26-27)
12 Evil begins to <u>increase</u> (2 Thess. 2:1-12)	Evil is <u>suppressed</u> (2 Thess. 1:7; Ps. 37:9-10)
13 <u>Church</u> removed (1 Thess. 4:13-18)	<u>Satan</u> removed (Rev. 20:1-3)

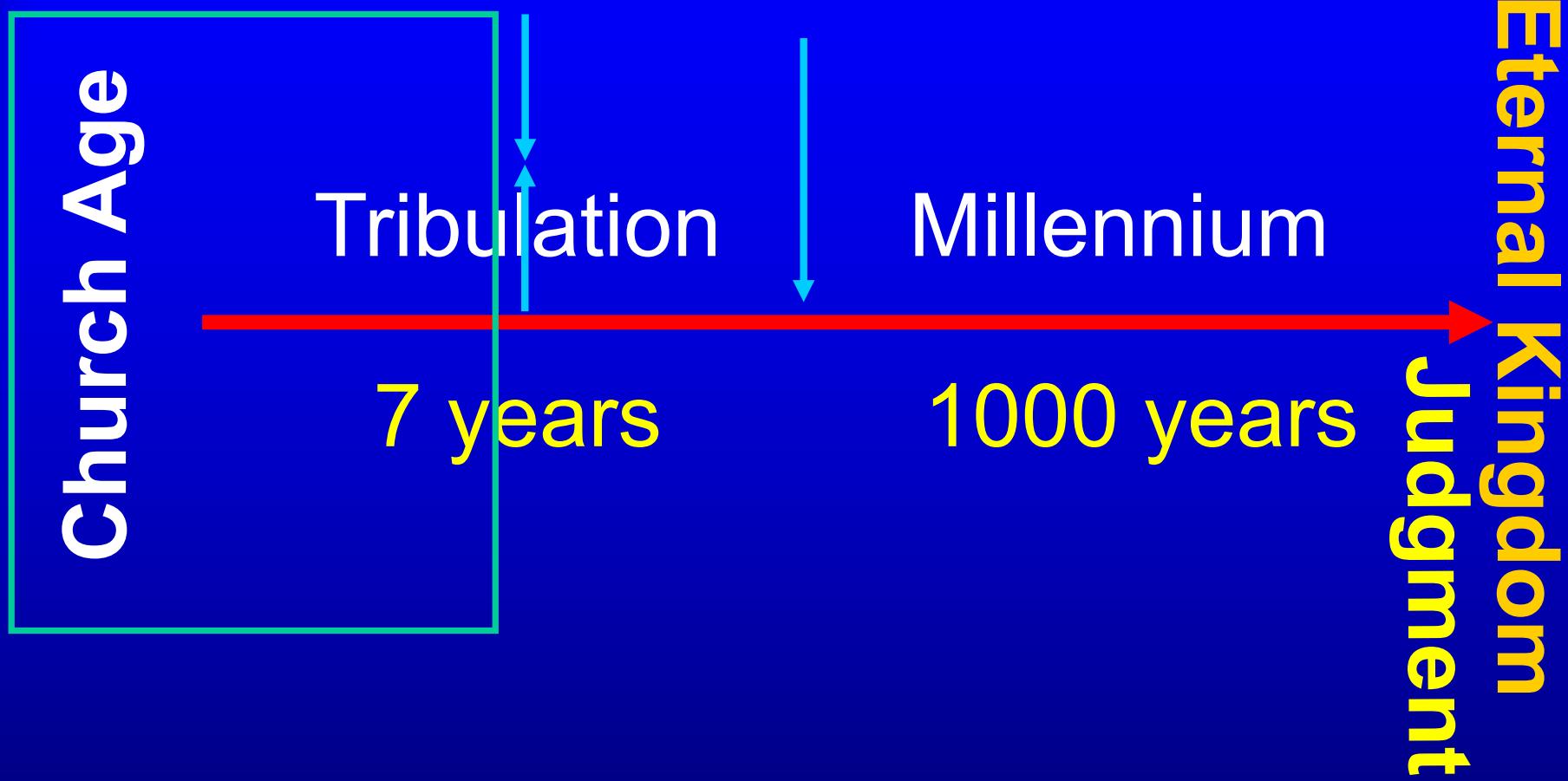
Stages of the Second Coming

210

The Rapture	The Revelation
14 Christ shown as <u>Head</u> of the Church and all things (Eph. 1:10, 22; 4:15; Col. 1:18; 2:10)	Christ vindicated as <u>Messiah</u> to Israel (Zech. 14:3-4; cf. Acts 1:6 with v. 11)
15 Judgment seat of Christ for <u>believers</u> (2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 3:13)	Judgment of <u>Israel and Gentiles</u> (Ezek. 20:34-38; Matt. 25; Zech. 14:4; cf. p. 160)
16 The <u>Lord</u> is at hand (Phil. 4:5)	The <u>kingdom</u> is at hand (Matt. 24:14)
17 Nature subsequently <u>ruined</u> (Rev. 6–16)	Nature subsequently <u>restored</u> (Rom. 8:19-22; Isa. 11:6-9; 35:9; 65:25)

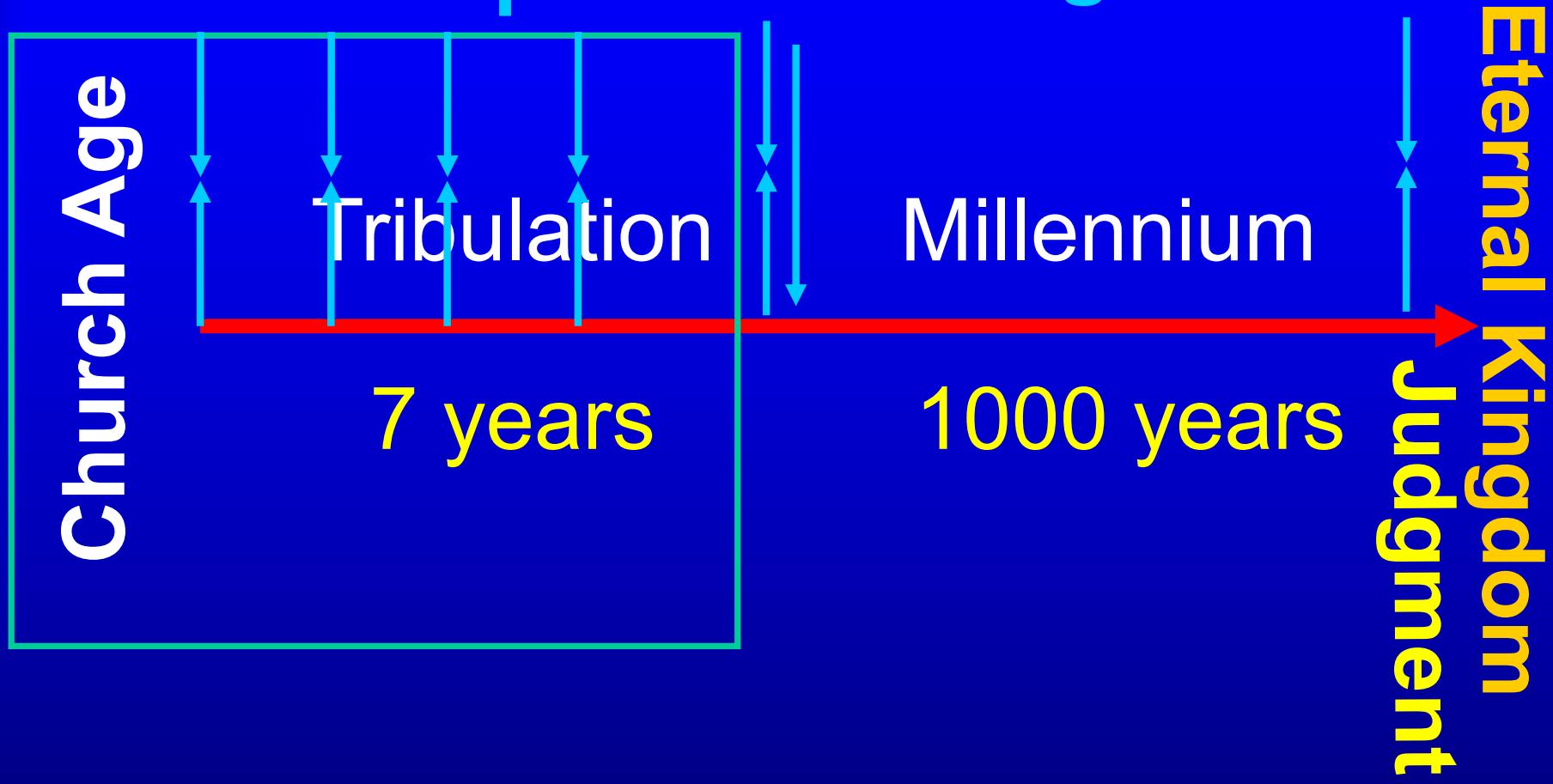
"Mid-Trib" Rapture

Second
Rapture Coming



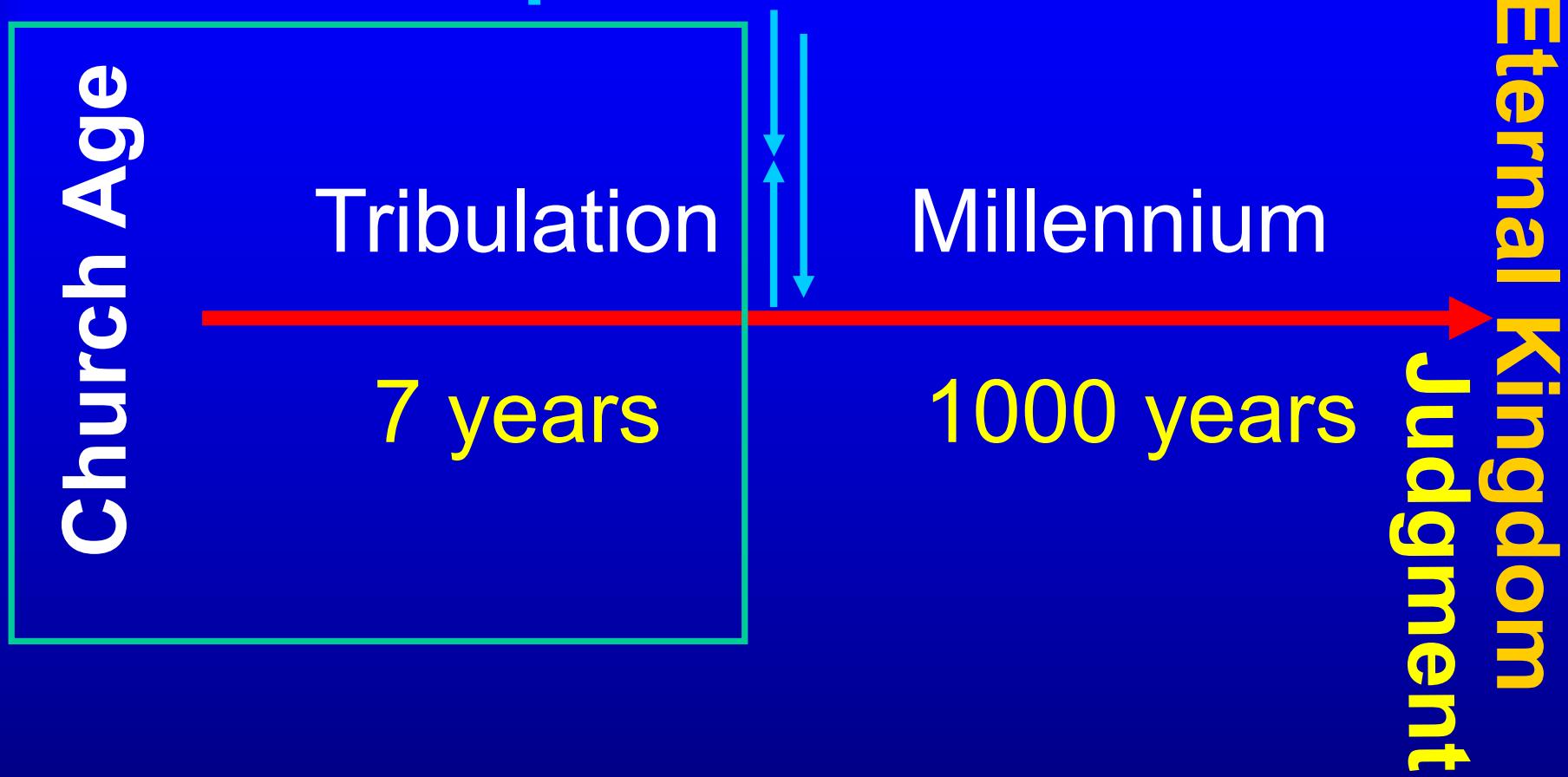
"Partial" Rapture

Second Raptures Coming



"Post-Trib" Rapture

Second Rapture Coming

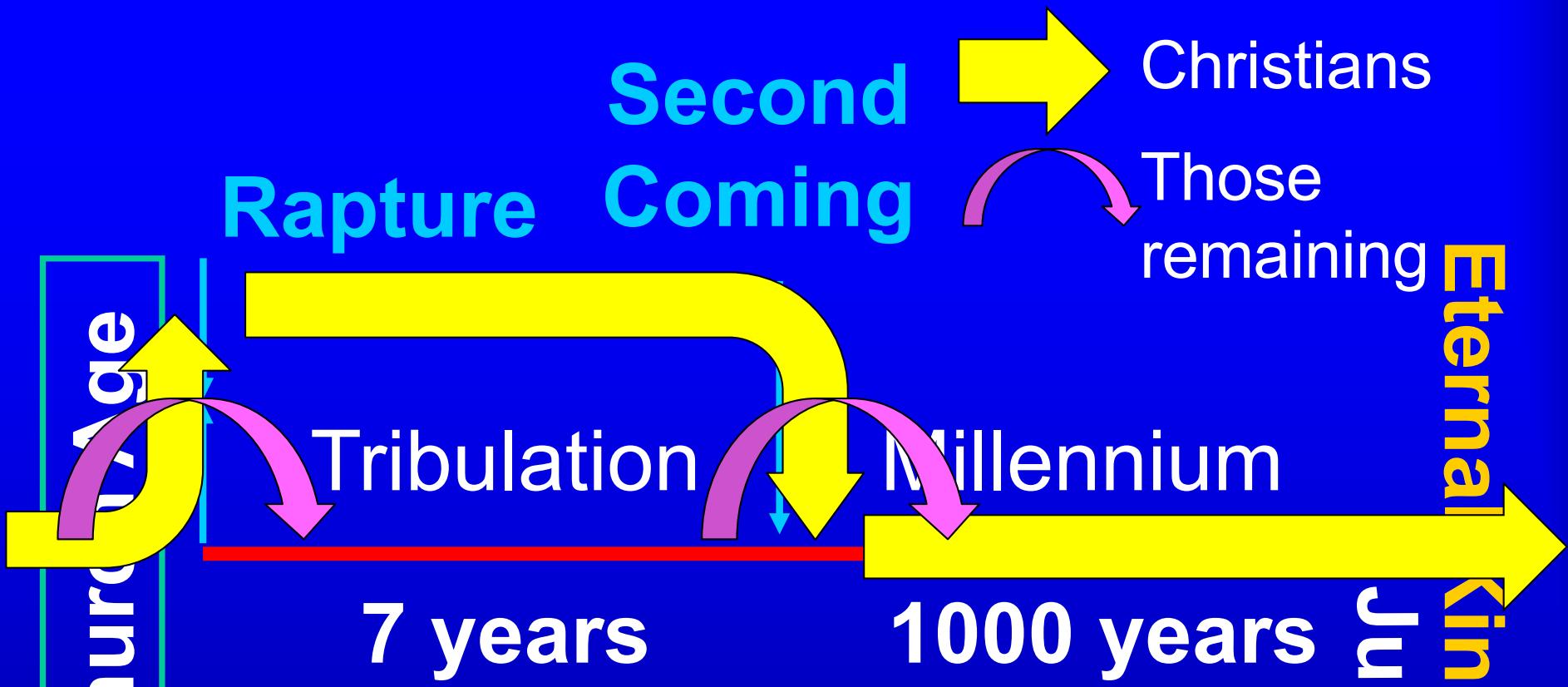


Why Am I Not Posttrib?

8. If posttrib, then sheep would already be separated from goats (Matt. 25:31-46).
9. Some people in the millennium will die (Isa. 65:20), but a posttrib rapture gives a glorified body to *all* believers; therefore, some people must trust Christ in the Tribulation and enter the Millennium in their mortal bodies.

A "Pre-Trib" Rapture explains how the Millennium will have both babies & death

435

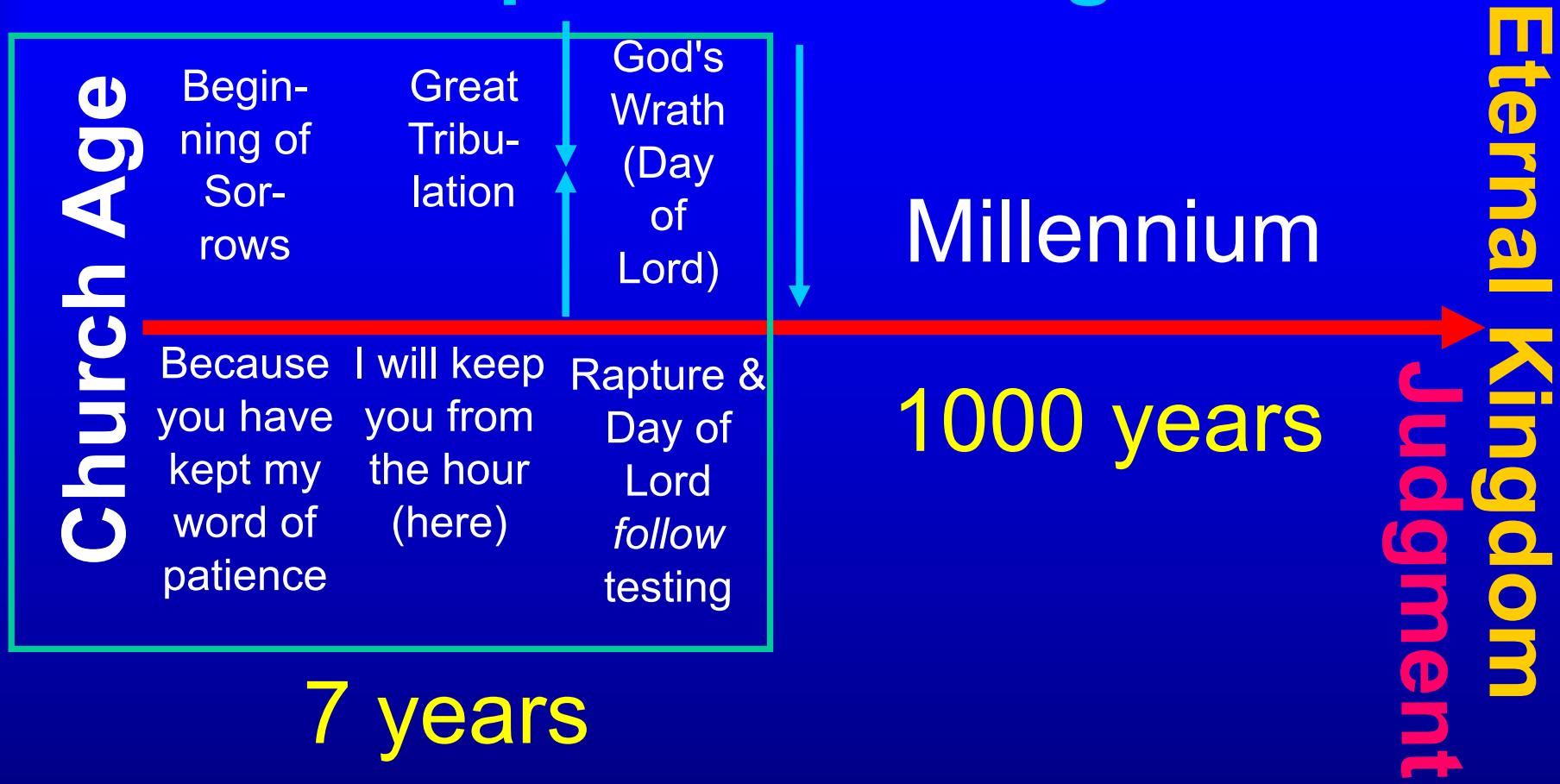


At the Rapture, believers will go to heaven and unbelievers remain on earth—the Tribulation will start 0% Christian.

After the Tribulation, believers on earth will enter the Millennium in their mortal bodies—the Millennium will start 100% Christian.

"Prewrath" Rapture

Pre-Wrath Second Rapture Coming



“We will rise to
meet Him”
(1 Thess. 4:16)



The Marriage Supper of the Lamb



The Second Coming





Marriage Backgrounds in Jewish Literature

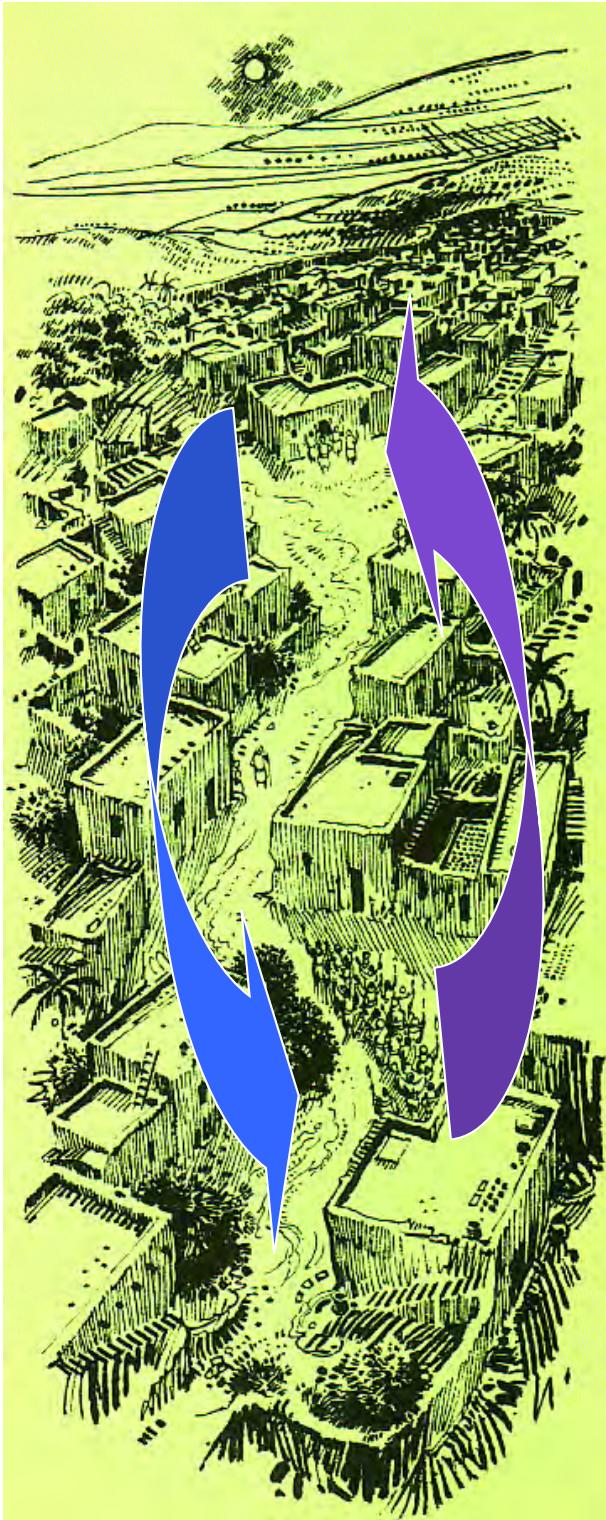
- Marriage depicts Christ's love for the church (Eph. 5)
- The order of marriage customs parallels church eschatology

The First Century Wedding Procession

Groom's House

- The procession parallels Christ's return for His Bride, the Church

Bride's House

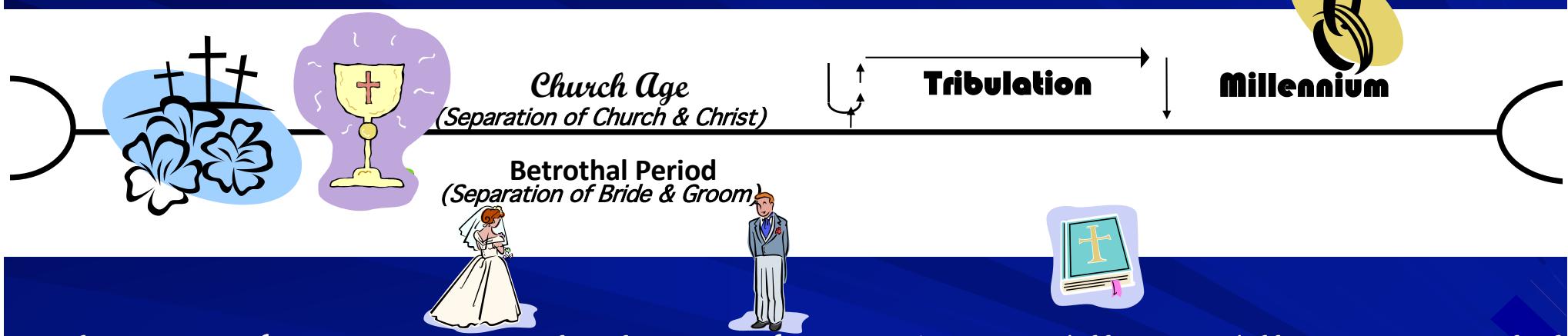




Marriage & the Church Timeline

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<i>Election</i>	<i>Purchase</i>	<i>Sign</i>	<i>Our Job</i>	<i>Christ's Job</i>	<i>Rapture</i>	<i>Wedding</i>	<i>Supper to Come</i>	<i>Second Coming & Supper</i>
God the Father chose those to be saved (Eph. 1:5, 11)	Christ paid the Father His blood to redeem the church (1 Pet. 1:18)	New covenant began with the cup of the Supper (Luke 22:20)	Holiness for Christ during church age (2 Cor. 11:2)	Preparing heaven for church until He returns (John 14:1-3)	Christ brings church to heaven at unexpected time w/ shout (1 Thess. 4:14-18)	Church cleansed & presented unspotted (rewarded) in heaven (Eph. 5:26)	Church unites with Christ & glorifies Him for imparting righteousness (Rev. 19:7-9)	Saints & Christ return to earth to reign (Rev. 19:11-20:6)



<i>Choice</i> (Shiddukhin)	<i>Purchase</i> (Mohar)	<i>Sign</i> (Ketubah)	<i>Bride's Job</i> (Kedeshet)	<i>Groom's Job</i> (Huppah)	<i>Procession</i> (Nissuim)	<i>Wedding</i> (Sheva Brachot = 7 Nuptial blessings)	<i>Wedding Supper</i>	<i>Married Life</i>
Father chose a bride for his son (Tobit 4.12-13; 7.9-13; Ecclesiast. 7.23; Sirach 7.25; Mishna Kiddushin 2.1)	Groom paid bride's father gold & silver or service as dowry (Tobit 7.14-15; Kidd. 8.21; Jub. 2.2; Ketuboth 28.2)	Marriage covenant began with contract & cup of betrothal (Tobit 7.14-15; Kidd. 8.21; Jub. 2.2; Ketuboth 1.2)	Maintained virginity (set apart for groom)	Prepared bridal chamber and place in home of one year (Mishna Sotah 1.1, 5; 5.1; Sirach 42.10)	Unexpectedly arrived, called bride & escorted her to his father's house (1 Macc. 3.56; 2 Enoch 61.2)	bride washed, adorned, presented by groom as beautiful virgin (Adam & Eve 22.3; 4 Ezra 6.23)	Intercourse (Mishna Ketuboth 1.1; 3 Macc. 1.19; 4.6) began a 7-14 day feast (Tobit 8.19-20; 9.6); guests given white linen & groom praised for beauty given to the bride	Bride & groom lived in society to serve God together (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:4-6)





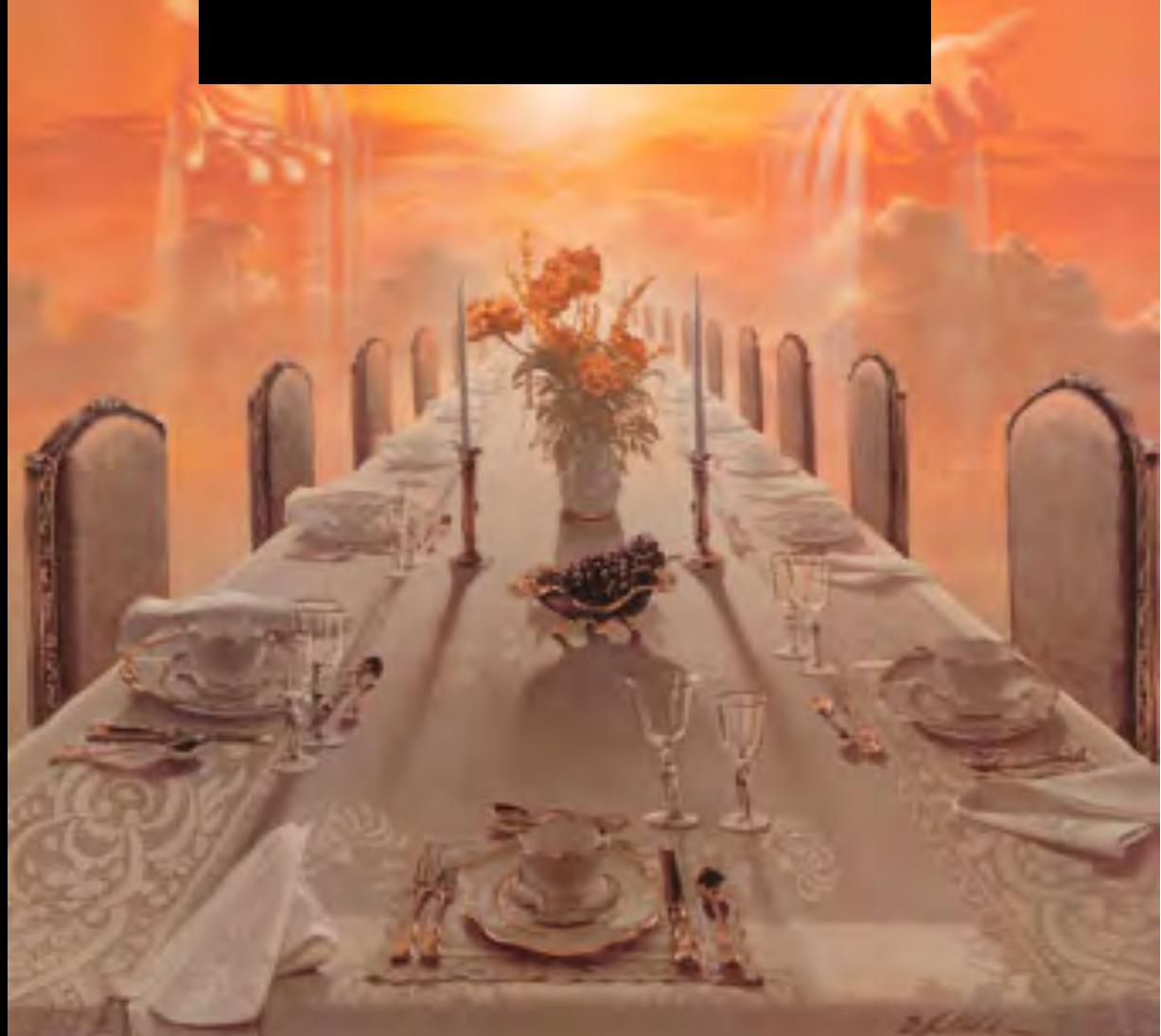
Sistine Chapel

7 "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the **marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."**

8 It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

9 Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the **marriage supper of the Lamb.' " And he said to me, "These are true words of God."**

THE INVITATION IN REVELATION 19:7-9



"Pre-Trib" Rapture



The Marriage & Supper Contrasts (19:7-9)

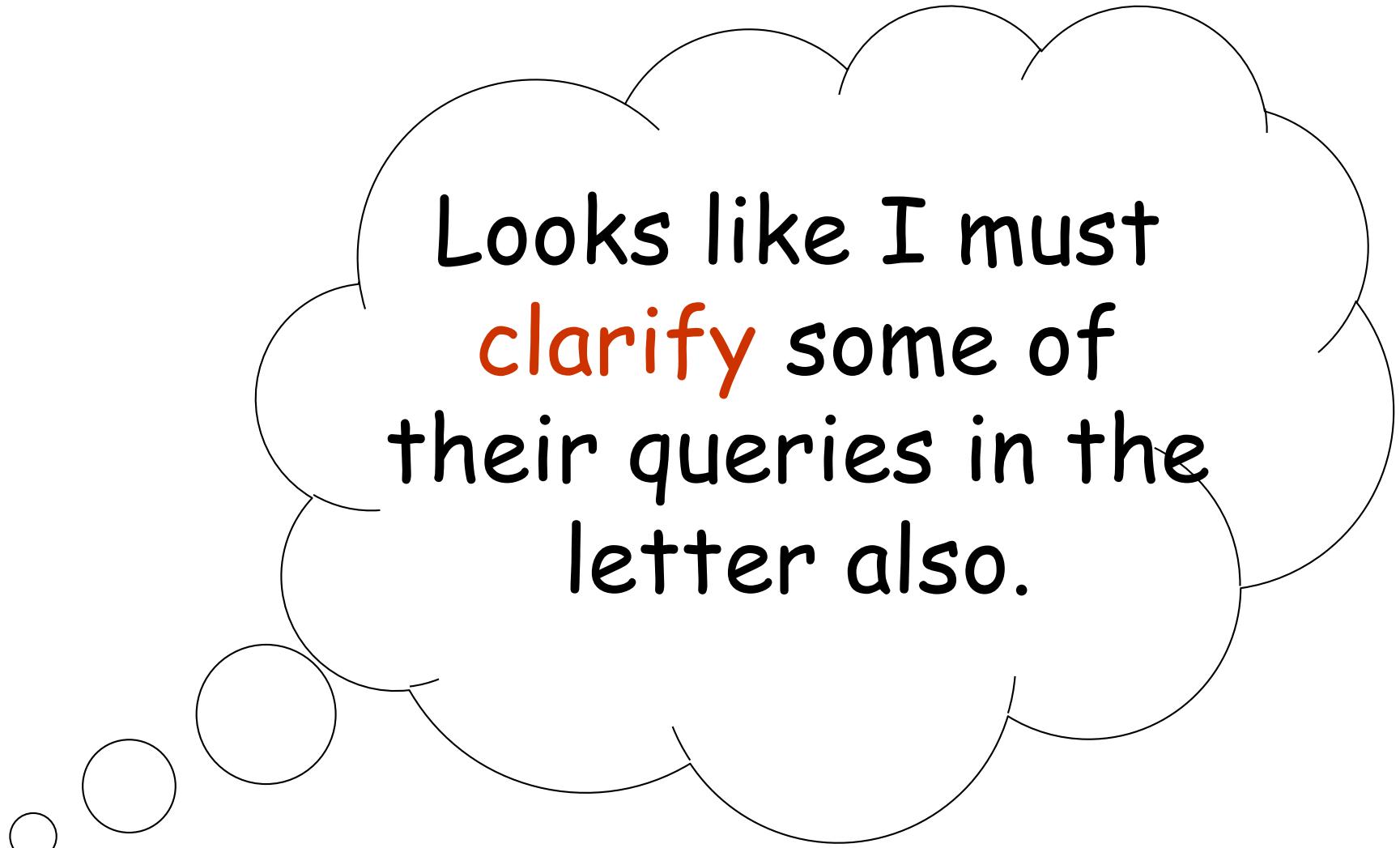
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Symbols	Wedding	Feast
Verse	7	9
Tense	Aorist (past)	Present
Involvement	Church as Bride	Israel as Guests
Time Period	Tribulation	Millennium
Place	Heaven	Earth
Characteristics	Procession, Wedding	Friends invited to Wedding Feast
Explanation	Bride/Church brought to Father's house	Bride/Church introduced to friends/Israel
Scripture	Rom. 7:1-4; 1 Cor. 6:17; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:27	Isa. 25:6-8; Matt. 8:11; 26:29; Luke 12:35-37

We will join him in the clouds



1 Thessalonians 5



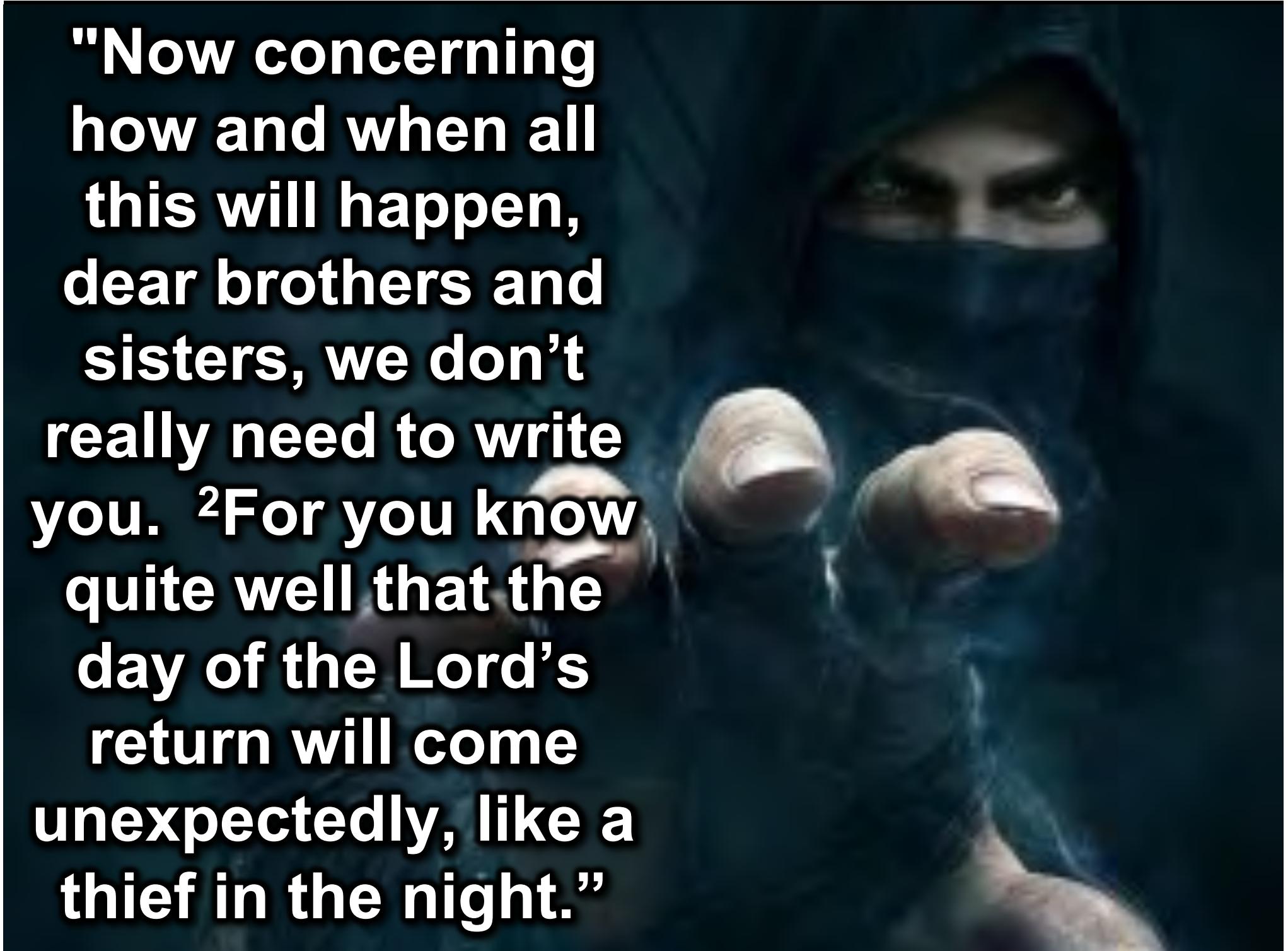
Looks like I must
clarify some of
their queries in the
letter also.

After the Rapture...



comes the Tribulation...

"Now concerning how and when all this will happen, dear brothers and sisters, we don't really need to write you. ²For you know quite well that the day of the Lord's return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night."





"³When people are saying, 'Everything is peaceful and secure,' then disaster will fall on them as suddenly as a pregnant woman's labor pains begin. And there will be no escape"
(1 Thess 5:1-3 NLT).

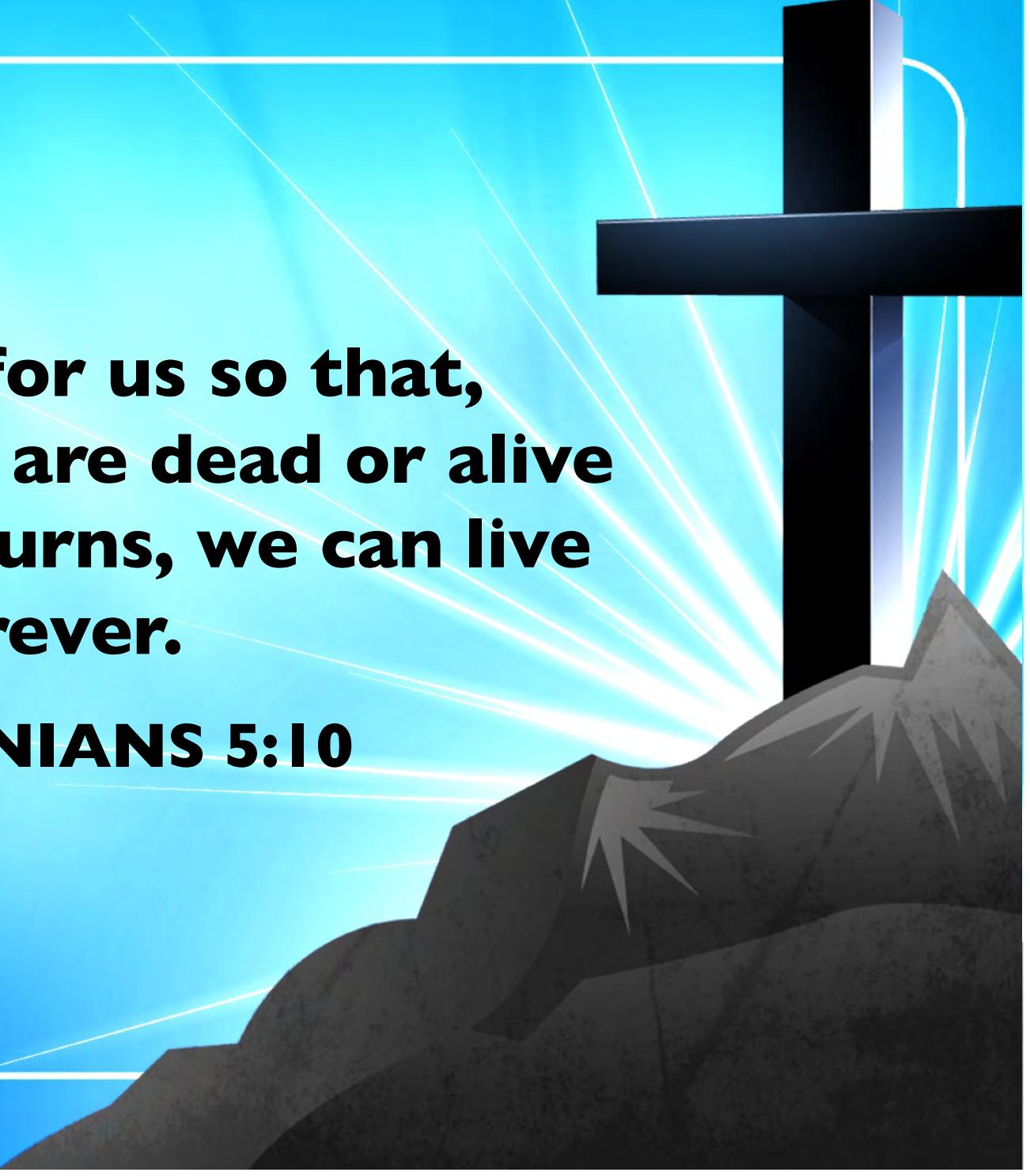
"But you aren't in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won't be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief. 5For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night. 6So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded"

(1 Thess 5:4-6 NLT).



**Christ died for us so that,
whether we are dead or alive
when he returns, we can live
with him forever.**

I THESSALONIANS 5:10



Paul's Purpose in Writing

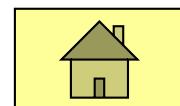
Encouragement to grow	Defence against opponents	Exhortation to Persevere	Clarifications to queries	Instructions for godly living
Commendation 1:1-10	Conduct 2:1-16	Concern 2:17-3:13	Love 4:1-12	Eschatology 4:13-5:11 Church Life 5:12-28



Healthy church life is where each person fulfills his roles (5:12-28).

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I must include some **instructions** in the letter on how to lead a healthy church life.



“Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone.”



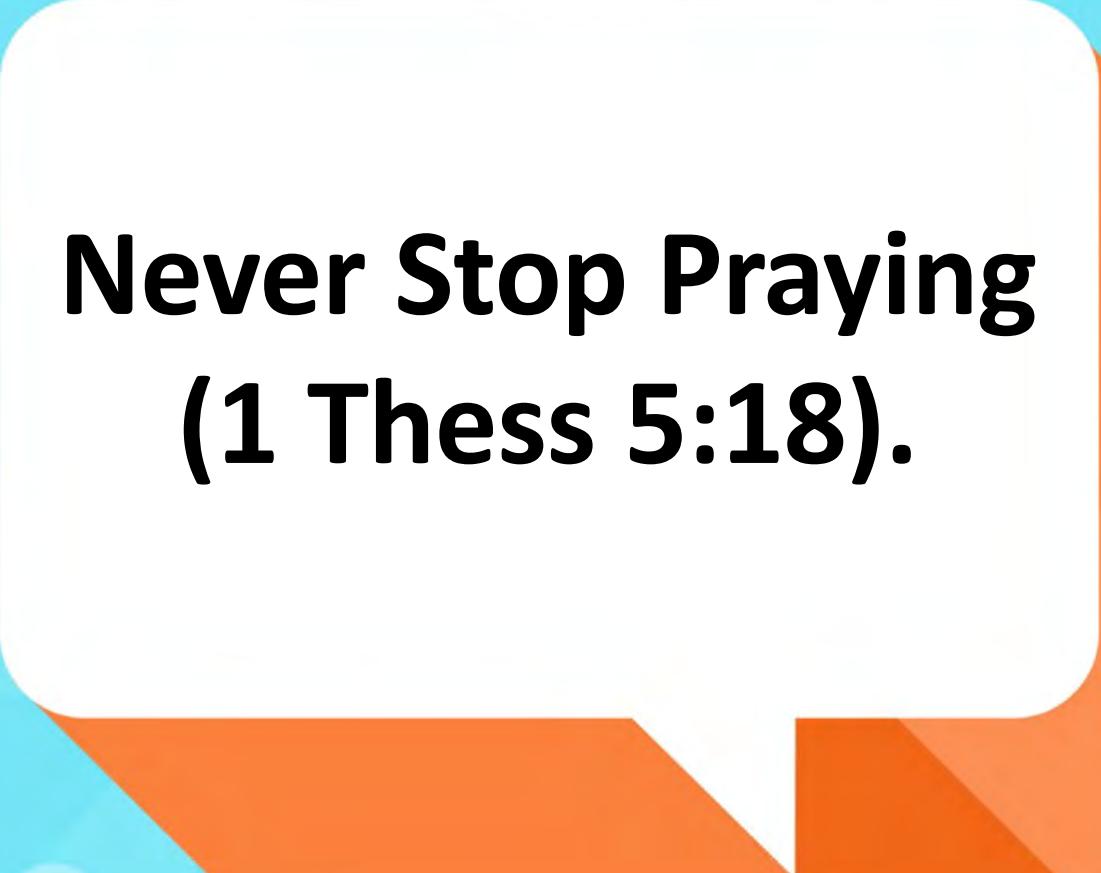
1 Thessalonians 5:14 NLT

A photograph of a paved path leading into a forest. The path is covered in fallen autumn leaves, mostly in shades of orange, red, and brown. The trees on either side are also covered in autumn foliage, with some leaves hanging on branches and others scattered on the ground. The lighting suggests it might be late afternoon or early evening.

Always be joyful
(1 Thess 5:16).

**Pray without ceasing.
It's the will of
God for you
(1 Thess (5:17)).**





**Never Stop Praying
(1 Thess 5:18).**



In everything
give thanks

(1 Thessalonians 5:18)



Always give
thanks
in everything, for this is
God's will for you in Christ
Jesus
(1 Thess 5:18).

Be honest
that while
the Spirit is
present, you
may have
quenched
him.



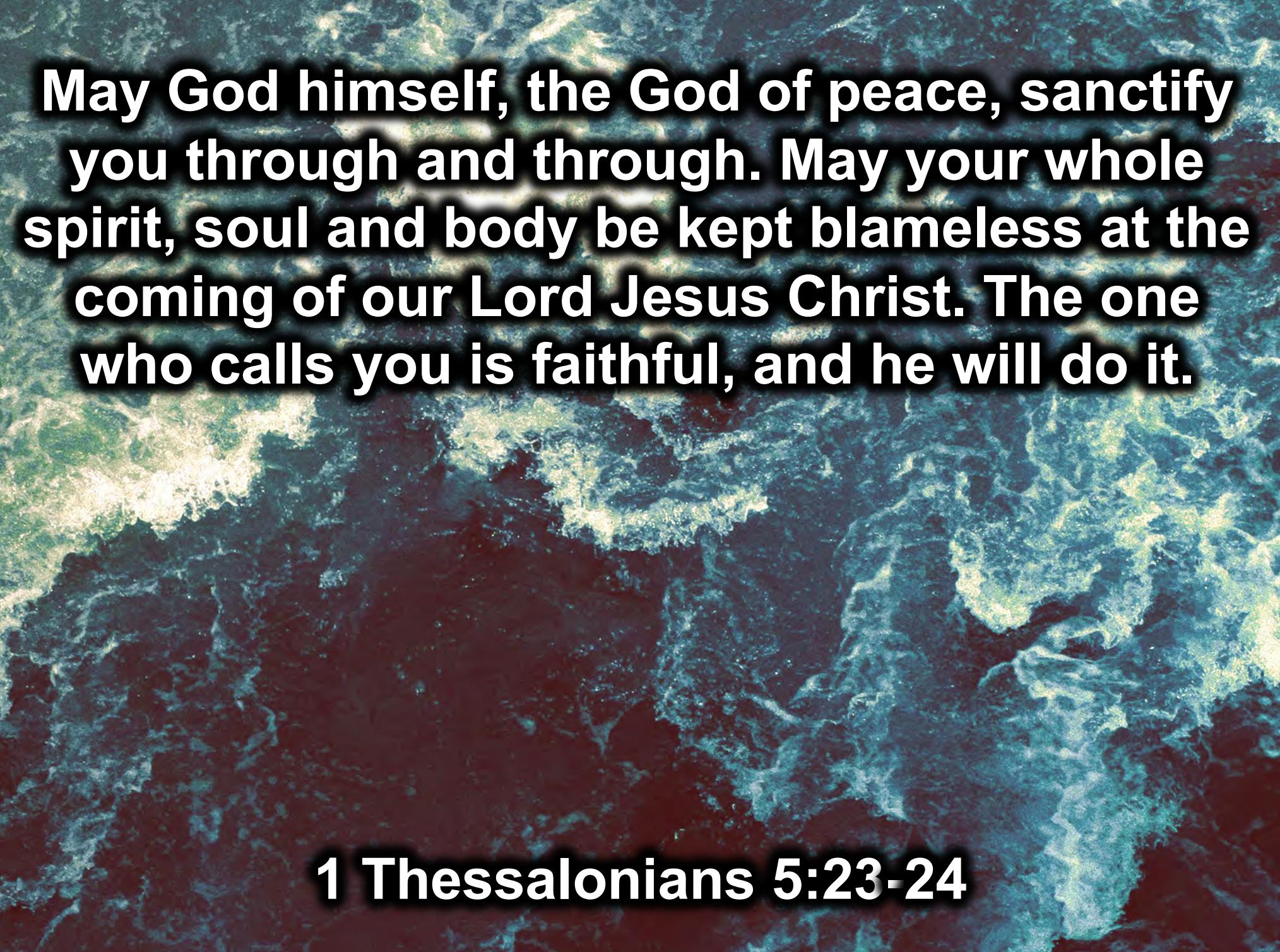
DO NOT QUENCH THE SPIRIT (1 THESS 5:19)



DO NOT QUENCH
THE SPIRIT

The background image is a high-angle aerial photograph of a natural landscape. The upper portion of the image shows a dense forest with a mix of green and yellowish-green foliage, indicating different tree species or seasonal changes. Below the forest, a large, dark, irregularly shaped body of water, possibly a lake or a wide river, stretches across the middle ground. The water's surface is textured with ripples and small waves. The overall scene is a blend of earthy tones and natural textures.

Benediction



May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole 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.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

So...how about you?

**Are you growing in your
relational and Bible skills?**



Church Service



**How can you be prepared
for the Rapture?**

2 ways...

Main Idea

**Be prepared for Christ's
return with your money,
friends and Bible.**

1 Thessalonians

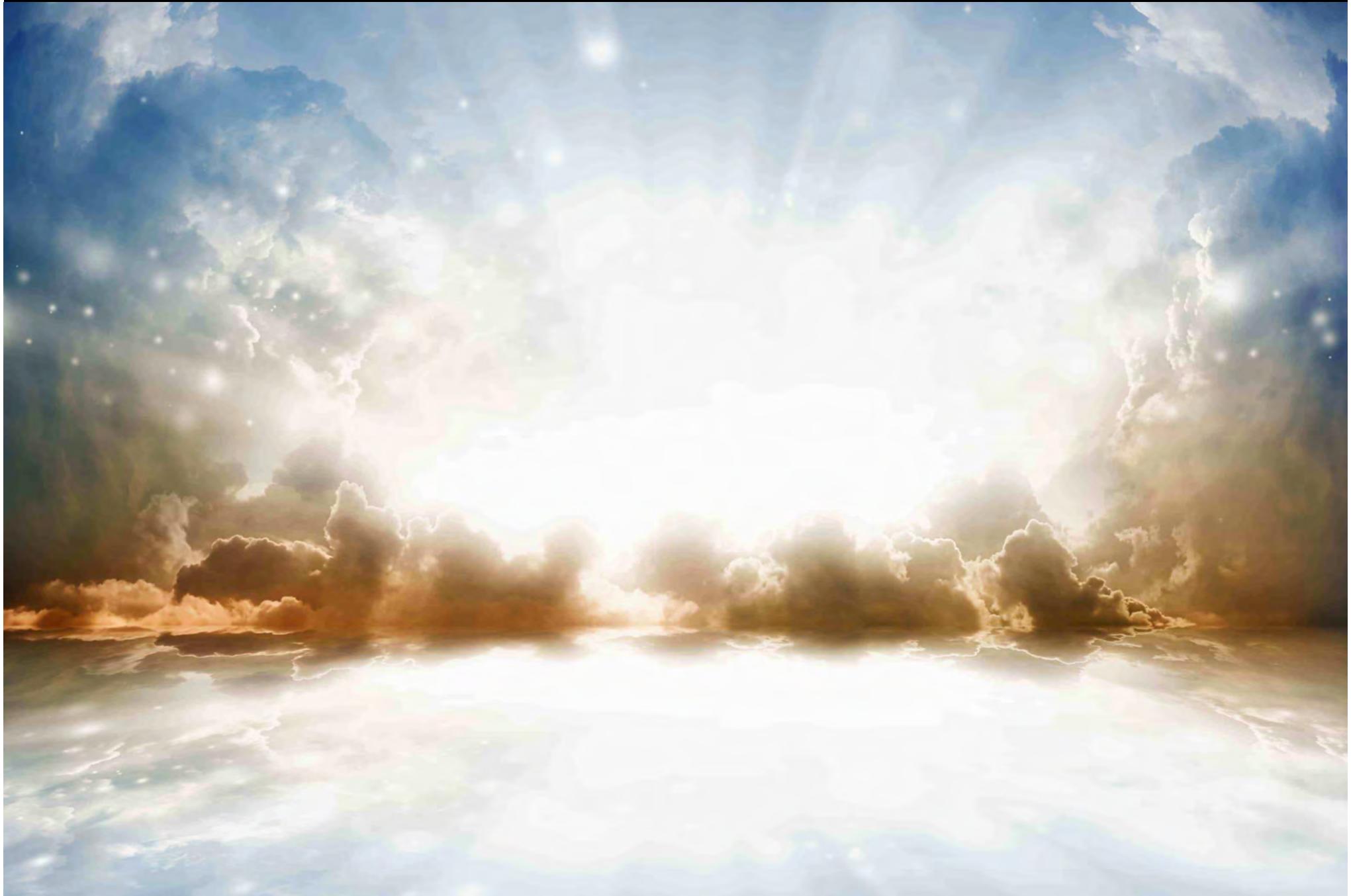
I. Serve Jesus without greed (1 Thess 1–3).



II. Care about both **people** and **theology** (1 Thess 4–5).



He will definitely return



We will all give an account



"I've got time..."



Rev 3:11

Behold,
I COME
QUICKLY

© JUDAH ARUN
speakarun@gmail.com

"like a thief in the night"



1 Thessalonians 5:2



The faithful will reign with Christ

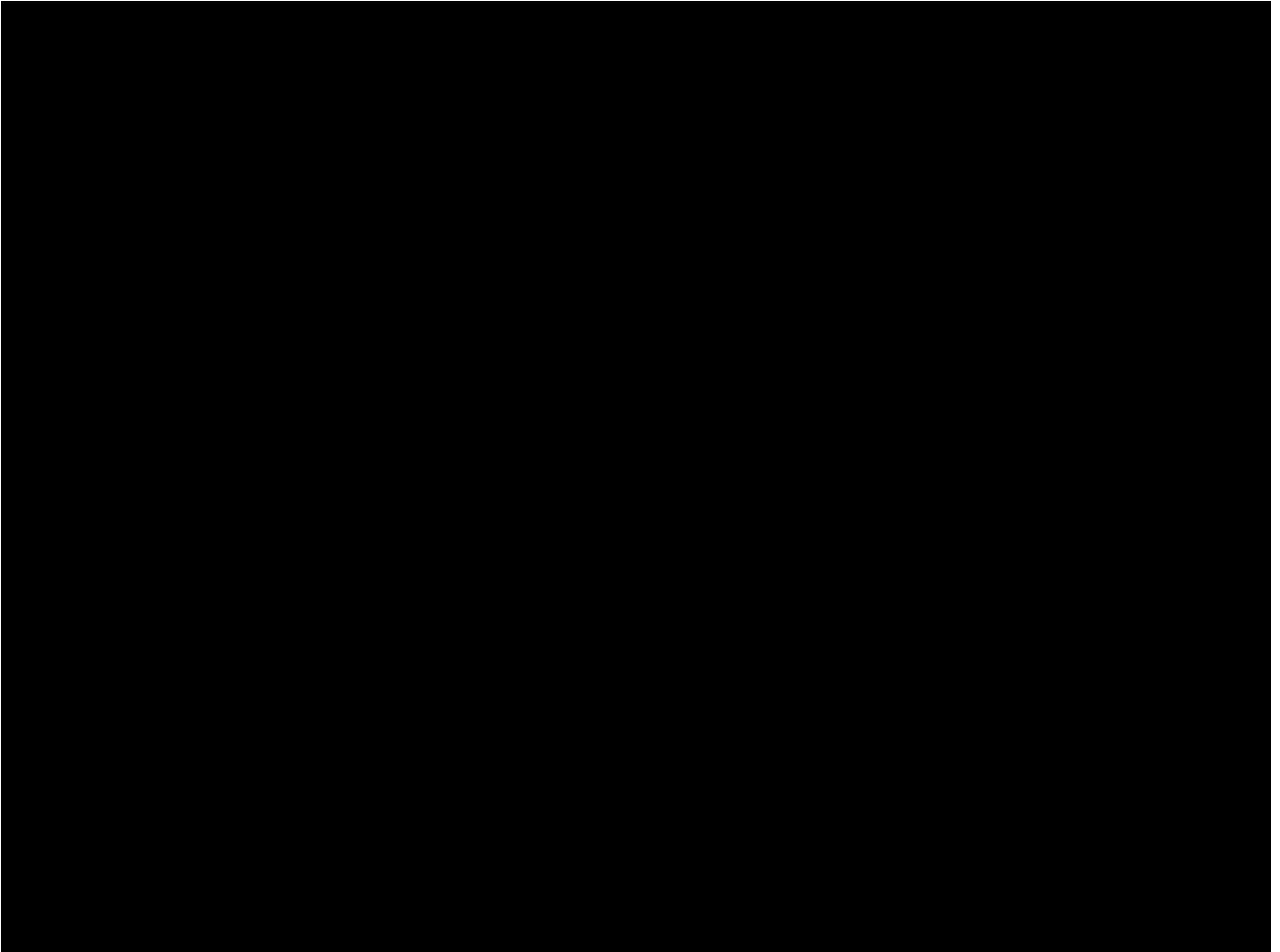


1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

**May God himself, the God of peace,
sanctify you through and through.**

**May your whole 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.**



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How to live?



Charles R. Swindoll, *Contagious Christianity*, 47

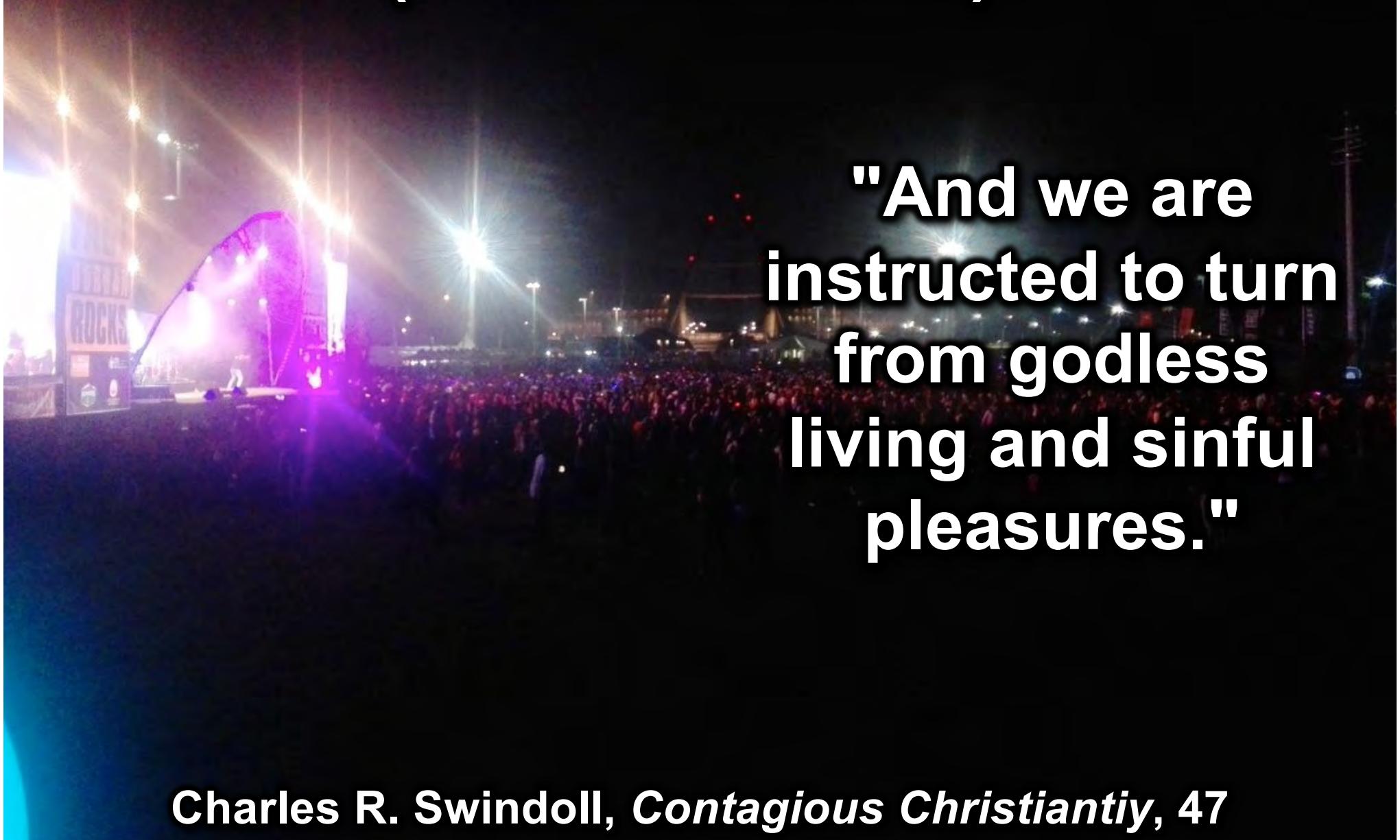
**Make sure that you have received
the salvation God freely offers you
(Titus 2:11 NLT).**

**"For the grace of
God has been
revealed, bringing
salvation to all
people."**



Charles R. Swindoll, *Contagious Christianity*, 47

Continue to resist a corrupt lifestyle (Titus 2:12a NLT).



"And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures."

Charles R. Swindoll, *Contagious Christianity*, 47

Live in a sensible, godly manner
(Titus 2:12b-13 NLT).

"We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, ¹³while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed."

Charles R. Swindoll, *Contagious Christianity*, 47

—Unifying Theme

Controversy 3

Combating Gnosticism?



- A less held view is that Paul wrote to combat the early Jewish-Christian Gnosticism (W. Lutgert).
 - Proponents of this view hold that Paul wrote against beliefs of the Jewish Gnostics:
 - a) A "realized eschatology"
 - b) Resurrection is not an objective event but a spiritual event
 - Walter Schmithals also contended that the Gnostic teachers opposed Paul on two counts:
 - a) Paul was speaking without the power of the Spirit.
 - b) Paul was speaking with deception and error.

Quiz Quiz Quiz Quiz Quiz²⁰⁴

When and where was 1 Thessalonians written from?

Answer: AD 51 from Corinth



Quiz Quiz Quiz Quiz Quiz²⁰⁵

What are the two views about Paul's length of stay in Thessalonica?

Answer: One view is 3 weeks whereas the other is 3 months.



Quiz Quiz Quiz Quiz Quiz²⁰⁵

What are the two possible unifying themes of this epistle and which is the more common?

Answer: Combating Gnosticism or
Preparing for the Rapture



Applications

This letter impacts us positively:

- **PREACH** the gospel strategically.



Applications

- **TEACH** the whole counsel of God systematically.



Applications

- DISCIPLE (PASTOR) new believers skilfully.



Conclusion

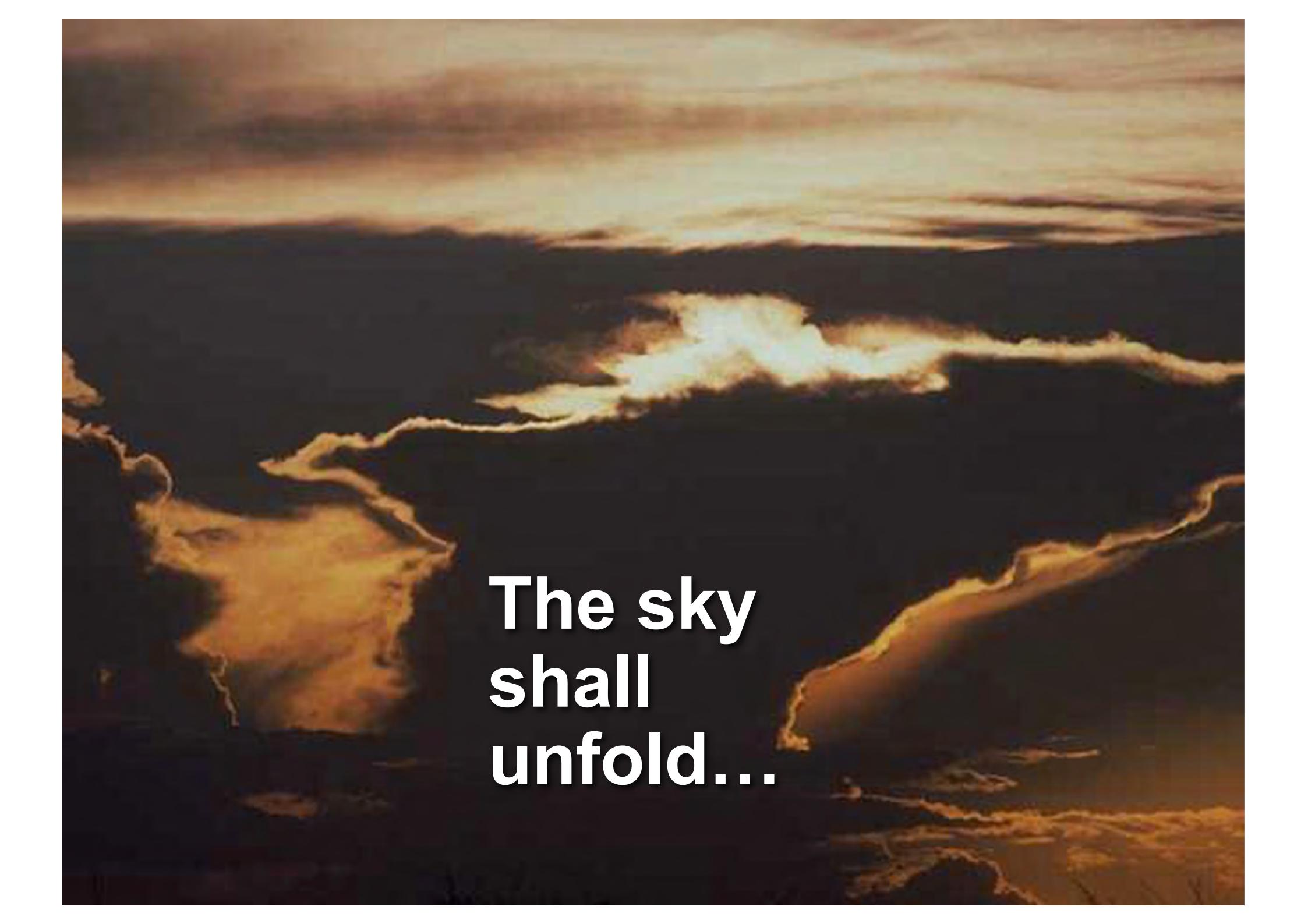
LIVE AS IF THE RAPTURE
IS TODAY,

PLAN AS IF THE RAPTURE IS
IN THE NEXT CENTURY.

"We Shall Behold Him"



Sung by Sandi Patti



The sky
shall
unfold...

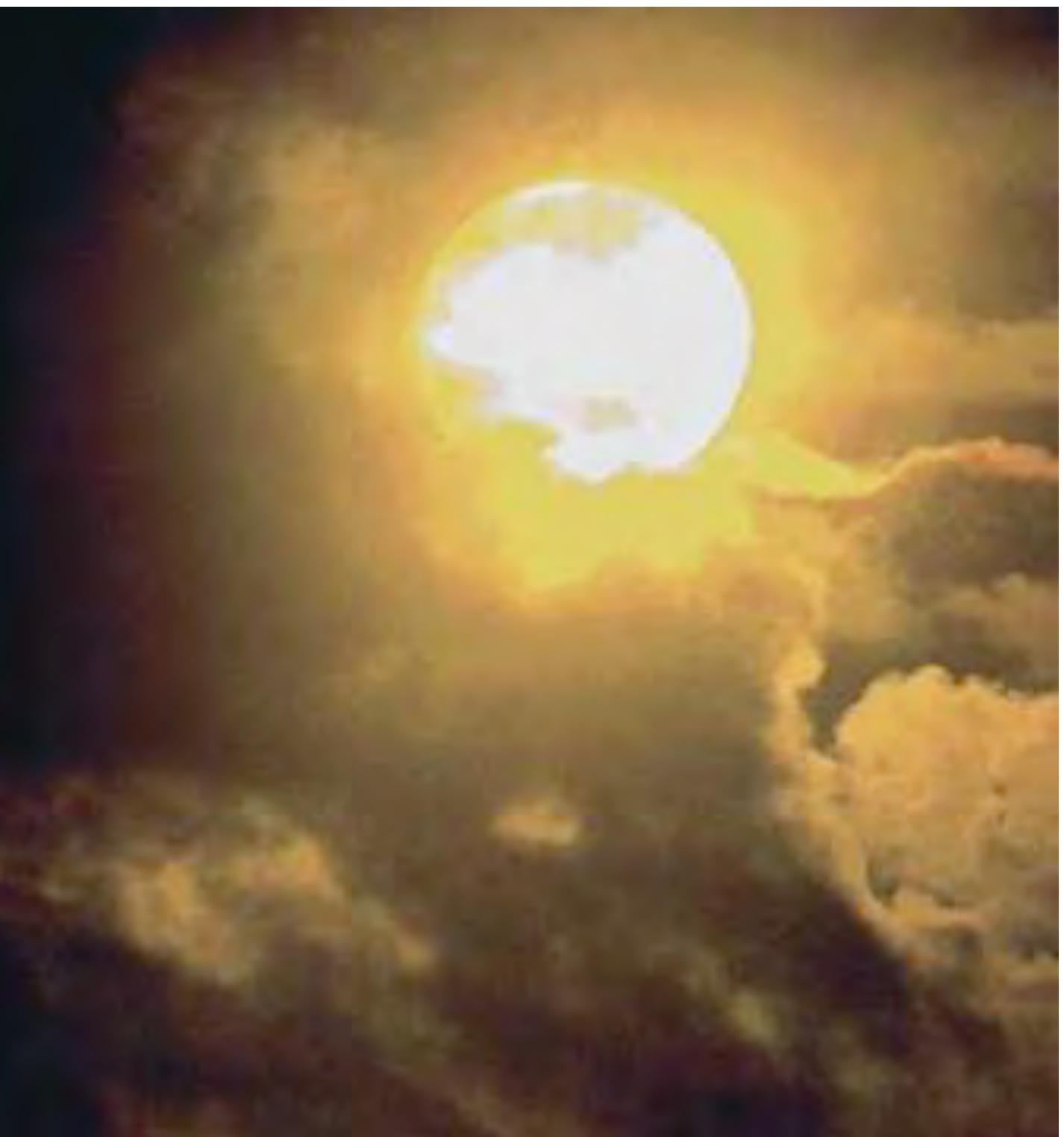


...preparing His entrance



The stars
shall
applaud Him
with
thunders of
praise

The
sweet
light in
His eyes
shall
enhance
those
awaiting



And we shall behold Him
then face to face





**We shall behold Him
We shall behold Him**



**...face to face
in all of His glory**



**We shall
behold Him**

**We shall
behold Him**



...face to face,
our Savior and Lord



**The angels shall sound the
shout of His coming**

The sleeping shall rise from
their slumbering place



**And those who remain shall
be changed in a moment**



**And we shall behold Him
then face to face**





**We shall behold Him
We shall behold Him**

**...face to face
in all of His glory**





We shall behold Him
We shall behold Him

...face to face,
our Savior and Lord





**We shall behold Him,
our Savior and Lord!**



...our Savior and Lord!

This presentation is adapted from a class project by...

Alvin
Jimaria
Solomon
Kam Kheun

The Blessed Thessalonians
1 Thessalonians

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