

High Point Bible Study
June 28, 2017
“End Time Prophecy” pt. 1
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

I. The Value of Studying Prophecy (13)

- A. Informed “We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, concerning those who are asleep,” (13)**
- B. Inspired “so that you will not grieve like the rest, who have no hope” (13)**

II. Comfort for Believers (14)

- A. Precedent “Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again...” (14a)**
- B. Pronouncement “in the same way God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus” (14b)**

III. Resurrection and Reunion (15-17)

- A. Authority “For we say this to you by a revelation from the Lord:” (15a)**
- B. Alive “We who are still alive at the Lord’s coming will certainly have no advantage over those who have fallen asleep.” (15b)**
- C. Announcement “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel’s voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.” (16)**
- D. Assembly “Then we who are still alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and so we will always be with the Lord.” (17)**

Although Paul is simply answering a question rather than outlining all aspects of end-time events (eschatology), this passage describes the rapture (Latin: *rapti* “caught up”) rather than the Second Coming of Christ (Rev. 19:11 ff).

The Rapture and Return of Jesus Christ Compared	
Rapture	Second Coming
Christ comes to receive His church in the air	Christ returns with His bride and angels to the earth
The seven-year tribulation begins shortly after the rapture of the church	The millennial kingdom (1,000 years) of Christ is established after His return
The event is imminent; it could happen at any time	Numerous signs precede this event (cf. Rev. 6-19)
This is a message of comfort for believers	This is a message of judgment (and warning) for unbelievers
The church is of primary importance	Israel is of primary importance
The rapture is a mystery	Christ’s return is predicted in both the Old and New Testaments

The judgment seat of Christ for believers occurs	(1) The sheep and goats' judgment occurs (Matt. 25:31-46) (2) Antichrist and the world are judged (Rev. 19:11-21)
Only believers are affected	(3) All people are affected
The church is taken into the Lord's presence in heaven	(4) All believers are brought into the millennial kingdom to reign with Christ on Earth
The major concern of I Thessalonians	(5) The major concern of 2 Thessalonians

-Believer's Study Bible, p. 1708

IV. Prophecy of Christ's Return Brings Encouragement

"Therefore encourage one another with these words." (18)

A. A Public Event

B. A Powerful Message

C. A Peaceful Reunion

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Guest Speakers:

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