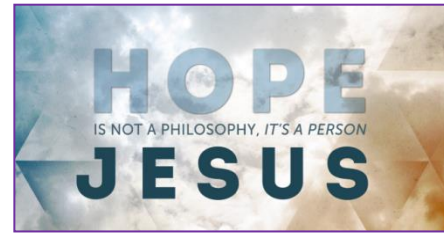




Thessalonians



There Is Hope!

Lesson 07

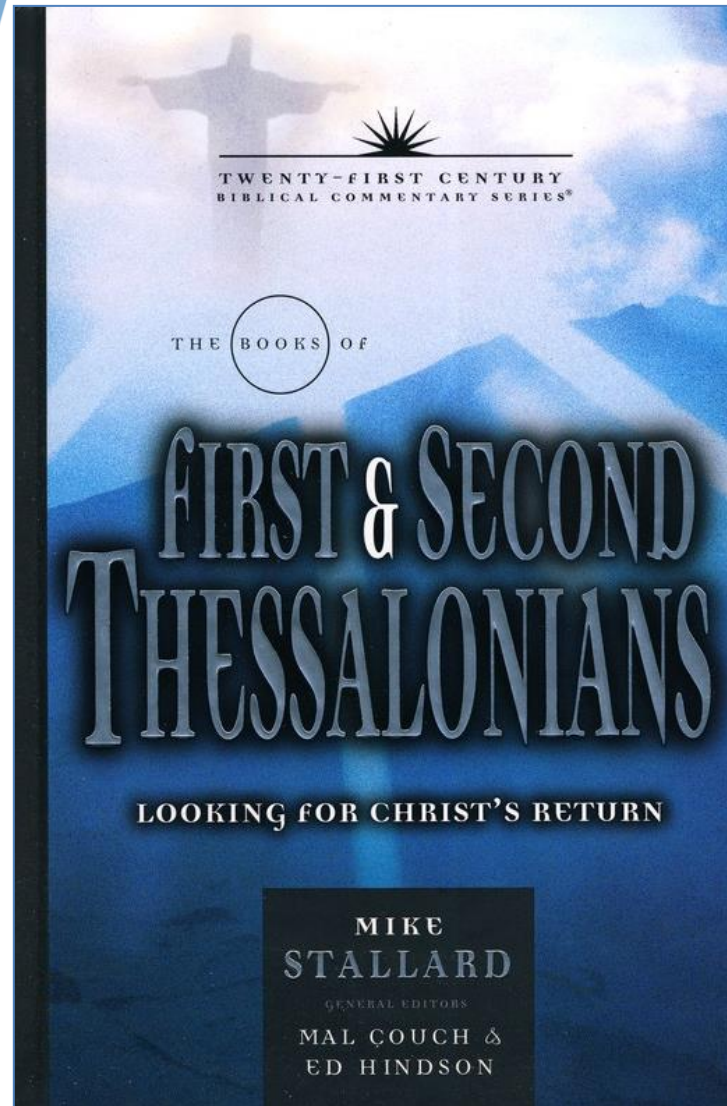
Comforting Hope

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Philip Giorgio

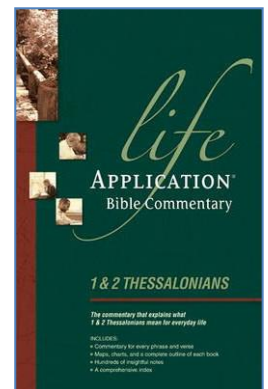
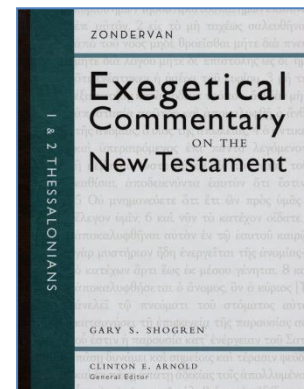
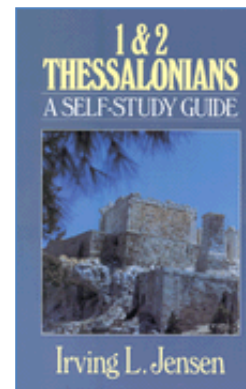
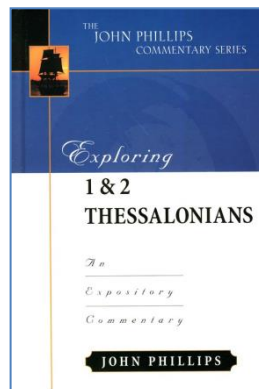
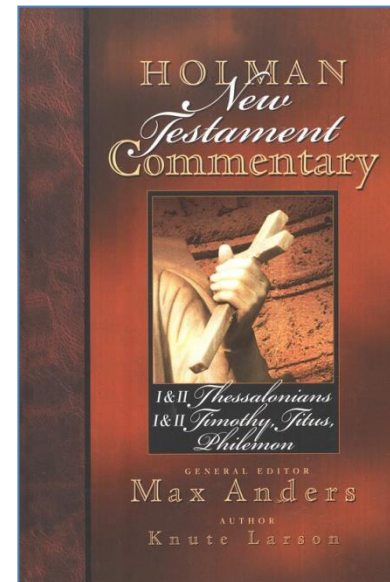
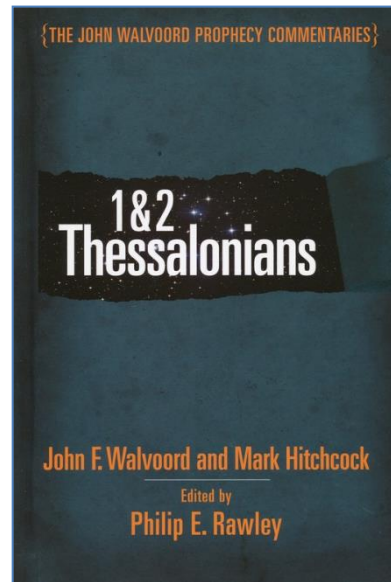


Textbook

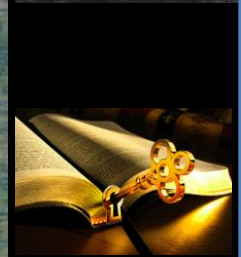
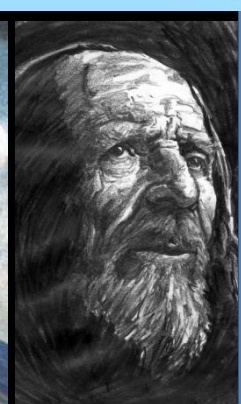
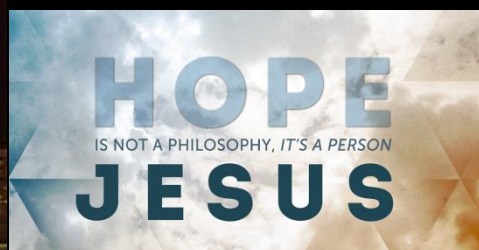
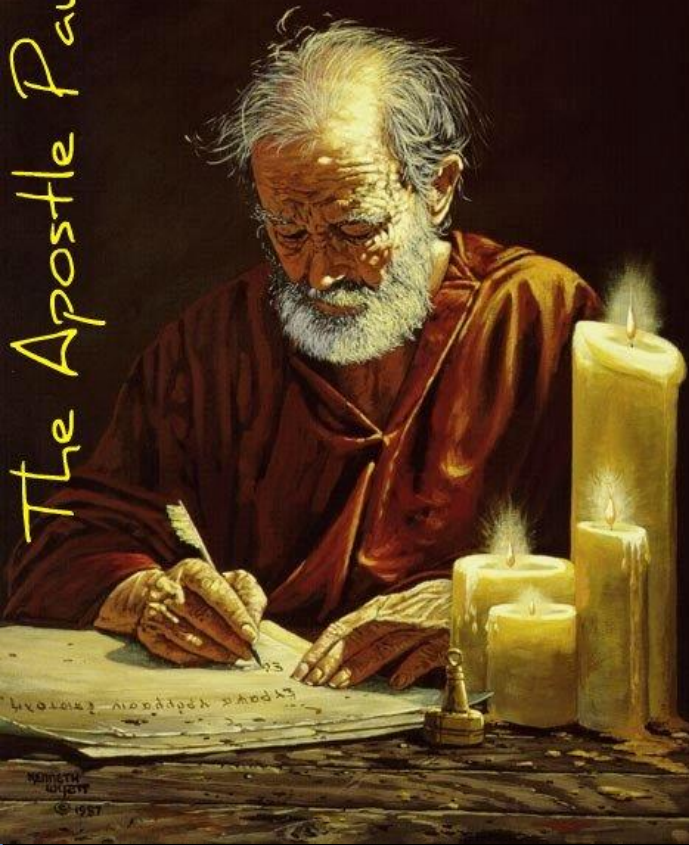




References



The Apostle Paul





Course Outline

Course Outline - Lessons

■ Thessalonians: There Is Hope!

- Lesson 01: Introduction [THESSALONIANS]
- Lesson 02: Inspiring Hope [1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10]
- Lesson 03: Working Hope: *Part I* [1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12]
- Lesson 04: Working Hope: *Part II* [1 THESSALONIANS 2:13-20]
- Lesson 05: Purifying Hope: *Part I* [1 THESSALONIANS 3:1-13]
- Lesson 06: Purifying Hope: *Part II* [1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-12]
- Lesson 07: Comforting Hope [1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18]
- Lesson 08: Future Hope: *Part I* [1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11]
- Lesson 09: Future Hope: *Part II* [1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-28]
- Lesson 10: Blessed Hope: *Part I* [2 THESSALONIANS 1:1-12]
- Lesson 11: Blessed Hope: *Part II* [2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12]
- Lesson 12: Blessed Hope: *Part III* [2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-17]
- Lesson 13: Living Hope [2 THESSALONIANS 3:1-18]

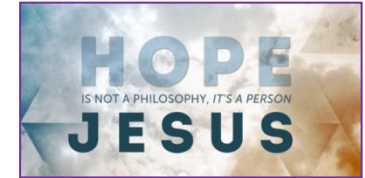


Lesson Outline

Lesson 07 - Outline

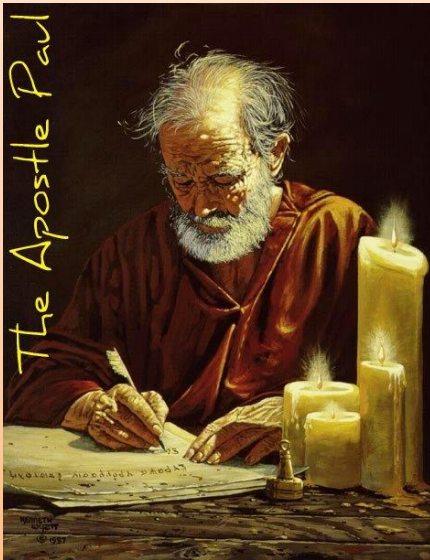
■ Thessalonians: There Is Hope!

• Lesson 07: Comforting Hope



✓ STRUCTURE

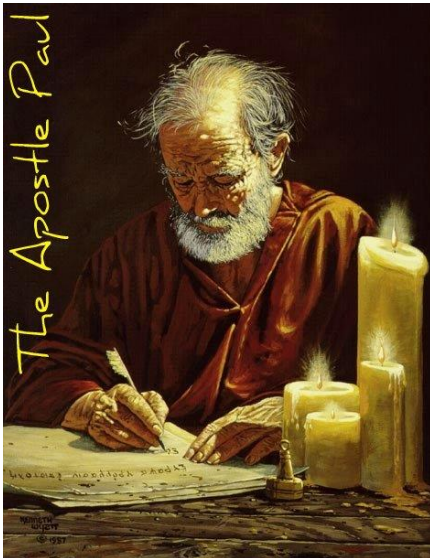
- ➡ » Lesson Preview *Introduction*
- » Reunion Of The Saints *1 Thessalonians 4:13-14*
- » Coming Of The Lord *1 Thessalonians 4:15-16*
- » Caught Up Together *1 Thessalonians 4:17-18*



Lesson Preview - INTRODUCTION

- Preview ... COMFORTING HOPE

Paul teaches the saints at Thessalonica that their “born-again” loved ones who have died will not miss the rapture of the church. All true believers in Christ, whether dead or alive, can be comforted in knowing that one day Christ will come to gather them to be with Him forever.



Lesson Preview - BACKGROUND

Material presented will be

- PREMILLENNIAL
- PRE-TRIBULATION
- DISPENSATIONAL

PREMILLENNIAL

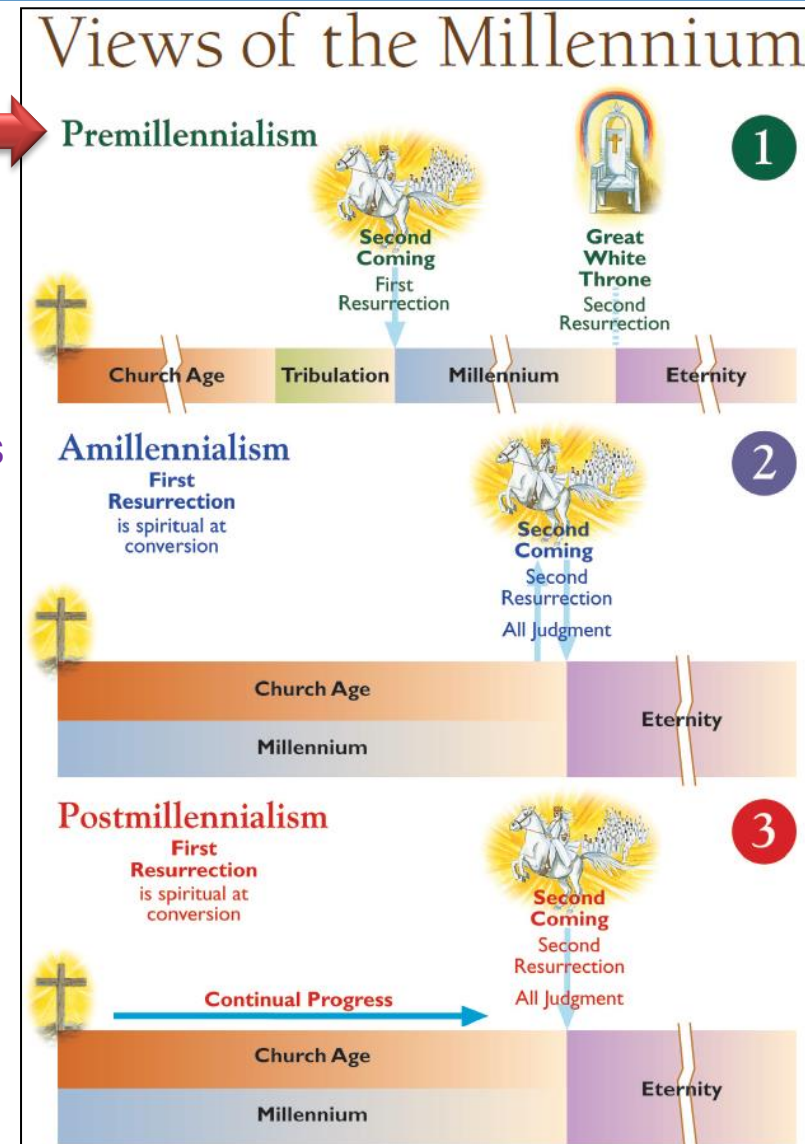
- Relates to the timing of the 2ND COMING OF JESUS
- Reference Point is the 1000 year reign of Christ

- BEFORE the 1000 years .. PREMILLENNIAL
- AFTER the 1000 years POSTMILLENNIAL
- NO 1000 years AMILLENNIAL

Some today are PAN-MILLENNIAL...

Not really taking a position - just banking on everything "*panning out*" in the end.

Not a serious position!



Lesson Preview - BACKGROUND

Material presented will be

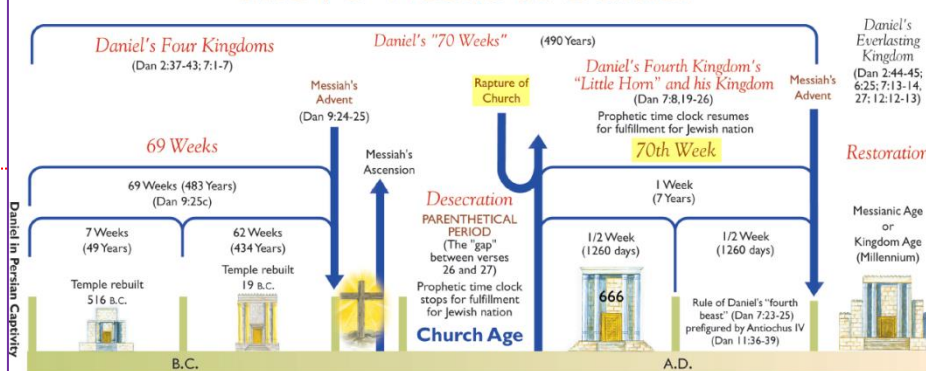
- PREMILLENNIAL
- PRE-TRIBULATION
- DISPENSATIONAL

PRE-TRIBULATION

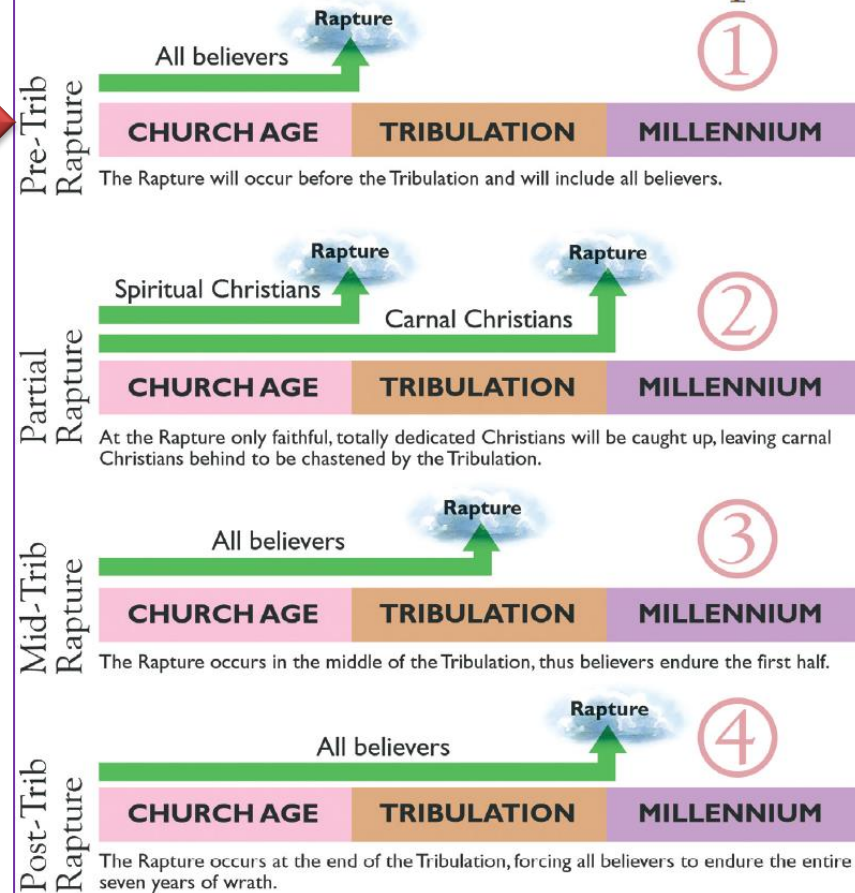
- Relates to the timing of the **TRIBULATION**
- Reference Point is **Daniel's 70th Week**

- **BEFORE 70TH WEEK** **PRETRIBULATION**
- **AFTER 70TH WEEK**..... **POST-TRIBULATION**
- **1/2 -WAY 70TH WEEK**..... **MID-TRIBULATION**

The 70 Weeks of Daniel



The Various Views of the Rapture



Lesson Preview - BACKGROUND

■ Material presented will be

COVENANT THEOLOGY

- PREMILLENNIAL
- PRE-TRIBULATION
- DISPENSATIONAL

COVENANT THEOLOGY looks at the Scriptures through the grid of the covenant. COVENANT THEOLOGY defines two overriding covenants: the covenant of works (CW) and the covenant of grace (CG). A third covenant is sometimes mentioned; namely, the covenant of redemption (CR). The important thing to keep in mind is that all of the various covenants described in Scripture (e.g., the covenants made with Noah, Abraham, Moses, David and the New Covenant) are out workings of either the covenant of works or the covenant of grace.

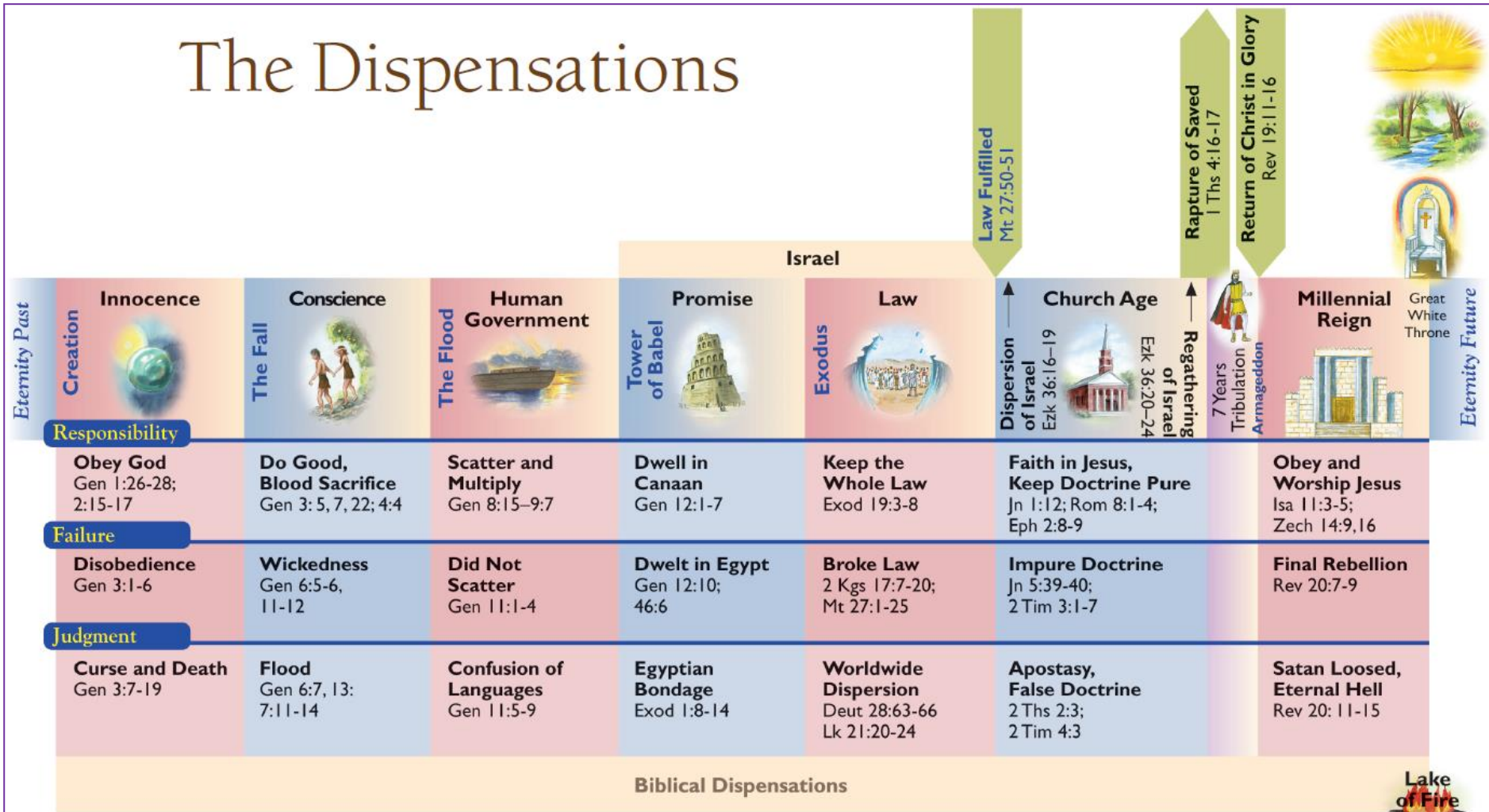
■ DISPENSATIONAL

- **DISPENSATIONALISM** is an evangelical futurist **interpretive system** for understanding the overall flow of the Bible. It sees **Biblical history** as deliberately divided by God into defined periods or **ages** to each of which God has allotted distinctive administrative principles.
- “**DISPENSATION**” (Greek: *oikonomia*) : “An **administration** of affairs, a **stewardship**, a mode of dealing” (as “*the Obama administration*” or “*Household management*”).
- Each age in the plan of God is thus administered in a certain way, and man is held responsible as a steward under God during that time.
- Each **DISPENSATION** is marked by a clear cycle.
 - God reveals Himself and His truth to humanity in a new way.
 - Humanity is held responsible to conform to that revelation.
 - Humanity rebels and fails the test.
 - God judges humanity and introduces a new period of probation under a new administration.

Lesson Preview - BACKGROUND



The Dispensations



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Lesson Preview - INTRODUCTION

- Before the **MILLENNIAL kingdom**,

- Jesus would **leave** and **go** to **heaven**;
- He would **prepare a place** for **them** in **heaven**;
- He would **come back** to **receive them** unto Himself.
- He would **take them** to **glory before He** set up His **kingdom** on the **earth**.

Note: It was a **promise** to the **church** that the **Holy Spirit** would take up **residence** in **them** and that a **specific place** was **reserved** for **them**, separate from **their return** to the **Earth** (Zechariah 12, 14:4-9).

- The early **Christians** were **looking** for **some** to be taken **home** without **dying**. The **Thessalonians** were **not concerned** about **their salvation**, nor that **Christ** would be **coming** for **them**. **They knew** that there were a number of **resurrections**.
- **They called** their **burial places** *koimeteria*, dormitories; cemeteries.

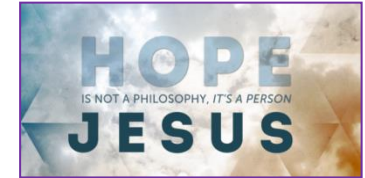
If the **LITERAL** SENSE makes **COMMON** SENSE, seek no **OTHER** SENSE;
or you'll end up with **NONSENSE**.

GOLDEN RULE OF
HERMENEUTICS

Lesson 07 - Outline

■ Thessalonians: There Is Hope!

• Lesson 07: Comforting Hope



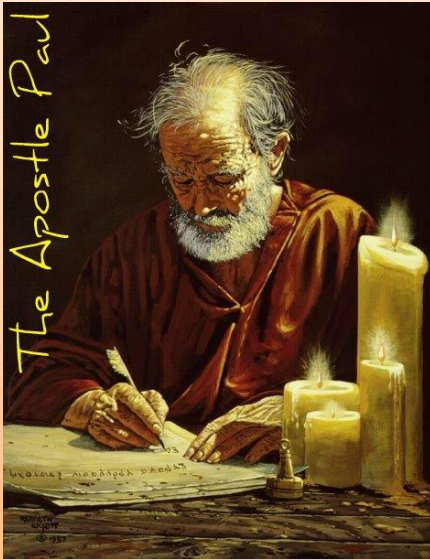
✓ STRUCTURE

» Lesson Preview *Introduction*

➔ » Reunion Of The Saints *1 Thessalonians 4:13-14*

» Coming Of The Lord *1 Thessalonians 4:15-16*

» Caught Up Together *1 Thessalonians 4:17-18*



Reunion Of The Saints - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 - OBSERVATIONS

¹³ But **I** do not want **you** to be **ignorant**, **brethren**, **concerning** **those who** have **fallen asleep**, lest **you** **sorrow** as **others** who have **no hope**. ¹⁴ For if **we** **believe** that **Jesus** **died** and **rose again**, even so **God** will **bring with Him** **those who** **sleep in Jesus**.

--- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14... NKJV

THOSE WHO HAVE NO
HOPE WILL HAVE SORROW.

RESURRECTION AND THE
SADDUCEES?

• Reunion Of The Saints - Don't Be Ignorant

- The **Thessalonian believers** were **concerned** for **their** fellow **believers who** had died in the **Lord**.
- **Apparently** there was **some concern** that **those believers** who had **died** would **miss** the **RAPTURE** and associated **victory** and **blessings** of **Jesus' return**.
- **Paul** **addresses their concern** and **intends** to **provide comfort** and **hope** as well.
- **Paul** starts out with a **declaration** that **he** does not **want** the **Thessalonians** to be **IGNORANT**.
- **IGNORANT** : *agnoeō* (äg-no-e'-ō): understand not
 - Basis for **"AGNOSTIC"** ... Latin: *Ignoramus*
 - **Paul** makes this **plea** in **his** other **letters**

1. Don't be **IGNORANT** about **God's plan** for **Israel** (Romans 11:25).
2. Don't be **IGNORANT** about **spiritual gifts** (1 Corinthians 12:1).
3. Don't be **IGNORANT** about **suffering** and **trials** in the **Christian life** (2 Corinthians 1:8).
4. Don't be **IGNORANT** about the **RAPTURE** and the **second coming** of **Jesus** (1 Thessalonians 4:13).

Reunion Of The Saints - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 - OBSERVATIONS

13 But **I** do not want **you** to be **ignorant**, **brethren**, **concerning those who** have **fallen asleep**, lest **you** sorrow as **others** who have **no hope**. **14** For if **we** believe that **Jesus** died and **rose again**, even so **God** will bring with **Him those** who **sleep** in **Jesus**.

--- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14... NKJV

AS CHRISTIANS, WE MAY MOURN THE DEATH OF OTHER BELIEVERS; BUT NOT AS OTHERS WHO HAVE NO HOPE.

OUR SORROW IS LIKE THE SADNESS OF SEEING SOMEONE OFF ON A LONG TRIP, KNOWING YOU WILL SEE THEM AGAIN BUT NOT FOR A LONG TIME.

• Reunion Of The Saints - Don't Be Ignorant

• THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP

- This **phrase** is a **euphemism** for **those who** have **died**.
- Even in **our culture** we use the **idea** of **sleep** to represent **death**, e.g. "eternal rest", "rest in peace", etc.
- The "THOSE" here in this **verse** refers to **believers**.
- It is the **body** that **sleeps** and **not** the **soul**.
 - The **doctrine** of **soul sleep**, i.e., *the soul goes to sleep at death*, is an **unscriptural viewpoint**.

• THOSE WHO SLEEP IN JESUS

- **These** are **believers** whose **spirits** are **now** in the **presence** of **Jesus** (2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:21-24)
- The **bodies** of **these believers** have the **appearance** of **sleep** in the **grave**.

8 **We** are **confident**, yes, **well pleased** rather to be **absent from the body** and **to be present with the Lord**. ---2 Corinthians 5:8 ... NKJV

Reunion Of The Saints - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 - OBSERVATIONS

¹³ But **I** do not want **you** to be **ignorant**, **brethren**, **concerning** **those who** have **fallen asleep**, lest **you** sorrow as **others** who have **no hope**. ¹⁴ For if **we** **believe** that **Jesus died** and **rose again**, even so **God** will **bring with Him** **those who sleep in Jesus**.

--- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14... NKJV

DO YOU REALLY LOVE THE LORD'S APPEARING?

⁸ Finally, there is **laid up** for **me** the **crown of righteousness**, which the **Lord**, the righteous **Judge**, will give to **me** on that **Day**, and not to **me** only but also **to all who have loved His appearing**. --2 Timothy 4:8

• Reunion Of The Saints - Don't Be Ignorant

• HOW CERTAIN IS YOUR HOPE?

- It **depends** upon **your certainty concerning** the **death** and **resurrection** of **Christ**. His **resurrection** is **God's seal** and **evidence** for **ours**.
- **We** are **confident** because **Jesus lives** and **our union** with **Him** is **stronger** than **death**. (Romans 8:38-39)
- **Our resurrection hope** is in **Jesus**.

²⁰ But now **Christ** is **risen** from the **dead**, *and* has become the **first fruits** of **those who** have **fallen asleep**. ²¹ For **since** by **man** **came** **death**, by **Man** also **came** the **resurrection of the dead**. ²² For as **in Adam** **all die**, even so **in Christ** **all** shall be **made alive**. ²³ But **each one** in **his own order**: **Christ** the **first fruits**, **afterward those who are Christ's** at **His coming**. --- 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 ... NKJV

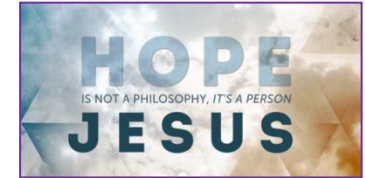
CHRIST'S RESURRECTION IS THE FIRST FRUITS.

WE ARE THE FRUITS THAT FOLLOW.

Lesson 07 - Outline

■ Thessalonians: There Is Hope!

• Lesson 07: Comforting Hope



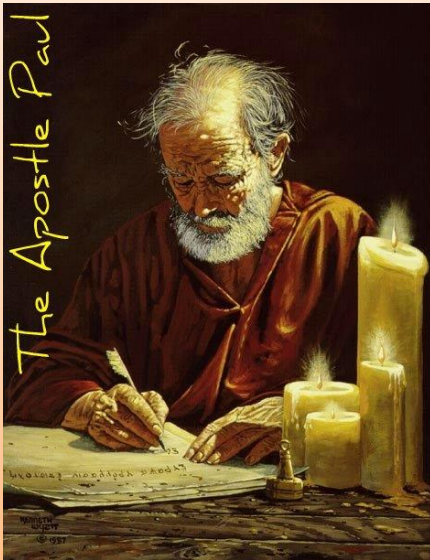
✓ STRUCTURE

» Lesson Preview *Introduction*

» Reunion Of The Saints *1 Thessalonians 4:13-14*

➔ » Coming Of The Lord *1 Thessalonians 4:15-16*

» Caught Up Together *1 Thessalonians 4:17-18*



Coming Of The Lord - 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16 - OBSERVATIONS

¹⁵ For this **we** say to **you** by the **word** of the **Lord**, that **we who** are **alive and remain** until the **coming** of the **Lord** will by no **means** **precede those who are asleep**. ¹⁶ For the **Lord Himself** will **descend** from **heaven** with a **shout**, with the **voice** of an **archangel**, and with the **trumpet** of **God**. And the **dead in Christ** will **rise first**.

--- 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16... NKJV

• Coming Of The Lord - The Rapture

- **BY THE WORD OF THE LORD**
 - **Paul emphasized** that this was an **authoritative command**, though **we** do not **know** whether **Paul received** it by **direct revelation** or if it was an **unrecorded saying** of **Jesus**.
 - One way or another, this **came from Jesus** and **did not originate** with **Paul**.
- **WILL BY NO MEANS PRECEDE**
 - **Those** who **died** in **Christ** **would not** be at a **disadvantage** when the **Lord** **returns**.

"The living will have no advantage over those fallen asleep; they will not meet the returning Christ ahead of the dead, nor will they have any precedence in the blessedness at His coming."

--- Edmond Hiebert

PROPER CHRISTIAN ANTICIPATION
INCLUDES THE IMMINENT RETURN
OF CHRIST.

Coming Of The Lord - 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16 - OBSERVATIONS

15 For this **we** say to **you** by the **word** of the **Lord**, that **we who** are **alive and remain** until the **coming** of the **Lord** will by no **means** **precede those who are asleep**. **16** For the **Lord Himself** will **descend** from **heaven** with a **shout**, with the **voice** of an **archangel**, and with the **trumpet** of **God**. And the **dead** in **Christ** will **rise first**.

--- 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16... NKJV

Coming Of The Lord - The Rapture

RAPTURE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS (v15-17)

#	EVENT
1	The Lord Himself will descend from heaven
2	With a shout
3	With the voice of the archangel
4	And with the trumpet of God
5	And the dead in Christ shall rise first
6	Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with those who have been resurrected in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

PERSONALLY

AUTHORITATIVE

MICHAEL?

NOT WAR; ASSEMBLY

3 distinct sounds

RAPTURE WILL NOT BE SILENT OR SECRET

- Notice the **dead** in **Christ** **rise 1st**, followed by **we who** are **ALIVE** and **REMAIN**

- Not just **ALIVE**, but **ALIVE and REMAIN**
- Believers** in **Christ**, **expecting His return** (*remaining in Him*)

ARE YOU ALIVE AND REMAINING IN CHRIST?

Coming Of The Lord - 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16 - OBSERVATIONS

¹⁵ For this **we** say to **you** by the **word** of the **Lord**, that **we who** are **alive and remain** until the **coming** of the **Lord** will by no **means** **precede those who are asleep**. ¹⁶ For the **Lord Himself** will **descend** from **heaven** with a **shout**, with the **voice** of an **archangel**, and with the **trumpet** of **God**. And the **dead in Christ** will **rise first**.

--- 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16... NKJV

• Coming Of The Lord - The Rapture

- The **question** WAS NOT:

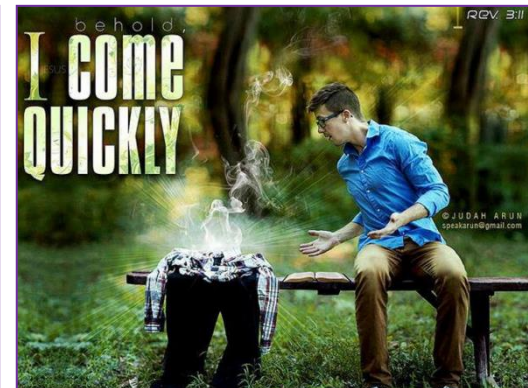
- Is the **Lord coming**?
- Are **we going to be with Him**?

- The **question** WAS:

- What is going to **happen** to **our loved ones who** have **preceded us** in **death**?

- The **answer** is:

- The **dead in Christ** will be **raised first**.
- Just **before we who** are **alive and remain**.
- All **believers** will go to **see** the **Lord**.

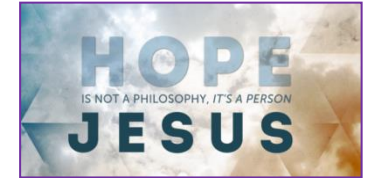


WE DO NOT NEED TO WORRY
ABOUT OUR LOVED ONES WHO
HAVE DIED IN THE LORD

Lesson 07 - Outline

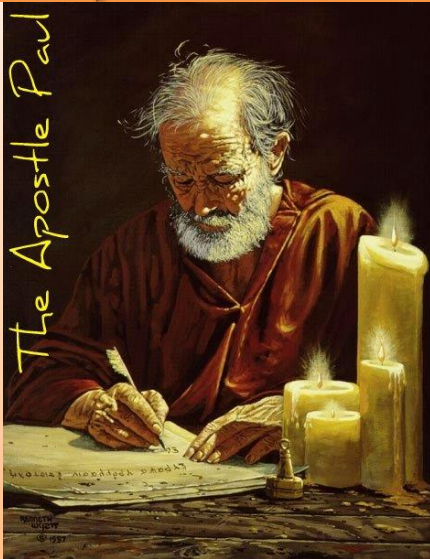
■ Thessalonians: There Is Hope!

• Lesson 07: Comforting Hope



✓ STRUCTURE

- » Lesson Preview *Introduction*
- » Reunion Of The Saints *1 Thessalonians 4:13-14*
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Caught Up Together - 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18 - OBSERVATIONS

17 Then **we who** are **alive and remain** shall be **caught up together** with **them** in the **clouds** to **meet** the **Lord** in the **air**. And thus **we** shall **always be with** the **Lord**. **18** Therefore **comfort one another** with **these words**.

--- 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18... NKJV

• Caught Up Together - Comfort One Another

- **CAUGHT UP** - *harpazō* (här-pä'-zō): to seize; snatch away
 - In the ancient *Greek*, the phrase **to meet** was used as a **technical term** to **describe** the **official welcoming** of **honored guests**.
 - This **passage** is the **basis** for the **New Testament doctrine** of the **RAPTURE**, the **catching away** of **believers** to be with **Jesus**. The **word RAPTURE** is not in the **ancient Greek text**, but **comes** from the Latin Vulgate, which **translates** the **phrase CAUGHT UP** with *rapturus*, from which **we** get **our** English **word RAPTURE**.
 - **Paul's statement**, under the **inspiration** of the **Holy Spirit**, is both **dramatic** and **fantastic**. **He** speaks of **believers** flying upward, **CAUGHT UP ... IN THE CLOUDS TO MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR**.
 - **We** wouldn't **believe** this unless the **Bible** told **us** it were so, not any more than **we** would **believe** that **God** who **became** a **Baby**, that **He** did **miracles**, that **He** **died** on a **cross** and **He** **lives** in **us**.

WE WILL MEET THE
LORD IN THE AIR -
SIGNIFYING THE
VICTORY OVER THE
CURRENT RULER OF
THE AIR - SATAN.

-EPHESIANS 2:2-

Caught Up Together - 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18 - OBSERVATIONS

17 Then **we who** are **alive and remain** shall be **caught up together** with **them** in the **clouds** to **meet** the **Lord** in the **air**. And thus **we** shall **always be with the Lord**. **18** Therefore **comfort one another with these words**.

--- 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18... NKJV

Supporters of the different “CAUGHT UP” positions believe their position is supported by Scripture. There are good Christian scholars in each of the camps. We should not divide over this issue.

• Caught Up Together - Comfort One Another

- **CAUGHT UP** - *harpazō* (här-pä'-zō): to seize; snatch away
 - **Paul's language** here is so **straightforward** and **free** from **figurative speech** that there is no **missing his intent**.
 - **Paul's plain language** leaves **no doubt** regarding the **certainty** of this **event**.
 - However, the **timing** of this **event** in the **chronology** of **God's prophetic plan** is a matter of **significant debate** among **Christians**.
 - The **debate** about this **CATCHING AWAY centers** on **where** it fits in with this **final seven-year period**, popularly **known** as the **Great Tribulation** (Matthew 24:21... Olivet Discourse).

- The **PRE-TRIBULATION** rapture position believes believers are **CAUGHT UP BEFORE** this final seven-year period.
- The **MID-TRIBULATION** rapture position believes believers are **CAUGHT UP IN THE MIDST** of this final seven-year period.
- The **PRE-WRATH** rapture position believes believers are **CAUGHT UP** at **SOME TIME IN THE SECOND HALF** of this final seven-year period.
- The **POST-TRIBULATION** rapture position believes believers are **CAUGHT UP AT THE END** of this final seven-year period.

Caught Up Together - 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18 - OBSERVATIONS

17 Then **we who** are **alive and remain** shall be **caught up together** with **them** in the **clouds** to **meet** the **Lord** in the **air**. And thus **we** shall **always be with the Lord**. **18** Therefore **comfort one another with these words**.

--- 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18... NKJV

• Caught Up Together - Comfort One Another

- **CAUGHT UP** - *harpazō* (här-pä'-zō): to seize; snatch away
 - The **manner** in which **Jesus** will **gather** us to **Himself** is **impressive**. But the **main point** is that **whatever** the **state** of the **believer** (dead or alive) at the **Lord's coming**, **they** will **ALWAYS BE WITH THE LORD**.
 - This is the **great reward of heaven** - **to be with Jesus**.
 - **Death** can't **break our unity** with **Jesus** or with **other believers**. (Romans 8:38-39)



Caught Up Together - 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18 - OBSERVATIONS

17 Then **we who** are **alive and remain** shall be **caught up together** with **them** in the **clouds** to **meet** the **Lord** in the **air**. And thus **we** shall **always be with the Lord**. **18** Therefore **comfort one another** with **these words**.

--- 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18... NKJV

• Caught Up Together - Comfort One Another

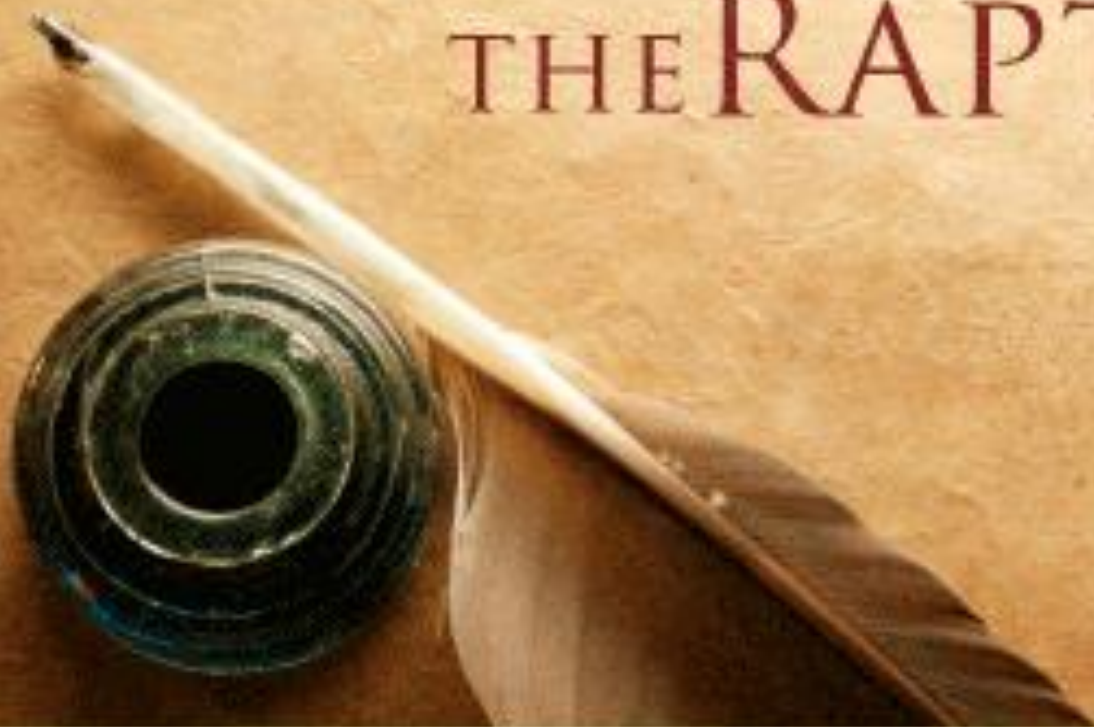
- **CAUGHT UP** - *harpazō* (här-pä'-zō): to seize; snatch away

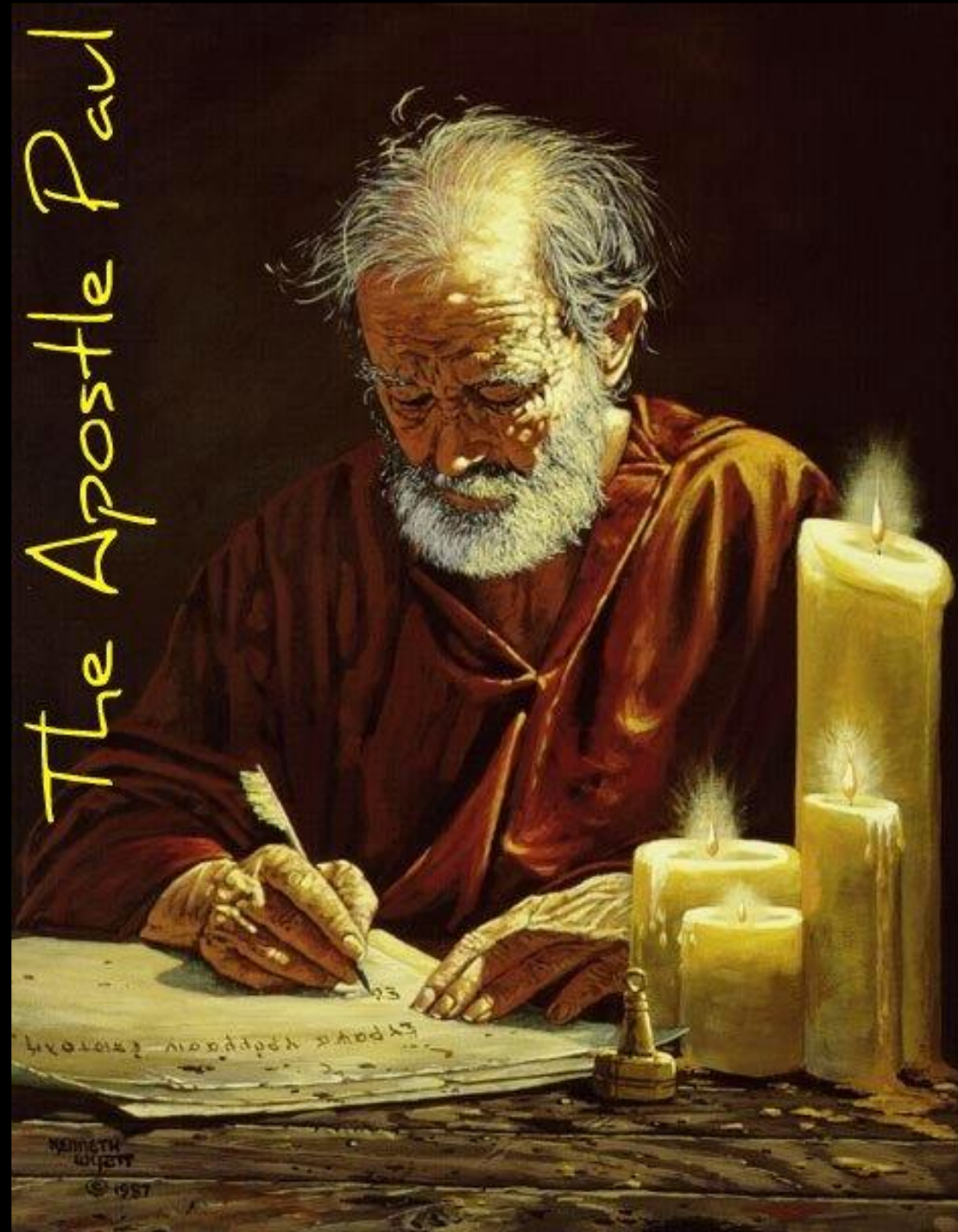
- **THEREFORE COMFORT ONE ANOTHER**

- **Paul** did **not** instruct the **Thessalonian believers** to **TAKE COMFORT**, but to **GIVE COMFORT**.
- In the **way God** works, **we** always **receive** **COMFORT** as **we give** **COMFORT**.
- The **truth** of the **return** of **Jesus** for **His people**, and the **eternal union** of **Jesus** and **His people** is to be a **source** of **COMFORT** for **believers**.
- This **concluding statement** of **Paul** only makes sense if the **CATCHING AWAY** of the previous verses actually **delivers believers** from an **impending danger**.
- If the **CATCHING AWAY** only **brings humanity** to **God** for **judgment**, there is **little comfort** in these **words**.

DO YOU FIND THE
COMING OF JESUS AT
ANY MOMENT
COMFORTING?

ARE YOU
READY
FOR
THE RAPTURE?





The Apostle Paul

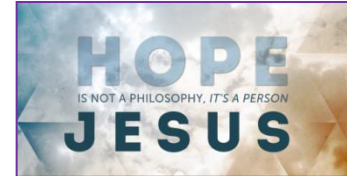
Thessalonians

"There Is Hope!"

End of Lesson



Instructor: Philip Giorgio
www.GiorgioMinistries.com



Thessalonians: There Is Hope!

Lesson **8**:
Future Hope: *Part I*
[1 Thessalonians 5:1-11]

Next Lesson

Next Lesson

■ Thessalonians: There Is Hope!

- Lesson 01: Introduction [THESSALONIANS]
- Lesson 02: Inspiring Hope [1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10]
- Lesson 03: Working Hope: *Part I* [1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12]
- Lesson 04: Working Hope: *Part II* [1 THESSALONIANS 2:13-20]
- Lesson 05: Purifying Hope: *Part I* [1 THESSALONIANS 3:1-13]
- Lesson 06: Purifying Hope: *Part II* [1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-12]
- Lesson 07: Comforting Hope [1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18]
- Lesson 08: Future Hope: *Part I* [1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11]
- Lesson 09: Future Hope: *Part II* [1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-28]
- Lesson 10: Blessed Hope: *Part I* [2 THESSALONIANS 1:1-12]
- Lesson 11: Blessed Hope: *Part II* [2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12]
- Lesson 12: Blessed Hope: *Part III* [2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-17]
- Lesson 13: Living Hope [2 THESSALONIANS 3:1-18]

