

# In A Moment

## INAM-04 “TWO WORDS – TWO EVENTS”

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### “THE DOCTRINE OF THE RAPTURE OF THE SAINTS”

**2 Thessalonians 2:1-2** “Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, 2) not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us...”

In this **Lesson** we will be completing the presentation on “Dispensational Truth” with an overview of the “7 Dispensations.” This is a vital tool for the proper understanding of the flow of God’s eternal purpose for humanity.

Though the “Rapture” is not one of the Dispensations, we do find that it is the culmination of “THE CHURCH AGE.” The “TRIBULATION” is not a part of the CHURCH AGE. This 7-year period is a “time of God’s wrath” being visited upon the earth. Thankfully, the CHURCH will not be subjected to that for... “we shall be caught-up to be with Christ.”

### THE “7” DISPENSATIONS:

1. **THE DISPENSATION OF INNOCENCE:** From the Creation of Adam to “The Fall” – Man lived in Harmony with God through true and direct communion
2. **THE DISPENSATION OF CONSCIENCE:** From “The Fall” to Noah’s Departure from the Ark – The years of Adam’s descendants BEFORE the Flood – Humanity was to live by “the knowledge of good and evil” they had desired
3. **THE DISPENSATION OF HUMAN GOVERNMENT:** From Noah’s Departure from the Ark to the Call of Abraham – Noah’s Descendants AFTER the Flood – God gave humanity the responsibility to “govern themselves”
4. **THE DISPENSATION OF PROMISE** From “God’s Covenant with Abraham” until the “Giving of THE LAW” at Sinai – From The Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph... to the arrival at Sinai – “God’s Promise” was received by “faith” and fulfilled by testimony of living in the “Blessings of God” – Sacrifices were offered as a profession in the “Promised Seed” – God honored their “Faith in His Promise” – They were “Redeemed from Egypt’s Bondage” through “the promise God made to Abraham - Isaac - and Jacob” – THE PASSOVER was a celebration of God’s promise of deliverance from death... BEFORE it was a part of THE LAW...
5. **THE DISPENSATION OF THE LAW** – From the “Giving of THE LAW” to “The Resurrection of JESUS CHRIST” – Moses; The Priests; The Sacrifices; and the Prophets; The Age of the Kings; The Babylonian Captivity; and the Return... Everything changed at Sinai... MAN became directly responsible to live to the Holy Standard of God... THE LAW - This includes the rise of the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the years of Jesus’ Birth; Life; and Death...
6. **THE DISPENSATION OF GRACE / THE CHURCH AGE:** From the “The Resurrection of Jesus Christ” until “THE RAPTURE OF THE SAINTS” – The Church Age introduced “the most radical change” in God’s relation to humanity –
  - a. The CURSE OF THE FALL was removed by the Sacrifice of the “PERFECT LAMB...”
  - b. The Conscience has been “purified” and is now a matter of the Holy Spirit within each Believer...
  - c. Government is a matter of those in authority UNDER God are appointed to establish Righteous Rule...
  - d. THE PROMISE was revealed in the PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST ... ALL believers are the “Children of Abraham”
  - e. THE LAW found its purpose and was fulfilled and terminated in the Death of JESUS CHRIST...
  - f. GOD’S grace brought forth NEW BIRTH to those who, by faith, received Him...

- g. The HOLY SPIRIT came to “dwell within” everyone who has been “BORN AGAIN” –
- h. The “LIFE OF GOD; RIGHTEOUSNESS; HOLINESS; SONSHIP with JESUS CHRIST” was given to Believers and the promise of ETERNAL LIFE was realized...

**“THE TRIBULATION”** – “This is a period of “7 years” After the Rapture until the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of JESUS CHRIST. This is the fulfillment of the “7<sup>th</sup> week of Years” prophesied in DANIEL 9:24

This will include the “21” Judgments of God beginning with the 7 Seals... then the 7 Trumpets... then finally the 7 Bowls... the Fall of Babylon the Great; The Marriage Supper of THE LAMB; the great Battle of Armageddon; and The great TRIUMPH OF CHRIST at His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming

- 7. **THE DISPENSATION OF THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM OF CHRIST:** From The 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus Christ until the Great White Throne Judgement; This is “The 1,000 year Reign of Jesus Christ upon the Earth” – It will be ended with the Release of Satan from his chains – the great deception and rebellion – the Great Battle against God; the Defeat of Satan – Satan’s consignment to the Lake of Fire; The Judgment at the Great White Throne - and the Eternal damnation in the Lake of Fire (GEHENNA) of ALL who’s names are NOT in the Book of Life...

In every Dispensation there have been ways for “*whosoever will*” to express their faith in the Promised Messiah, and to receive “Salvation”

- Before the “CROSS” there was a Salvation of “Hope” in the fulfillment of a promised REDEEMER... SUBSTITUTE... SAVIOR... MESSIAH...
- During the CHURCH AGE it is “by Faith in the Grace of God” offered through the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ...
- During the TRIBULATION and MILLENNIUM, it will be by expressing Faith in the Glorified and Revealed Son of God... THE LAMB
- Those condemned to Eternal Hell (GEHENNA) will have NO offer of NOR opportunity to repent... believe... nor receive forgiveness of sins... They can see The Lamb [REV 14:10], but there is NO mercy in His eyes...

**\*\* THE NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH:** - This is not truly a “dispensation” like the others... for there is “no realized time” following the REVEALING OF THE NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH...

## TWO WORDS – TWO EVENTS

It becomes apparent when we consider several verses of Scripture regarding the “End Times” (Eschatology) that there are differences... even contradictions. Consider:

1 THESS 2:1-2; 8 Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, <sup>2</sup> not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us to the effect that THE DAY OF THE LORD has come.

Vs 8 And then the Lawless One will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

And...

1 THESS 4:15-18 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who are left, 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. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.

In the First, as Paul continues, he reminds the Believers that BEFORE the Lord comes there will be rebellion, the revealing of the Antichrist, and his subsequent judgment... all of which the believers will see

**In the Second**, Paul encourages the Believers that the Lord's coming will be immanent; it will be sudden; their will be the resurrection of the dead; and the Believers will be "raptured"

Within the "Dispensation of the Church Age" there several things presented in relationship to one another: "THE HOUR vs AN HOUR" ... "THE DAY OF THE LORD vs THE DAY OF CHRIST" ... "THE APPEARANCE vs THE ARRIVAL" Only by careful comparison Scripture can the distinction between these events be seen. That is why many confuse them as being a reference to the same thing.

We will cover THE DAY OF THE LORD vs THE DAY OF CHRIST in our next Session.

### **TWO DISTINCT WORDS ... TWO DISTINCT EVENTS:**

- **Appearance...** – **Epiphaneia** – to **appear in light** / **to be manifest** with glorious brightness – This is especially used in Greek to identify something that is "present" but not seen until revealed...
  - In the NT **ALWAYS** of the **1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> APPEARING** / **ADVENT** of the LORD –
  - **Marked by Brightness / Glory / Fear / Awe** – those who truly realized who "JESUS" was were "awe-struck"... Mary; Joseph; Shepherds; Magi; Simeon; Anna; Disciples; Centurion; **Demons**
  - The **FIRST ADVENT** of JESUS CHRIST ...

**2 Tim. 1:9-10** "...not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,<sup>10</sup> and which now has been manifested **through the appearing** of our Savior Christ Jesus..."
  - The **SECOND** and **FUTURE APPEARANCE** of THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

**2 THESS. 2:8** "And then the Lawless One will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the **appearance** [Epiphaneia] of his **coming** [Parousia]."

**1 TIM. 6:14** "...to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the **appearing** of our Lord Jesus Christ..."

**2 TIM. 4:1** "I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his **appearing** and his kingdom..."

**Vs 8** "Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his **appearing**."

**TITUS 2:13** "...waiting for our blessed hope, the **appearing** of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ..."
- **Arrival / Coming...** – **Parousia** – to be **present** / the **arrival** / to **come to**... In the NT, the understanding of the "Arrival" must be determined by its context in relation to the "Occasion of the ARRIVAL"
  - **THE RAPTURE** –

**1 COR 15:23** "But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his **coming** those who belong to Christ."

**1 THESS 2:19-20** "For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his **coming**? Is it not you?<sup>20</sup> For you are our glory and joy."

**1 THESS 3:13** "...so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the **coming** of our Lord Jesus with all his saints."

**1 THESS 4:15** "For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the **coming** of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep."

**1 THESS 5:23** "Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the **coming** of our Lord Jesus Christ."

**JAS 5:7-8** “Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the **coming** of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the **coming** of the Lord is at hand.”

**1 JN 2:28** “And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears [**Phaneros** – to be seen] we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his **coming** [**Parousia** - arrival].”

○ **THE 2<sup>ND</sup> COMING** –

**MATT 24:3** “As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your **coming** and of the end of the age?”

**:27** For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the **coming** of the Son of Man.

**2 THESS 2:1** “Now concerning the **coming** of our Lord Jesus Christ and **our being gathered together to him...**”

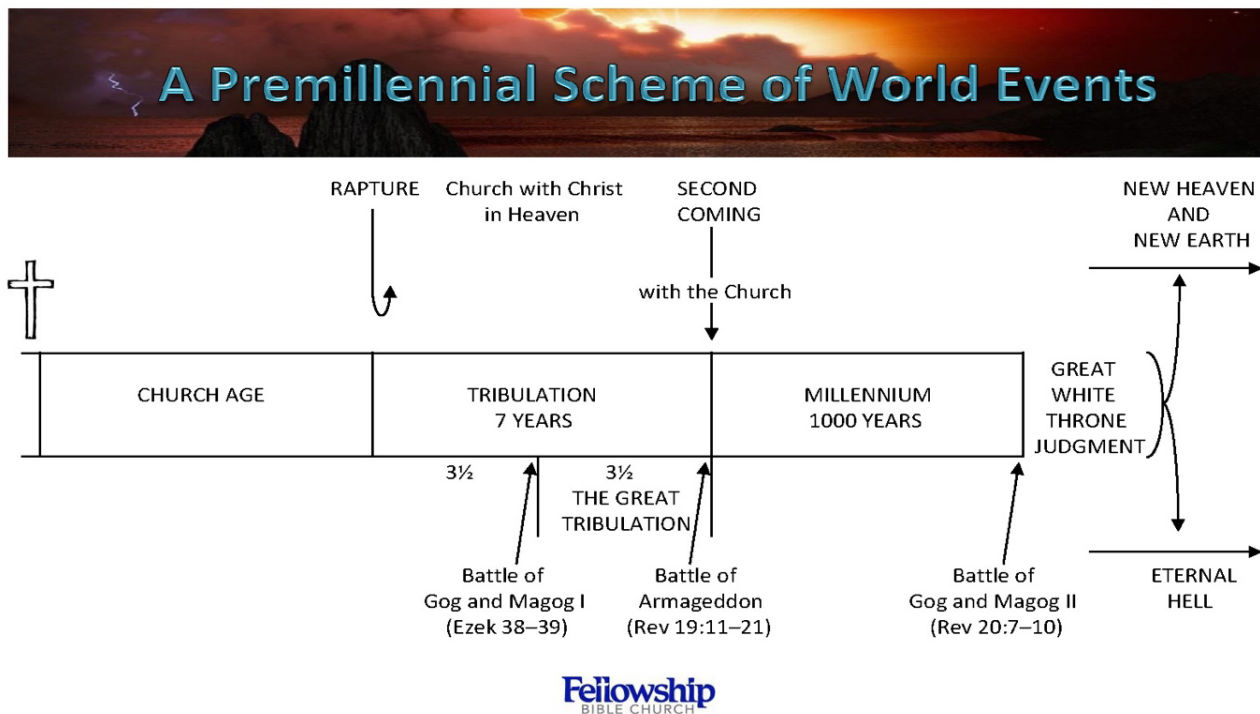
**:8** “And then the Lawless One will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the **appearance** [**Epiphaneia**] of his **coming** [**Parousia**].”

**2 PET 3:4** “They will say, ‘Where is the promise of his **coming**?’”

**:12** “...waiting for and hastening the **coming** of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!”

## The End Times Chart

“THE PRE-TRIBULATIONAL ... PRE-MILLENNIAL VIEWPOINT”



## THE DAY OF THE LORD... and... THE DAY OF CHRIST

Although most are aware of The Day of the Lord, there is little consideration of the distinction between the two. But they are different: with different **timing**, different **results**, and different **purposes**.

1. **THE DAY OF THE LORD** – An Old Testament phrase referring to a period of years in which *the Lord brings His Judgment and Rule to The Earth...*

**LAM 2:22; ISA 2:12; 13:6, 9-10; 34:8 JER 46:10; EZK 13:5; 30:3; JOEL 1:15; 2:1; 3:14; AMOS 5:18; OBA 15; ZEPH 1:7; 8; 18; 2:2; 3; ZECH 14:1; MAL 4:5 (THEN 1; 2)**

**ZECH 14:1FF** “Behold... **THE DAY OF THE LORD** comes...”

- Gathering of all nations **against Jerusalem by God...**
- The **taking** of the city...
- The **BODILY APPEARANCE (RETURN)** of the Lord on the MOUNT OF OLIVES...  
[REV 19:11-16; MATT 24:27-30]
- The **Great Earthquake... signifying the END OF THE TRIBULATION...**  
[REV 6:12; 11:13; 16:18]

### Five Things we know about **“THE DAY OF THE LORD”**

- a. The **“D of L”** has application to the **NATION OF ISRAEL**

**ZEPHANIAH 1:14-16** *The **GREAT DAY OF THE LORD** is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of **THE DAY OF THE LORD** is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there.*

<sup>15</sup> *A **DAY** of wrath is that day, a **DAY** of distress and anguish, a **DAY** of ruin and devastation, a **DAY** of darkness and gloom, a **DAY** of clouds and thick darkness,<sup>16</sup> a **DAY** of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.*

**NOT** to **THE CHURCH** (the **CHURCH AGE** was **unknown** to the Prophets) ...

<sup>1</sup> **PETER 1:10-12** *Concerning this salvation, **the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours** searched and inquired carefully,<sup>11</sup> inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.<sup>12</sup> It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.*

**EPH 3:4-7**

- b. The **“D of L”** is **YET** future...

- i. It will **begin** with the Saints being **“caught-up”** to Him – **THE RAPTURE...**

<sup>2</sup> **THESS 2:1-2** *Now concerning **the coming** of our Lord Jesus Christ **AND our being gathered together to him.***

we ask you, brothers, <sup>2</sup> **not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the DAY OF THE LORD has come.**

- ii. and **end** with the **GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT** (REV 20:11-15)...
  - c. The "**D of L**" is a time of "**judgment upon Israel**" because of their rejection of God's Authority and the Offer of the Messiah (the **MYSTERY OF THE OLIVE TREE**)
  - d. The "**D of L**" refers to a day of "**Great Tribulation / Trouble / Suffering / Wrath**" upon Israel AND the world as presented both by the **OT Prophets**, By **Jesus** (MATT 24), and by **John** (REV 6-19)
  - e. The "**D of L**" is the time of the Messiah's "**Arrival**" (**2<sup>ND</sup> EIPHANEIA**) upon the Earth in "**Judgment**" **NOT** as "**Savior**" (**1<sup>ST</sup> EIPHANEIA**)
2. **THE DAY OF CHRIST [JESUS]** – A New Testament phrase used in reference to the "**DAY**" **Christ comes for the Saints**... The "**CATCHING AWAY!**" (**RAPTURE**)

PHIL 1:6 "**And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion [until] THE DAY OF CHRIST JESUS.**"

- God's work **WITHIN** us will continue until the time of the **RAPTURE**...
- **THEN** we will be "**fully changed**" into His glorious image...

**PHIL 3:20-21** "**But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.**"

"**Transform...**" – **metaschematizo** – to make "**outward change ONLY**"

"**Our "lowly" bodies...**" – the "**change**" is **ONLY** to the "**lowly body**" in which we dwell...

"**To be like...**" – **summorphos** – To be fashioned into the "**form**" of another's which is **NOT** representative of the previous "**form**"

**WHY** only "**outward change**" – **BECAUSE** we are **ALREADY** created in **His own** image and likeness **WITHIN**...

PHIL 2:16 "**holding fast to the word of life, so that in THE DAY OF CHRIST I may be confident that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.**"

- Our "**labor**" will be complete at the time of 1) **Death**; or 2) **RAPTURE**
- Our "**rewards**" will then be recognized based on what we have done in **THIS** life...
  - **1 COR 3:12-13** **Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— <sup>13</sup> each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.**
  - **JOHN 14:**

- COL 3:4 **When Christ** who is your life **appears**, then **you also will appear** with him in glory.
- 1 THESS 1:10
- 1 THESS 2:19-20 For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our **Lord Jesus at his Coming**? Is it not you? <sup>20</sup> For you are our glory and joy.
- 2 TIM 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on **that Day**, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.
- TITUS 2:
- REV 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the **dead who die in the Lord** from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "**that they may rest from their labors**, for **their deeds follow them!**"

### 3. CONTRAST:

1 THESS 4:17-18 Then **we who are alive**, who are left, **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. <sup>18</sup> Therefore **encourage one another** with these words.

1 THESS 5:8-11 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup> For **God has not destined us for wrath...**

"destined to wrath..." – to be once and for all given over to receive the pending judgment of wrath - reserved for those who have NOT believed upon the **LORD JESUS CHRIST** (JOHN 3:36)

but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

<sup>10</sup> who died for us so that whether we are:

**awake** - we who are **alive** and **remain...**

or **asleep** - those who **have died** in the Lord...

we **might live with him**.

<sup>11</sup> Therefore **encourage one another** and **build one another up**, just as you are doing.

- ADDITION OF "building-up" – MEND / REPAIR / COMPLETE...

The Last Days = Pentecost to 2nd Coming – The Day of the Lord - Comprise Church Age & Tribulation

The Church Age = Pentecost to the Rapture are a part the Last Days