

In A Moment

INAM-09 “THOSE WHO ARE ALIVE & THOSE WHO ARE ASLEEP”

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“THE DOCTRINE OF THE RAPTURE OF THE SAINTS”

1 Thess 4:13-18 “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

In **1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18**, Paul writes with the intent of relieving the anxiety and confusion some of the Believers are experiencing. It seems that there have been teachers who have entered the city after Paul was expelled who have introduced false doctrines, and possibly false prophecies. Their words have raised questions that center around “*the Coming of the Lord to ‘catch-away’ the Believers*”

- Who will the Lord “*catch-away?*” Who are the ones who will “*remain.*”
- What about those who have died – that have “*fallen asleep?*” Did they miss everything?
- Have the things that Paul taught about “*the end times*” already taken place?
- Has the time of the “*Tribulation*” started?
- Is the *Antichrist* already in power?

These are some of the issues to which Paul responds in **1 & 2 THESSALONIANS**. Questions and confusion about these things have shaken the faith of the Saints. *Similar questions trouble Believers to this day.*

Believers need to know the Truth found in God’s Word in order to find stability in these times!

THOSE FALLEN ASLEEP

1 THESS 4:14 “For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him [Jesus] those who have fallen asleep... [see also: vs 15 ... have fallen asleep].

➤ “**HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP**” – *Aor/Pass* – *this is not something they DID, but that happened TO them...*

This must have been a common phrase in the Church for those Believers who had died:

In **vs16B** Paul identifies them as the “**dead in Christ**”

- They ARE “*physically dead*” ... their bodies “*in the grave*”
- They are “*asleep*” because this is NOT their final state... their ultimate existence will be a “*Resurrection*” / a “*glorified*” body
 - To the ancient people “the dead” still existed – *just not as physically apparent* – they were “in the grave”
 - The word “**Hades**” means “*unseen*” – the realm of “the dead” – similar to “*Sheol*”
 - Although “**Hades**” is often translated “*Hell*” it is more properly “*the Grave*” –

- This is NOT the “Hell” of “Eternal Death” – that is “Gehenna”
- Both “Hades & Sheol” had a place of “peace” and a place of “torment”
- Those who have “fallen asleep” will physically “awake – arise – be resurrected” at the “rapture”

➤ “PRESENT WITH THE LORD”

At the time of “death” the Believer’s Soul & Spirit are released from their physical body and are “present with the Lord...” The “body” is in the grave... the Spirit & Soul are in Heaven with Christ.

2 COR 5:1-9 For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³ if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened – not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

⁶ So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.”

PHIL 1:21-23 “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.”

2 COR 12:2-4 “I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up [Harpagmos - raptured] to the third heaven – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. ³ And I know that this man was caught up into paradise – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows – ⁴ and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.”

➤ Our Hope... “THE RESURRECTION”

This “Hope” that brings comfort to those who grieve is anchored in the promise of “resurrection”

- The “JEWISH RESURRECTION” was fixated upon that which would occur at the “End of the Age” – THE 2ND COMING – when they would be raised to enter the MILLENNIAL KINGDOM OF THE MESSIAH
- The Promise of “RESURRECTION” is two-fold... –
 - Resurrection WITH CHRIST in the New Birth – *to be seated with Christ in the Heavens*
 - Resurrection of the “Body” which will take place at the “Catching Away – Rapture” of the Believers just before the time of TRIBULATION...
- The “Blessed Hope”

TITUS 2:13 “...waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ”

1 JOHN 3:2-3 Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure.

- To Be **“Transfigured”**

PHIL 3:20-21 *“But our citizenship is in Heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ 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.”*

- **“Metaschematizo”** – *To make an outward change* – Believers are already changed inwardly through the NB – the “outward being” will be changed at the rapture – the resurrection of the physical body to a glorified body... -
- **“Summorphos”** – *To be made the same in nature and essence* – Our resurrected bodies will be made to be the same in nature and essence as His – However, our “bodies” will not “look exactly like His” in our appearance -

WE WHO ARE ALIVE

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.*

Paul’s assurance was to comfort / encourage the Believers who were troubled about whether Believer’s who were “asleep” would be included when Christ comes for the Church, since they are not alive to **“continue in the faith”**, or to be **“living for Him”**. Obviously “someone” was teaching this false doctrine.

- **“Until the Coming of the Lord...”** – **“Parousia”** – Which One: **2nd Coming** OR **The Rapture?**
 - In order to identify the way this phrase is to be understood, it must be compared to other statements and the context of Scripture
 - It applies to **“the Resurrection”** NOT **Judgment** ... [vs16]
 - It is also identified as the time of **“the Catching-Away”** – **THE RAPTURE** [vs17]
 - Those **“raised”** and those **“alive”** will be **“caught-up”** to meet the Lord **in the air** [vs17]
 - The Lord’s descent is **“in the air”** NOT **“upon the earth”** [vs17]
 - The Believers are to be **“encouraged”** by this... NOT **fearful** [vs18]
- **“WE Who Are Alive...”** –
 - **WE... NOT Those** - By context this is addressed to ALL who are alive at the time of the **“event”**
 - The **“alive”** are in contrast to **“those who are asleep”** / the **“Dead in Christ”**
 - This is NOT about the **“spiritual condition / status / vitality”** of the believers
 - BUT about their **“physical condition / status / vitality”**
- **“[we] Who Are Left...”** – **“to remain / to be left behind / to survive when others perished”** –
 - This is also in opposition to **“those fallen asleep”**
 - The ones who remain **“alive”** have been left behind...
 - FOR the **“dead in Christ”** are WITH Him in Heaven
- **NO Basis for a “Partial” Rapture...** -
 - **“WE”** applies both to those who are **“Alive”** and to those who **“Remain”**
 - ALL the **“dead in Christ”** are raised... and **“caught-up”** ... -
 - ALL the **“alive in Christ”** are also **“caught-up...” and will be together WITH them** ... -

The End Times Chart

"THE PRE-TRIBULATIONAL ... PRE-MILLENNIAL VIEWPOINT"

