



Understanding a Foundational Script of the Second Coming of Christ

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 (ESV)

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.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3 (ESV)

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

1. Our physical bodies will be resurrected. (1 Corinthians 15:52-54)

- Our hope in resurrection is based on the fact of Christ’s resurrection. (1 Thessalonians 4:14; John 14:19b)

2. There will be a sudden and certain return of Christ. (1 Thessalonians 4:16)

- The most exciting experience in your life has not yet occurred.

1 Corinthians 2:9 (NIV)

However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived”—the things God has prepared for those who love him—

- The reality of heaven will far surpass any unfulfilled dreams here on earth.
- When Jesus returns He will gather His church and judge the nations.
- In light of the sudden and certain return of Christ we should be hopeful and prepared.

1 Thessalonians 5:4-6 (ESV)

But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵ For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶ So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.

Luke 21:34 (NIV)

“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap.

- The foundational truth of any teaching on the second coming of Christ is that we should live like it was today!

“It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.”

— C.S. Lewis

3. There will be a forever too late. (1 Thessalonians 5:3; Matthew 7:21; Luke 16:22-23)