

What a thrill it is to know that we are not a number; a random happening, we were known of God in the far distant past, before the foundation of the world;

[Eph 1:3-4](#) Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ; according as He chose us in Him before *the* foundation of *the* world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him

In this series we are setting our hearts and minds on our glorious future, the appearing of Christ our Lord and Head in the heavenly places;

[Col 3:1](#) If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting at *the* right hand of God.

[Col 3:4](#) When Christ our Life *is* revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

Our life is hid with Christ in God and on that glorious day when the Head appears, then we, the Church which is His Body, will appear with Him in that place. In other words, we will be revealed with our Lord and Head at the same time and in the same place. The appearing is in the heavenly places far above the air and clouds of I Thess.4

We would love to know when this appearing will take place.

The Word of Truth has clearly told us when this appearing will occur but our traditions have clouded the issue. The traditions which have obscured the timing of the appearing are the fascination with the “rapture” and the timing of that event as either being pre, mid, or post tribulation, along with a few variants.

As we have shown, the “rapture” is a total misconception, the twisting of an event which has nothing to do with us today. Because we have focused on the rapture which is really the parousia or coming of the Lord to Israel, we were also lead to believe that the tribulation was for us and worldwide, this is incorrect on both counts. The great tribulation is specifically identified as belonging to Israel and it is called the time of Jacob’s trouble;

[Jer 30:6](#) Ask now, and see whether a man is giving birth? Why do I see every man with his hands on his loins, like a woman in labor, and all faces are turned into paleness?

[Jer 30:7](#) Alas! For that day *is* great, so that none *is* like it; it *is* even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

[Jer 30:8](#) For it shall be in that day, says Jehovah of Hosts, I will break his yoke from your neck and will burst your bonds. And strangers shall no longer enslave him,

This specific tribulation will begin once the Antichrist sets up the “abomination of desolation” in Israel’s temple. See Matt.24:15-22 as well as this portion:

[Mat 24:29](#) And immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun shall be darkened and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from the heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.

[Mat 24:30](#) And then the sign of the Son of Man shall appear in the heavens. And then all the tribes of the earth shall mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of the heaven with power and great glory.

The Lord clearly says only AFTER the tribulation of those days in that location, THEN the son of Man will appear in the heavens and descend in the clouds. Matt.24 is not an unfolding of worldwide events, but events in and around Jerusalem in those last days prior to the Lord’s return to Israel.

How plain can the Lord be? After the Temple is desecrated, after the tribulation, then He returns. The Scriptures are clear; there is no “coming of the Lord” prior to the abomination of desolation and the full days of the great tribulation. Some teachers see Matt.24 as being about Israel and Thessalonians as being about the Church which is His Body. This position is to be avoided and discarded. The trumpet of Matt.24 is the same Feast as 1Cor.15, 1 Thess.4 and Revelation.

Are the trumpets of Matt.24, 1Cor.15, Thessalonians and Revelation all different? I don’t think so. If the Trumpet of Matt.24 is for Israel, then how can we change the Trumpet of 1Thess.4 to an imagined silent, “Christian” one before the other trumpets? The Feasts clearly outline the steps in Israel’s history. Passover, Unleavened Bread, and Weeks (Pentecost) have all been fulfilled; the next event for Israel is the Lord’s coming at the Feast of Trumpets. There is nothing before Trumpets, no secret non-prophesied event like the imagined “rapture”.

Please avoid any teachers who tell you the “rapture” could be at anytime now (2007). This is a false hope with serious consequences. It is better to know truth that might be painful than be ill prepared through deception.

Is Paul speaking of something totally new and previously hidden in God in Thessalonians? NO! He is talking about the

same second coming of the Lord as embedded in the Feasts and written in Daniel, Matt.24, Luke 21 and the book of Revelation, along with other prophecies.

Note the exact same details in the following passage regarding the Lord's "coming" and their (not our) gathering together to that glorious meeting in the air as He descends to the earth;

2Th 2:1 Now we beseech you, my brothers, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him,
2Th 2:2 that you should not be soon shaken *in* mind or troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word or letter, as through us, as *if* the Day of Christ is at hand.

2Th 2:3 Let not anyone deceive you by any means. For *that Day shall not come* unless there first comes a falling away, and the man of sin shall be revealed, the son of perdition,

2Th 2:4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, setting himself forth, that he is God.

Notice that day shall not come until after apostasy and deception (2Thess.2:9-11). This deception is not deception in Christianity, it is deception for Israel. After this, then the Antichrist and his desecration of Israel's temple are seen and after that, the Lord descends to the earth in the clouds and with a trumpet blast et al.

Scripture tells us Israel will suffer greatly during the tribulation which follows the Antichrist's desecration of their temple but they will be saved despite the horror of that time period. The Church which is His Body has never been told that they will suffer the great tribulation. The great tribulation takes place in Israel. However, Paul warns us of "perilous times", see 2Tim.3:1 and we should accept that we could see these perilous times rather than dream of some silent secret escape from them. Are we beginning to see that we cannot mix the things which belong to Israel with the things which belong to us? Right division is essential.

Some suggest that the fear of the tribulation has encouraged many to use this verse as some sort of pre-tribulation escape route;

2Th 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way. (KJV)

Nothing is to be taken out of the way. These passages in Thessalonians were written in the Acts period when the present truth for today had not been revealed. How can Paul be writing about our church when he knew nothing about it? Here is the same verse in a modern version:

2Th 2:7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already working, only he *is* now holding back until it comes out of *the* midst. (MKJV)

Where is the Church which is His body in either of Thessalonians? Paul is writing about Israel and her final days of suffering, the Antichrist and his desecration comes out of the midst of deception and apostasy of Israel. Again note the consistency of Matt.24, Revelation and Thessalonians in these details.

Folks also use this verse as supportive material for the silent secret "rapture" theory;

1Th 1:9 For they themselves witness what kind of entrance we had to you, even how you turned from idols to God in order to serve *the* living and true God,

1Th 1:10 and to wait for His Son from Heaven (whom He raised from *the* dead), Jesus, who delivered us from the wrath to come.

And also

1Th 5:9 For God has not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

It is a violent twisting of Scripture to expound that these verses mean a secret "rapture" prior to the tribulation and wrath. Israel were in Egypt when God's judgment fell but Israel were not delivered out of Egypt until after those judgments yet they were preserved from them. In 1Thess.10 Paul tells the believers of the Acts period when their salvation would materialize, and that is when the Lord returns out of, or from heaven, not before. To be preserved from God's wrath does not automatically mean being snatched away out of it but rather preserved among it.

The Lord's return to the earth takes place AFTER the final week of Israel's history. Israel's final week is broken into two distinct halves, three and a half years of false peace and three and a half years of great tribulation. The dividing element is when the Antichrist, who Israel thought was a good guy, exposes his real self and sets up an image to his own glory inside Israel's temple. At this point Israel will realize they have made a horrible mistake and the Antichrist will turn on them with intent to destroy them thoroughly, shades of Adolf Hitler. The Lord returns to save Israel after those last three and a half years of tribulation.

In Daniel 7:7-14, Thessalonians 2:3-12, and Revelation 19:20, we read that the Antichrist is destroyed by the Lord when He comes to the earth with a trumpet blast in power and glory and saves Israel. There is no secret silent rapture; the last trumpet heralds the return of the Lord in power and glory. His return is with great light when the sun and moon are darkened.

The Lord's return to the earth after the tribulation is in three stages as we have already shown;

Mat 24:29 And immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun shall be darkened and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from the heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.

Mat 24:30 And then the sign of the Son of Man shall appear in the heavens. And then all the tribes of the earth shall mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of the heaven with power and great glory.

Mat 24:31 And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of *the* heavens to the other.

And

Mat 26:64 Jesus said to him, You said *it*. I tell you more. From this time you shall see the Son of Man sitting on *the* right *hand* of power, and coming on the clouds of the heavens.

The present dispensation had not been revealed when the Lord spoke these words and consequently He made no mention of anyone appearing with Him where He is now seated at the Father's right hand. But this doesn't negate the fact that the appearing is the first stage of the Lord's return to the earth. We shall show many other Scriptures to establish this in future lessons.

In other words, the appearing is linked with Israel's Feast of Trumpets and does not occur anytime before that. The appearing is the first stage of the Lord's return to the earth. This does not mean we will be returning to the earth with Him.

For now, please seek and love the truth, and consider that while my thoughts are not traditional, they just might be the truth and it is up to all of my friends to search and see if these things are so.