

## 1 Thessalonians 4

1. What was the first coming of Jesus?

-The first coming of Jesus was when He left heaven, was born on earth, grew to be a man, was crucified, and then, after rising from the dead, returned to heaven.

2. Where is the Lord Jesus now?

-While He lives in the hearts of all Christians through the Holy Spirit, He is also in heaven, seated at the right hand of God the Father.

3. What will be the second coming of Jesus?

-The second coming will be when Jesus will return to earth to begin His reign on earth.

4. What will happen between the first and second coming of Jesus?

-The Lord Jesus will come down to the clouds in the sky to take us Christians with Him back to heaven.

5. What are the differences between Jesus coming to take Christians to heaven and the second coming of Jesus?

-When Jesus comes to take Christians to heaven, He will not come down to the earth, but only to the clouds in the sky.

-Then, Christians will rise from the earth to the clouds in the sky where we will meet the Lord Jesus face to face.

-When Jesus comes for His second coming, He will descend to the earth, and stay on the earth.

6. When a Christian dies, does his spirit or soul sleep?

-No.

7. When a Christian dies, what is it that sleeps?

-Only his body.

8. When a Christian dies, what happens to his spirit or soul?

-His spirit or soul remains with the Lord Jesus Christ, and joins Him in heaven.

9. When the Lord Jesus comes down from heaven to the clouds in the sky, who will He bring with Him?

-The souls or spirits of those Christians who have fallen asleep or died.

10. What does it mean that the dead in Christ will rise first?

-First, the bodies of Christians who have died will be resurrected and will rise to meet their spirits.

11. Will the resurrected bodies of the Christians who have died be the same as their bodies before they died?

-No.

-The old body that died will be changed to a new, resurrected body which will never be able to die.

12. What will our new, resurrected body be like?

-We will have a body like Jesus after His resurrection from the dead.

13. When Jesus comes down to take us to heaven, there will be two groups of Christians. What are these two groups?

-The first group is Christians whose bodies have fallen asleep and are buried, but whose souls have been in heaven with the Lord Jesus.

-The second group is Christians who are still alive on earth.

Let's read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2

1-Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you,

2-for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

-In the Old Testament, there are many verses which talk about the Day of the Lord.

-These verses talk of God pouring out His anger against sin during the time of Israel.

-Yet, these same verses also talk of a final Day of the Lord.

-What is the Day of the Lord?

-The time when God pours out His anger on the earth against sin and against those who refuse to believe in God.

-The prophet Isaiah spoke of the Day of the Lord when Babylon would be destroyed, but also of a final Day of the Lord.

-The prophet Obadiah spoke of the Day of the Lord when Edom would be destroyed, but also of a final Day of the Lord.

-The prophet Joel spoke of the Day of the Lord when a plague of locusts would destroy crops and bring famine to Judah, but also of a final Day of the Lord.

-The prophet Zephaniah spoke of the Day of the Lord when Jerusalem would be torn down and Israel taken captive by the Babylonians, but also of a final Day of the Lord.

-How is the Day of the Lord during the time of Israel different from the final Day of the Lord which will come?

-The Day of the Lord during the time of Israel was only for the Jews and for other peoples living near them.

-The final Day of the Lord which will come, however, will be the most terrible.

-All of the people on earth and all of the earth will take part in this.

-In the final Day of the Lord, the sun will turn black, the moon will turn red, and there will be many great earthquakes (Re 6:12).

-In the final Day of the Lord, the stars will fall out of the sky, and darkness will fall over all the earth (Re 6:13).

-In the final Day of the Lord, every mountain and island will be removed, the seas will become blood, and the water of the earth will become poison (Re 6:14 & 8:8).

-In the final Day of the Lord, more demons than we can count will run throughout the earth trying to destroy people.

-In the final Day of the Lord, people will search for death, but will not be able to die (Re 9:6).

-Will Christians be on earth at the final Day of the Lord?  
-No.

-We will be in heaven with the Lord Jesus Christ.

-The Day of the Lord is near and is coming soon, but it will come like a thief in the night.

-What does it mean that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night?

-It means that the time will come when people are not expecting it.

-When will the final Day of the Lord begin?

-It will begin after Jesus has taken His children out of this world and into heaven.

-When will the final Day of the Lord end?

-It will end after Satan and evil have been destroyed and God has created a new heaven and a new earth.

Let's read 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3

2-For you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

3-While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

-Will unbelievers be ready for the Day of the Lord?  
-No.

-In the time of Noah, were the unbelievers ready when God judged them by sending the flood?  
-No.

-In the time of Sodom and Gomorrah, were the unbelievers ready when God judged them by sending fire from heaven?  
-No.

-Just like the people were not ready for the flood nor the fire from heaven, people today will not be ready for the Day of the Lord.

-Why will the Day of the Lord come like a thief in the night for unbelievers?

-Because they refuse to believe the warnings of God.

-Because people will refuse to believe the warnings of God, God's judgment will surprise them, and it will be too late for the people to believe.

-In the days of Noah, the people refused to believe the warnings of God.

-When God closed the door of the ark, and rain started to flood the earth, it was too late for the people to believe, and they all died.

-In the days of Sodom and Gomorrah, the people refused to believe the warnings of God.

-When God sent down fire from heaven, it was too late for the people to believe, and they all died.

-Just like in the days of Noah and Sodom and Gomorrah, people will say "Peace and safety."

-Yet, when the Day of the Lord comes, as suddenly and as surely as labor pains come on a pregnant woman, no one will escape, and everyone will die.

Let's read 1 Thessalonians 5:4

4-But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief.

-In the verse above, darkness is a picture of sin and the lies of Satan which blind people from knowing and believing the truth.

-We read this in Ephesians 4:18:

-Unbelievers "are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts."

-Why will Christians not be surprised by the Day of the Lord?

-Because we are not in spiritual darkness.

-Because we know and believe the truth.

-We who are Christians are like Noah.

-God warned Noah about the time of judgment, and Noah believed the warnings of God.

-We who are Christians are like the man who was warned that a thief was coming to rob his house.

-He stayed awake and kept watch.

Let's read 1 Thessalonians 5:5

5-You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.

-As Christians, we are children of the light and children of the day.

-We are children of the light and children of the day because of the Lord Jesus Christ.

-In John 8:12, Jesus said this:

-“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

-In this verse, Jesus says that those who follow Him will never walk in darkness.

-In Matthew 5:14, Jesus calls us, His children, the light of the world.

-Those who do not believe in Christ, however, are children of the night and children of the darkness.

-The Day of the Lord will be a time of darkness, but we Christians do not belong to the darkness.

Let's read 1 Thessalonians 5:6-7

6-So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober.

7-For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night.

-Can people be physically alive, yet spiritually asleep or even spiritually dead?

-Yes.

-The Word of God teaches us that all who do not believe in Christ are spiritually asleep.

-This means that the souls or spirits of all who are not Christian are like someone who is not awake.

-We Christians should not live like the rest of the world who do not believe in Christ.

-If we live like the rest of the world who do not believe in Christ, we are living as if we are spiritually asleep or even spiritually dead.

-Rather, our souls or spirits should be awake and alert, ready to serve God and to warn unbelievers of the coming judgment.

Let's read 1 Thessalonians 5:8

8-But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

-As in 1 Thessalonians 5:6, this verse once again encourages us to be sober.

-Why is it important for Christians to be awake and sober?

-Because the world is always trying to push us to sin.

-Because our own flesh is always trying to push us to sin.

-Because Satan and his demons are always trying to push us to sin.

-If we are not awake and watching, it will be easy for the world, our own flesh, and Satan and his demons to push us to sin.

-God, however, has already given us that which we need to resist the world, our flesh, and Satan.

-God has already given us faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

-We must simply use that which God has already given us.

-In Ephesian 6:14, the Word of God calls the breastplate the breastplate of righteousness.

-Here, the Word of God calls the breastplate the breastplate of faith and love.

-Is this a problem?

-No.

-Because of our faith in God, we have the righteousness of God which causes us to love God as well as others.

-Just as the breastplate of the soldier protects his heart, the breastplate of faith in Christ with His righteousness which He gives us protects our heart, and causes us to love God as well as others.

-In Ephesians 6:17, the Word of God calls the helmet the helmet of salvation.

-Here, the Word of God calls the helmet the helmet of the hope of salvation.

-Is this a problem?

-No.

-Because Christ has saved us, we have hope.

-In the Word of God, salvation for us Christians has three meanings.

-These are salvation in the past, salvation in the present, and salvation in the future.

-For salvation in the past, we know that Christ has saved us from sin which brings death, and this has been our hope.

-For salvation in the present, we know that Christ in us can save us from daily sins, and this is our daily hope.

-For salvation in the future, we know that Christ will take us to heaven where there will be no more sin, and this is our future hope.

-It is our past hope of salvation, our present hope of salvation, and our future hope of salvation which is our helmet to protect our head.

-Because we know that Christ has saved us from sin which brings death, our thoughts and mind should cause us praise God that we will never die.

-Because we know that Christ can save us from daily sins, our thoughts and mind should cause us to praise God for being stronger than daily sin.

-Because we know that Christ will take us to heaven where there will be no more sin, our thoughts and mind should cause us to praise God for our eternal home in heaven.

Let's read 1 Thessalonians 5:9

9-For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

-Why must the wrath of God be poured out on all sin?

-Because all sin is against God, and God did not create a world of sin.

-The wages of sin is death (Ro 6:23).

-This is because our God is very holy, and therefore, He must punish all sin with death.

-If our God would not punish every sin with death, then He will lose His holiness.

-Yet, our God will protect His holiness, and He protects His holiness by punishing all sin with death.

-Why is God so angry about sin?

-Because sin hurts God.

-Because sin hurts people.

-Because sin hurts all of creation.

-Why does the Word of God say that Christians are not chosen to suffer the wrath of God?

-Because Christ's death has paid the price for our sin, the wrath of God is no longer on us.

-Because Christ's death has paid the price for our sin, we Christians will not suffer wrath in the Day of the Lord.

-Because Christ's death has paid the price of our sin, Christians will never suffer wrath.

-Instead of wrath, we Christians have received eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

-As God saved Noah and his family from the wrath of the flood, God has saved all Christians from His wrath.

-It was God alone who shut the door of the ark so that Noah and his family would be safe.

-As God saved Lot and his two children from the wrath of the fire from heaven, God has saved all Christians from His wrath.

-It was God alone who sent His angels to take Lot outside of Sodom so that Lot and his two children would be safe.

Let's read 1 Thessalonians 5:10-11

10-He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.

11-Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

-Who are those who are awake?

-These are Christians who are still alive on earth.

-Who are those who are asleep?

-These are Christians whose bodies have died, yet whose spirits are with Christ in heaven.

-Whether we are awake or asleep, Christ had died for us so that we may live forever with Him.

-As Jesus said in John 14:3:

-“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

-We Christians will live forever in heaven with God and His glory.

-With God in heaven, there will be no more night.

-With God in heaven, there will be no need for the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will be our light.

-With God in heaven, we will reign for ever and ever (Rev 22:5).

-We should encourage one another with these words.