

# Comfort from The Rapture

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

## Unwarranted Sorrow!

It Is Amazing How Many Christians Suffer  
Unnecessarily For Failure Of Knowing The Truth.

### THE TRUTH SETS YOU FREE!

1 Thessalonians 4:13

13

**But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.**

MUCH GRIEF, TURMOIL AND CONFUSION ARE THE  
RESULT OF BEING IGNORANT OF PERTINENT  
DOCTRINE.

**But** introduces a transition to a new subject. Paul now addresses a deep concern of these believers. The Thessalonians were so concerned about believing loved ones who had died. They grieved thinking these loved ones had missed The Rapture.

First note the concerned attitude of a Spirit Filled teacher like Paul...

**I do not want you** the Greek word means will, or desire. Paul has a constant wish for these wonderful believers.

**That they be uninformed** the Greek word is *AGNOEO* where the 'a' adds negative force to the root word *NOEO* – to perceive, to understand, to know...

So here... **not understand, not know** the King James *ignorant*.

Both **ignorant** or **uninformed**, or **not understand**

*(due to the lack of knowledge of the truth).*

In the Greek, “*the denial of the negative statement makes an emphatic statement of the positive: we very much want you to know*” these are believers concerned, grieving about believers.

**about those who are asleep** Sleep *(in the spiritual context)* always refers to the believer’s **body** who is physically dead.

Understand that the **soul never sleeps**. *(This is true even while we sleep at night, scientific test have shown that while we sleep our souls are very active.)*

This is seen in 2 Corinthians 5:8

8

**we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body** (sleeping in death) **and** (while we – our souls) **to be at home with the Lord**. (Actively in fellowship with the Lord.)

Another place to see this is in Luke 16:19-30 where the Rich Man and Lazarus carry on a discussion while their bodies lie dead—  
asleep on earth.

Also 2 Corinthians 12:1-4, also Philippians 1:23 and Ephesians 4:9.

**‘Sleep’** is used in Christian writing to emphasize the point that they will be awakened.

Do not be misinformed on this matter: no believer should ever be afraid of physical death, for what ‘death’ is to us, is simply the departure of our souls and human spirits from this physical body

and going to be face to face with the Lord. Our bodies are thought to be sleeping, waiting to be awakened at the Resurrection.

**so that** the purpose of this letter about believers who had died, was **so that you will not grieve**. Grief, arguments between friends and family are the result of being ignorant of Biblical truth. ***The truth will set you free*** of a multitude of problems associated with not knowing the truth.

Now something very important about verse 13.

Paul does not say that we are not **'to grieve'** Greek word means just that, ***to grieve*** or ***to sorrow***, or ***be sad***.

It is a present passive subjunctive, where the passive voice plus the subjunctive mood says you **may** receive sorrow at thoughts about those who have died before you; and the subjunctive mood says **maybe you will** and **maybe you won't**.

The cause of the grieving is the fate of those who have died! They are not forbidden to grieve about their own sense of personal loss, but they do not grieve in reference to the fate of those who have died, who were believers.

**You won't if you understand truth.**

But the point is that Paul is not saying **we should not sorrow** but he says we are not to sorrow as those who have no hope...like the heathen.

1 Thessalonians 4:13

13

**But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as**

(this compares two classes of people in the subject of grieving)  
**do the rest who have no hope.**

All those who refuse to believe in JESUS CHRIST are described in three terms here in chapter 4 of 1 Thessalonians.

First, they are described as **outsiders** (4:12) that is they are outside of Christ, where we are said to be **in Christ** by Baptism of the Holy Spirit at the point of Faith in JESUS CHRIST.

Secondly, they are referred to as **the rest** here in verse 13, referring to the fact that all these unbelievers are not part of God's blessings.

And finally and perhaps the gravest designation of all:  
**those who have no hope** (4:13)

This is a frightening place to be in time, and especially in regards to eternity. Believers in JESUS CHRIST **HAVE HOPE** or confidence in regard to death and after death.

Question:

What is the content of the **hope**?

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. | That their bodies would be Resurrected   |
| 2. | The confidence that they would be with JESUS CHRIST after death  |
| 3. | The confidence that those who have died will be participants in The Rapture and finally                        |
| 4. | The hope, confidence of a future blessed existence forever with JESUS CHRIST, or everlasting life with Christ. |

Verse 14 gives an explanation of verse 13

14 **For** explanatory conjunction **because**: introduces why they should not grieve about those who have died.

**if** In the Greek this introduces a condition that is **TRUE**, therefore, should be translated **since we believe**.

Every Christian should believe this and receive peace from such belief **we believe**.

The simple, non-meritorious requirement is **Faith**.

Effective **Faith** depends on the **Object of Faith** here presented as twofold:

<b><u>that</u></b>	That their bodies would be Resurrected
<b><u>that</u></b>	introduces what we continuously believe in the person and act that secures our Salvation:
1	<b>That Jesus died</b> the aorist He died— <b>Jesus physically died on the cross</b>
	and or yet
2	<b>that Rose again</b> points to the victory of our Salvation

Aorist active indicative of the verb from a Greek compound verb made up of prefix **ana** which means **again**, plus the verb meaning **to stand to stand again** and is used of the Resurrection of JESUS CHRIST from the dead.

Aorist Once and For All!

**Not subject to death again.**

- 1 The Resurrection of JESUS CHRIST is fundamental to all Christian beliefs.

## 2 The Resurrection of JESUS CHRIST gives efficacy to His death

That is, His resurrection gives the desired effect of

- (<sup>a</sup>) bearing the judgment for all the sins of the world,
- (<sup>b</sup>) freeing all mankind from the Penalty of sin and
- (<sup>c</sup>) by His Resurrection giving life to everyone who believes.

The gospel is all inclusive—it is OFFERED TO EVERYONE.

## 3 He rose physically, bodily from the dead Romans 4:25

## 4 Upon the Resurrection of JESUS CHRIST hang

- 1 Our receiving Eternal Life from Him and
- 2 The assurance of our own Resurrection at The Rapture of the Church.

## 5 In like manner of JESUS CHRIST resurrection, all believers of the Church Age will rise out of their graves – regardless of where they died, *in the ocean, in the ground under buildings, in an urn, or buried in a grave*, they will receive a Resurrected Body just like His. 1 John 3:2

**even so God** (God the Father) This Greek adverb is important to flow of thinking contextually or theologically. Since we believe that Jesus died and arose, He will now raise up all those who believe in JESUS CHRIST.

**God will bring** (future tense—at The Rapture)  
**with Him** (that is together with JESUS CHRIST)

**those who have fallen asleep** (physical death) **in Jesus**.  
(Limited to those who believe in JESUS CHRIST while alive on earth.)

The Christian simply does not die in the finality of the concept of death, and this is because we are in the Resurrected Jesus who lives forever. Also this verse presents a complete taking away or rapture for all believers denying any concept of a partial rapture.

**In Jesus** means that Jesus is not only the agent of our Salvation but also the agent of our Resurrection at The Rapture.

- Order in the Resurrection at The Rapture  
Verse 15

**For this** Ok, here is the all importance of the communication, the teaching of the WORD OF GOD, especially pertinent doctrine on issues that we need to know.

**we say, we teach**

**to you** and here we have that all important

**for your advantage** It is always to our advantage to have correct understanding of the WORD OF GOD **by** or **in the word of the Lord,**

We noted this expression, in 1:8

8

**for the word of the Lord sounded forth from you**  
That is, they told others of the Word of the Lord, starting with the Gospel.

But also note in 1 Thessalonians 2:13

<sup>13</sup> **For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted *it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.***

*(This specifically refers to the gospel,)*

***for it is the power of God for Salvation to everyone who believes.*** (Romans 1:16)

1 Thessalonians 4:15

<sup>15</sup> **For this we say to you by the word of the Lord** here is the final authority of Paul's teaching. Paul receives. the Word of the Lord through or by means of the Holy Spirit.

**that** introduces his teaching **we who are alive** physically alive **and remain** Passive voice—we receive being here by the Will and Plan of God the Father **until the coming of the Lord**, not coming to earth, the Lord does not touch the earth at The Rapture, He comes for us in the Air.

Again we have the Greek word *PAROUSIA*. This word is another word that causes some problems for some people. Let it be said that this word is used for both The Rapture and the Second Coming of JESUS CHRIST (The context will determine which of these events are being referenced.) Matthew 24:3,27,37, and 39

**That we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord.** The Greek construction here indicates that Paul really thought that he would be alive with The Rapture occurred. And that friends, is the way we ought to live each day.



**will not (absolutely not) precede (so as to have an advantage over) those who have fallen asleep.** Again the passive voice—that is they receive physical death by the Plan and Will of God the Father.

Never challenge the decision of the Lord at the timing of someone's death. Their age or their relationship with you. **Their bodies fallen asleep** is by the Plan of God the Father and remember that they are not there in the ground, they are face to face with the Lord.

1 When The Rapture occurs and this could be today (imminence of The Rapture) believers who have died (all the way back to Day of Pentecost) will arise (stand again, just as our Lord did in verse 14)

2 Then all believers, over the whole earth, alive on the earth, join them and both meet the Lord in the Air in their own individual resurrected bodies.

**Personal at The Rapture**

A. The Lord JESUS CHRIST (verse 16a)

B. Believers of the Church Age (verses 16c and 17)

**The First Person in The Rapture  
is the LORD JESUS CHRIST**

1 Thessalonians 4:16

16

**For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God,**

There are several things we need to note in this passage.

First The Greek conjunction translated **For** introduces grounds for the preceding statement about the fact that those who are alive will not precede or have an advantage over those who have died is because those who are dead will rise up first.

Secondly Note the emphasis placed on JESUS CHRIST:  
**for the Lord Himself**

In Greek grammar this is an “*emphatic personal pronoun* and is used when emphasis is being placed on a person, and is especially useful when the subject of a verb is being emphasized. Since the verb endings in Greek indicate person and number, a personal pronoun is usually not expressed as a separate word.

Hence, when a pronoun is used, it calls special attention to the “subject.” Here, the subject is JESUS CHRIST.

PRINCIPLE:

People, first it will not be angels; and then **The Rapture IS NOT ABOUT US, NOT ABOUT THE CHURCH IT IS ABOUT JESUS THE CHIRST.**

Please do not forget this important point about **The Rapture.** It is about the glory of JESUS CHRIST.

Thirdly Note where JESUS CHRIST comes:  
**will descend from heaven** this is future, middle of a compound verb made up of the prefix for *down* while the verb means to go or to come, therefore **go or come down, descend:** Future tense—future to Paul and to us,

but The Rapture could be today and the middle voice again, emphasizes the person of JESUS CHRIST;

The middle voice tells us that JESUS CHRIST is acting upon Himself—*concerning Himself*.

**from *the immediate location of heaven.***

**So what is going on?**

Right now JESUS CHRIST is physically sitting in His Resurrected Body at the right hand of God on God's heavenly throne, but at some point JESUS CHRIST will deliberately stand up and come *down* (*descend*) from the third heaven toward earth to the sky's above the earth.

We are not anywhere told that the world of unbelievers will see Him. This is a private appearance of JESUS CHRIST for believers only.

Fourthly

**with a shout  
with a voice  
with a trumpet**

Greek preposition *en* + locative—with, or accompanied with **a shout**—contextually this is a loud shout of a command to all believers **with a word of command**—those whose bodies are dead and those alive, with a shout of command *loud enough for all believers to hear.*

And what is His command?  
Come here now!!

Fifthly **with a voice of an archangel; with a voice**  
sound, radiance **of an archangel**

Why NASV has the definite article, I am not sure. In the margin they reference Jude 9 which does have the definite article before Michael...but Michael the archangel.

But if you look at Daniel 10: where an angel explains to Daniel why he is 21 days late in getting God's response back to Daniel.

Daniel 10:13

<sup>13</sup> **“But the prince** a word used for angels **of the kingdom of Persia** here we studied how every nation has both fallen and elect angels trying to control those nations.  
**was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.**

So it is not definite if Michael is the only Archangel. We are also told in Daniel 10:21 that the archangel Michael is the Archangel looking after Israel. Therefore since The Rapture has nothing to do with Israel, it is highly unlikely that JESUS CHRIST's voice sounds like the voice of the Archangel Michael.

**And with the Trumpet of God** This is an interesting phrase. You will recall that in Matthew 24:31 (*in describing His own return to the earth in the Second Advent*) JESUS CHRIST said ***and He will send***

***forth His angels with a great trumpet.***

Many try to make JESUS CHRIST speaking of The Rapture by referring to a *great trumpet*. But people one of the most important principles in interpreting Scripture is **OBSERVATION**. And you will observe that here in 1 Thessalonians 4:16 Paul says nothing about a ***great trumpet*** but simply **with the trumpet of God**.

Furthermore you will notice that in Matthew 24:31 it is **THE ANGELS WHO HAVE THE GREAT TRUMPET**, while here in our passage on The Rapture it is **JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF HAS COMES WITH THE TRUMPET**.

The trumpet mentioned here in 4:16 is identical with the trumpet in 1 Corinthians 15:52

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**in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.**

At the call of this trumpet we will be changed from this body that is perishable to a Resurrected Body that is imperishable. An in depth study of trumpets is most revealing but we will move on in our study.

If you are going to read and study the WORD OF GOD do not be sloppy in your observation; you would be shocked the number of pastors who read interpretation into observation.

Don't say more than what the Scripture says.

**For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God,**

He descends with a military trumpet sound. TRUMPET OF GOD—belonging to God, from the source of God and this trumpet is used to the glory of God. The Rapture, the Resurrection of all believers of the Church Age is for the Glory of God the Father and the Glory of His Son, Jesus the Christ.

**The** dead here refers to believers in JESUS CHRIST all through the Church Age who have died physically before Christ descends from heaven to call us all home at The Rapture.

**And** or **with the result that the dead in Christ will rise first.**

Look back at verse 14...

**those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.**

**will rise** future tense refers to the time of The Rapture.

And the Indicative mood refers to the absolute certainty of this event.

This is the same verb used in verse 14 **for we believe that Jesus died and rose again.**

Now here it is used to believers who have died throughout the Church Age will FOLLOW THE LORD IN RESURRECTION.

Will rise first that is they will be taken up out from the earth (graves) before those on the earth are taken up. To prevent confusion with other references to being resurrected, let's note the order of resurrection:

1. JESUS CHRIST is the first fruits or the first to be Resurrected. (1 Corinthians 15:23)
2. Then comes the Church Age believers at the end of the Church Age at The Rapture. (1 Thessalonians 4:16) This resurrection is for those who are **in Christ** a position that Israel does not have.
3. Saints or all believers of the Old Testament (Daniel 12:2) (Isaiah 26:19) and those who died during the Tribulation, (Revelation 20:3-5; 11-14) All are resurrected when JESUS CHRIST comes to set up His Kingdom, this occurs after Armageddon and just prior to entering into the Millennial Kingdom.
4. The final resurrection of believers occurs at the end of the 1000 years reign. There is, of course, the resurrection of all unbelievers (Revelation 20:5) at the resurrection of the unsaved comes the judgment of eternal separation from God.

## 1 Thessalonians 4:17

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**Then we who are alive and remain** This phrase is introduced by the adverb of time and sequence or order. Then after or more correctly **as** those who have fallen asleep in Jesus arise...

**then, we who are alive** physically alive.

**and remain** that is we have not, yet died physically as they have, so we remain here on earth physically alive.

**will be caught up together** this is future tense anticipating The Rapture, and the Passive voice, which means we receive being caught up, there is nothing we do for this to happen, we receive.

## **being caught up.**

The Greek word is *HARPAZO* seize upon, spoil, snatch away. This is yet another word used for Rapture.

We have already seen in 1:10b

<sup>10</sup> **...Jesus who rescues us from the wrath to come.**  
We saw there, this word means to *rescue us to Himself, into His arms and away from the wrath to come* referring to the 7 years of Tribulation.

So, if you do not like the word *RAPTURE*, or *RAPTURED*  
then you have the word  
*RESCUED TO HIMSELF*  
or  
*CAUGHT UP*  
or  
*SNATCHED UP*  
or  
*HARPAZOD!*

**Then we who are alive** (physically) **and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds**

**Together** do you understand this word?



What this word means?

**Together** with every person who has believe in JESUS CHRIST as their Savior. This goes along with **love One Another as I have loved you!**

Be so careful of building up a negative attitude toward another believer.

## Why?

Because you are together with them in Christ and you will go up to Meet the Lord in the Air together with them.

What is described here by Paul is described in different words in 1 Corinthians 15:53

<sup>53</sup> **For this perishable** (our bodies by first birth) **must put on the imperishable,** (Resurrected Body) **and this mortal** (first birth) **must put on immortality.**

Second birth and this transformation takes place at The Rapture.

By the way 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 is another passage dealing with the end of the Church Age.

1 Thessalonians 4:17

<sup>17</sup> **Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with Him in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air** we are all snatched up **for the purpose to meet the Lord in the air,** at The Rapture.

JESUS CHRIST does not touch the earth at this time,  
He left the earth before the Age of Israel was over and  
before the Church Age began, and  
He will not come back to earth  
until the End of the 7 Years of Tribulation.

**and so** introduces the final result: **we shall always be with the Lord.**

THIS IS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL AND  
COMFORTING STATEMENT.

## **Always** Forever

- during the Tribulation,
- during the Millennial reign and
- for all Eternal Future.

IN WHAT MANNER WILL WE BE WITH THE LORD FOREVER?  
God back to 1:10—**rescued into His arms**

This is such a comforting thought  
– that we will be together with the Lord,  
close to Him....**FOREVER.**  
**we will be with the Lord**

Anyone who denies Eternal Security has a major problem with passages like this.

How dramatically different these words to us are than the words Jesus spoke to the disciples in John 14 where He told them He was going away from them but He would ask the Father to send them the Holy Spirit. But after The Rapture we will never again be away from the presence of JESUS CHRIST our Savior and friend.

## Comfort because of The Rapture

1 Thessalonians 4:18

<sup>18</sup> **Therefore comfort one another with these words.**

For those critics of teaching of The Rapture, saying that teaching on The Rapture has no practical or personal dynamics...read well these words:

**comfort One Another with these words...these teachings**

**Therefore** this is a *strong* conjunction connecting closely what preceded with what follows.

**Therefore based on all these truths about The Rapture—comfort One Another** (another of the same kind... that is another believer)

**Comfort** this compound verb is used of the Holy Spirit *PARAKALEO* and it means to come to the side of someone or to the aid of someone to comfort, or encourage them. This is a Present tense, meaning all the time, whenever necessary, and the imperative mood... we are to comfort One Another and we will when we are in the Holy Spirit and loving One Another.

What is so remarkable is that these words of Paul were designed to give comfort to One Another.

But, what has the Church done with these words on The Rapture?

## *Division!*

We fight with One Another, we bite One Another, we separate from One Another on concepts of The Rapture.

We have found so many things to divide us:

Pre-tribulational Rapture,  
Partial Rapture,  
Mid-tribulational Rapture,  
Post-tribulational Rapture, etc.

What a shame, what we have done with words meant to comfort us. I urge you to know the truth from the WORD OF GOD but be quiet about how others differ with our view. Be thankful they believe that the Church will be taken up by the Lord to be with Him forever.

**Therefore after understanding all these aspects of The Rapture, comfort or encourage OA with these words.**

DOCTRINE, BIBLICAL TRUTH  
GIVES COMFORT OR ENCOURAGEMENT  
TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE.

Now, one of the great problems with so many teachers, even or especially those who concentrate on prophecy is the confusion between The Rapture and the Second Advent of JESUS CHRIST. We studied the Second Advent at the most profound Prophecy Conferences in Matthew 24-25 where JESUS CHRIST taught, prophesied to the disciples about His return or Second Advent. Nowhere is the Church mentioned or even implied in Matthew 24-25. In fact the Church had not even come into existence at the time of this teaching by JESUS CHRIST. It was unknown to the Old Testament, including the disciples until after Acts 1-2.

So the point is that the Church is not even talked about in Matthew 24-25.

These two chapters are about the Second Advent or the Return of JESUS CHRIST to the earth. But so many people get passages on The Rapture and passages on the Second Advent so confused.

So let us note a brief chart on the distinctions between The Rapture and the Second Advent.

## RAPTURE

- 1 Private: 1 Thessalonians 4:15; for believers only.
- 2 Believers Meet the Lord in the Air  
Thessalonians 4:17
- 3 Imminent: Could happen any time even in Paul's day.

## SECOND ADVENT

- 1 Public: seen by everyone in the world Matthew 24:30;  
Revelation 1:7
- 2 JESUS CHRIST stands on the Mount of Olives  
1 Zechariah 14:1-4
- 3 After seven years of Tribulation

- |    |   |    |  |
|----|---|----|--|
| 4  | For evaluation of believers<br>1 Corinthians 3: time in Filling of<br>the Holy Spirit | 4  | Separation of believers and<br>unbelievers. Judgment of<br>Baptism of Fire for all unbelievers<br>Matthew 25 |
| 5  | Holy Spirit removed from earth as<br>the restrainer 2 Thessalonians 2:7               | 5  | Satan is removed from earth<br>Revelation 20:2-7   |
| 6  | Change in believer's body.<br>Resurrected Body 1 John 3:2                             | 6  | Change in earth (Millennium)<br>Isaiah 40:3-5  |
| 7  | Unconditional covenants to Israel<br>unfulfilled                                      | 7  | Unconditional covenants to Israel<br>fulfilled   |
| 8  | Believers are taken away<br>1 Thessalonians 4   | 8  | Unbelievers are taken away<br>Matthew 25   |
| 9  | Comfort 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18   | 9  | Terror Revelation 6:16   |
| 10 | Never revealed in Old Testament   | 10 | Continually revealed in Old<br>Testament   |
| 11 | Sound of God's Trumpet<br>1 Thessalonians 4:16  | 11 | Sound of 'great trumpet'<br>Matthew 24:31  |

## CHRONOLOGY

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- 1 Rapture or Removal of the Church from earth, so the age of Israel could end with its last 7 promised years.

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  - 2 The Great Worship by the Church Philippians 2:9-11  
First time that the entire Church worships God together in Resurrected Body, Filled with the Holy Spirit.

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  - 3 Then comes the Judgment Seat of Christ 2 Corinthians 5:10 This is the evaluation of every believer of the Church Age as to time spent in the Filling of the Holy Spirit. Every believer will have his/her turn at this judgment. Therefore, you should be able to understand how important it is to know how to be Filled with the Holy Spirit by Grace through Faith.

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  - 4 After the Judgment Seat of Christ in heaven, there will be the Preparation of the Bride (Church) Revelation 19:7-8 and apparently this is when and where the marriage takes place—in heaven after Preparation of the Bride and before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent of JESUS CHRIST to earth.

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- 5 Second Advent of JESUS CHRIST to earth and every believer of the Church will return with Him in our Resurrected Body.
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- 6 Armageddon
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- 7 Baptism of Fire—judgement or removal of all unbelievers from the earth.
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- 8 75 day interval between the Second Coming and the start of the Millennium. This is learned from Daniel 12:11-12, where you have to calculate from 1,260 days or 3 ½ years. Dr. Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum list some 8 things that will occur in these 75 days which include: The removal of the Abomination of Desolation; The Antichrist and the false prophet are cast into the Lake of Fire; The Binding of Satan; Resurrection of all Old Testament Saints; the Resurrection of all Tribulational Saints and the **Marriage Supper of the Lamb** which introduces the beginning of...
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- 9 ...The Millennium.
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