

# Let's Go to a Funeral: Hope of the Return of Christ

I Thessalonians 4:13-8 / November 12, 2022

## PREPARE FOR THE SECOND COMING

4:13

### 1. Be Informed: Death is a Sleep

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are **asleep**,

- Creation of Eve: Adam fell in a deep sleep      Genesis 2:21
- Dreams and Visions of God      Jacob (Genesis 28:10-22; Joseph (Gen 37:5-11); Ezekiel (Ezek 1:1-3:15); Daniel (Dan 7:1-8:27; Joseph (Matt. 1:18-25); Peter (Acts 10:9-23)
- Peace: Jesus in the boat      Luke 8:22-25
- Reward for work      Ecclesiastes 5:12
- Death of the righteous      I Corinthians 15:20

### 2. Grieve with Hope

that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

## DECLARE THE SECOND COMING      4:14-15

### 1. Jesus' Death and Resurrection

For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so,

### 2. Jesus' Return

through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Lazarus

After saying these things, he said to them, "**Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.**" The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." **Now Jesus had spoken of his death**, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "**Lazarus has died**, and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." (John 11:11-16, ESV)

Resurrection of Jesus

And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. **And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised**, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. (Matthew 27:50-53, ESV)

### 3. Jesus' Reunion with Christians

For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming (*Parousia*) of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

## TRUST THE SECOND COMING      4:16-17

### 1. Jesus Will Descend Just as He Ascended      4:16a

For the Lord himself will

- **descend** from heaven (Creation, Revelation, Incarnation)
- with a **cry** of command,
- with the **voice** of an archangel, and
  - Power of God      Psalm 29
  - Fear of God      Deuteronomy 5:26
  - Judgment of God      Isaiah 30:31
  - Person of God      Numbers 7:89

- with the **sound** of the trumpet of God.

- Use in war:
- Announce an attack
- Signal an end of an attack
- Warn a coming attack
- Proclaim military victory
- Proclaim a king
- Announce special celebrations and rejoicings
- Announce worship times
- Part of the feast of trumpets
- Announce the year of Jubilee
- Introduce the second coming
- Final judgement and complete return of Christ

Job 39:24; Jeremiah 4:19  
Judges 3:27  
2 Samuel 2:28  
Jeremiah 6:1  
I Samuel 13:3  
2 Samuel 5:10  
Psalm 81:3; 2 Samuel 6:15  
Isaiah 27:13  
Leviticus 23:23-25  
Leviticus 25:9  
Matthew 24:31; I Corinthians 15:52  
Revelation 1:10-13; 11:15

## 2. **Jesus Will Appear with the Resurrected Dead** 4:16b

And the dead in Christ will rise first.

### The Dead Were Raised First

- |                          |                         |                  |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| ○ Son of a widow:        | Jesus spoke             | Luke 7:11-17     |
| ○ Jewish young girl:     | Jesus touched and spoke | Matthew 9:18     |
| ○ Lazarus:               | Jesus spoke             | John 11:1-45     |
| ○ Jesus' Death—The Dead: | Jesus cried             | Matthew 27:50-53 |

## 3. **The Living will Ascend with Christ and the Dead** 4:17a

Then we who are alive, who are left,

- will be caught up (*harpazo*) together
- with them
- in the clouds

*snatched, attacked, carried off*

- God's promise of the new covenant
- God's guidance in the wilderness
- God's appearance in the wilderness
- God's appearance in the tabernacle
- God's appearance in the temple
- God's judgment against Egypt
- God's war chariots
- God's voice at the transfiguration
- God's return of Jesus on a cloud

Genesis 9:12-17  
Exodus 13:21  
Exodus 19:16  
Exodus 33:9  
I Kings 8:10-11  
Isaiah 19:1-2  
Psalm 18:9  
Luke 9:35  
Matthew 24:30; Revelation 1:7

- to meet the Lord
- in the air, and

## 4. **The Living and the Dead will Dwell with the Lord** 4:17b

so we will always be *with* the Lord. (*synagogue*)

## **ENCOURAGE OTHERS WITH THE SECOND COMING** 4:18

Therefore encourage (*parakaleo*) one another with these words.

Why Encourage One Another with the Second Coming?

For this is the will of God, your **sanctification**: that you abstain from sexual immorality; (4:3)

Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to **love one another**, (4:9)