



1st Epistle of Paul to Thessalonica

1 Thess 4:16-18 – The Lord's Return – Part 2

- *1 Thessalonians 4:16 – For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.*
 - Let's begin by reading *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*
 - *Verse 13* is the purpose of the instruction (cerebral and emotional), *verses 14-17* the content, and *verse 18* the implementation.
 - Why do you think *the Lord (kyrios) will descend* (future fact) is used here rather than Jesus or the Lord Jesus Christ?
 - *descent* from His heavenly location, not just outer space and by ***Himself!***
 - Presumably in a similar manner in which He ascended – *Acts 1:11*
 - So, what is this *shout (keleusma, military term)*?
 - Strong – ‘An order, command, spec. a stimulating cry, either that by which animals are roused and urged on by man, as horses by charioteers, hounds by hunters, etc., or that by which a signal is given to men, e.g., to rowers by the master of a ship, to soldiers by a commander (with a loud summons, a trumpet call).’



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- And there many references to *the trumpet of God* in the NT.
 - *Matt 24:31, 1 Cor 14:8, 1 Cor 15:52, Heb 12:19, Rev 1:10, 4:12.*
 - » Do you believe that all these references relate to the rapture (*parousia*) – the coming of the Lord **for His saints** vs. **with His saints** – 2nd Kingdom Age?
- *And the dead in Christ will rise first.*
 - In the OT, the trumpet blast which usually accompanied God’s manifestation in glory.
 - *Exod 19:16 - Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and **the sound of the trumpet was very loud**, so that all **the people who were in the camp trembled.***
- Whatever this sounds like it is *with the voice of an archangel.*
 - What or who is an *archangel*, is it Michael?
 - *Jude 1:9 - Yet Michael the **archangel**, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”*
 - » Strong – ‘The Jews, after the exile, distinguished several orders of angels; some reckoned four angels (according to the four sides of God's throne) of the highest rank; but the majority reckoned seven (after the pattern of the seven Amshaspands, the highest spirits of the religion of Zoroaster).
 - » McCalley – ‘The word (archangel) has no definite article with it. For this reason, it is best not to assign it to one such as Michael.’



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- *and with the trumpet of God*
 - Perhaps this is like what John experienced in Patmos
 - *Rev 1:10,11 - I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,” and, “What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.”*
 - Or when Christ restored Lazarus to life.
 - *John 11:43 - Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth!”*
 - Isn't this interesting in terms of how the shout is manifested?
 - *Rev 8:2 - And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.*
- *And the dead in Christ will rise first.*
 - This relates to the *hope* of all who have already died in Christ (vs. those who have no such hope – *verses 13,14*)!
 - *first* in sequence or priority (e.g., chief?)
 - Although believers are asleep (bodies have died), their souls and spirits are with the Lord!



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- *2 Cor 5:8 – We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.*
- *Phil 1:23 - For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.*
- *1 Thessalonians 4:17 – Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord.*
 - Note how personal this event will be!
 - *1 Cor 15:51,52 - Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*
 - *caught up (future passive)*
 - *harpazō*, to seize, carry off by force, seize, or claim for oneself selfishly.
 - claim for oneself selfishly I like best!
 - Who is *them*, in *together with them*?



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- Those who were asleep – we'll all be together for the first time!
 - *in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.*
 - Is this like the *cloud* that surrounded Israel, or is it into the atmosphere immediately above, or being taken up into heaven?
 - Whatever, *in the air* is what is proclaimed here.
 - *And thus, we shall always (ever, always) be with the Lord.*
 - What security we will, and by the way, we have now!
 - *Phil 3:20,21 - For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*
- ***1 Thessalonians 4:18 – Therefore comfort one another with these words.***
 - What's *therefore* there for?
 - *these words* concern what precedes them - *verses 13-18.*
 - To *comfort (parakaleō) one another.*
 - Also instruct and exhort one another!



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- *Heb 10:24,25 - And let us consider one another... not forsaking assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, **but exhorting (parakaleō) one another**, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

