

The Lord's Return and the Resurrection

1 Thessalonians 04:13–05:03

1 *The concern:*

Will believers be resurrected when Christ returns?

- a. Are not to be ignorant about the resurrection
- b. Are not to grieve excessively

2 *The fact:*

Departed believers will return with Christ

- a. Proof 1:
Departed believers are with Christ
- b. Proof 2:
The death and resurrection of Christ
- c. Proof 3:
The Word of the Lord

3 *The events of the Lord's return*

- a. The Lord Himself will descend from heaven
- b. The dead in Christ will rise first
- c. The living will be caught up next
- d. The great reunion of the living with the dead will occur
- e. The experience of living face to face with the Lord will begin
- f. The present exhortation: encourage each other

4 *The time of the Lord's return and of the Day of the Lord*

- a. A fact that should not have to be discussed
- b. A day that will come suddenly and unexpectedly
- c. A day of false security
- d. A day of terrible destruction and birth pains
- e. A day of no escape

13 Brothers,

we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.

14 We believe

that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

15 According to the Lord's own word,

we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven,

with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 After that,

we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

18 Therefore encourage each other with these words.

CHAPTER 5

1 Now, brothers,

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.

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