

9 PASSAGES THAT LOCATE THE
RAPTURE OR RESURRECTION
AFTER
THE GREAT TRIBULATION

Alan E. Kurschner, Ph.D., Eschatos Ministries

Download notes at: www.AlanKurschner.com/ohio2019

PART 1

The Springboard Passage:
1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

1 Thessalonians 4:13

“Now we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve like the rest who have no hope.”

1 Thessalonians 4:14

“For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, so also we believe that God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep as Christians.”

1 Thessalonians 4:15a

“For we tell you this by the **word of the Lord** . . .

Jesus Matthew 24–25	Parallels on the Second Coming	Paul I & II Thessalonians
24:3–4	Christ is the Source	I.4:15
24:3, 27, 37, 39	Subject Matter: The Parousia	I.4:15; II.2:1, 8
24:4–5, 23–26	Do Not Be Deceived	II.2:3
24:6	Alarmed that the End Has Come	II.2:2
24:15	Antichrist's Temple Desolation	II.2:4
24:21–22	Opposition by Antichrist	II.2:3–4, 8–9
24:24	Deceiving Signs and Wonders	II.2:9–10
24:24	Elect Will Not Be Deceived	II.2:9–14
24:12	Lawlessness	II.2:3, 12
24:10–11	Apostasy of Many	II.2:3
24:13, 22, 31, 40–41 (Lk 21:28)	Surviving Believers Delivered	I.4:15, 17; 5:9; II.1:7
24:22, 29–31	Persecution Cut Short	II.1:6–7; 2:8
24:27, 30	Initiation of the Parousia	I.4:15; II.2:1, 8
24:29–30	Parousia Follows Antichrist	II.2:8
24:27–30	Universal Perception	I.4:16; II.1:7–8
24:30	Jesus with Clouds	I.4:17
24:30	Power and Glory	II.1:9
24:31	Angelic Presence	I.4:16; II.1:7
24:31	Trumpet Call	I.4:16
24:31	Gathering	I.4:17; II.2:1
25:6	Meeting (<i>Apantēsis</i>)	I.4:17
24:37–41 (Lk 17:22–35)	Back-to-Back Rapture & Wrath	II.1:6–10
24:37–41	"Peace and Safety"	I.5:3
24:43	Thief in the Night	I.5:2, 4
24:37–41 (Lk 21:34)	Sudden Destruction for Ungodly	I.5:2–3
24:29–30, 37–39	Initiation of the Day of the Lord	I.5:1–3; II.1:7–8
25:10–13 (Lk 21:36)	Inescapable for the Unprepared	I.5:3
24:32–33	Knowing the Season	I.5:1
24:45–46	The Faithful at His Coming	I.5:4–5, 8
24:42–25:13 (Lk 21:34–36)	Be Watchful-Expectant	I.5:6–8

1 Thessalonians 4:15b

. . . that we who are alive, who are left **until** the **coming [*parousia*]** of the Lord, will surely not go ahead of those who have fallen asleep.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16–18

“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a shout of command, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be suddenly caught up together with them in the clouds to **meet [*apantēsis*]** the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

Itinerary After the Rapture?

Paul: “. . . we know that the one who raised up Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus and will bring us with you **into his [Father’s] presence**” (2 Cor. 4:14).

Jesus: “There are many dwelling places **in my Father’s house**. Otherwise, I would have told you, because I am going away to make ready a place for you. And if I go and make ready a place for you, I will come again and **take you to be with me, so that where I am you may be too**” (John 14:2–3).

Itinerary After the Rapture?

An Elder: “Then one of the elders asked me, ‘These dressed in long white robes—who are they and where have they come from?’ So I said to him, ‘My lord, you know the answer.’ Then he said to me, “These are the ones who have come out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb! For this reason **they are before the throne of God**, and they serve him day and night in his temple, and the one seated on the throne will shelter them.” (Rev. 7:13–15)

1 Thessalonians 4:16–18

“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a shout of command, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be suddenly caught up together with them in the clouds to **meet [*apantēsis*]** the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

PART 2

9 Passages that Locate
the Rapture or Resurrection
after
the Great Tribulation

Passage #1

1 Thessalonians 4:15b

. . . that we who are alive, **who are left** [*hoi perileipomenoi*] until the **coming** [*parousia*] of the Lord, will surely not go ahead of those who have fallen asleep.”



PASSAGE #2

2 Thessalonians 1:6

“For it is right for God to repay with affliction **those who afflict you**, and to you who are being afflicted **to give rest together with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed** from heaven with his mighty angels.”

PASSAGE #3

2 Thessalonians 2:1, 2–3

“Concerning the coming [*parousia*] of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him. . . . to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here (let no one deceive you in any way). For that day will not arrive until **first [*proton*] the apostasy comes and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction.” (see also John 7:51, Mark 3:27!)**

PASSAGE #4

2 Thessalonians 2:8

“and then **the lawless one [aka Antichrist]** **will be revealed**, whom the Lord will destroy by the breath of his mouth and wipe out by the manifestation of his **coming [*parousia*]**.”

PASSAGE #5

Matthew 24: 21–22, 27, 29–31

“For then there will be **great tribulation** unlike anything that has happened from the beginning of the world until now, or ever will happen. And if **those days had not been cut short, no one would be delivered**. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. . . . For just like the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so the **coming [parousia]** of the Son of Man will be. . . . **Immediately after the tribulation of those days**, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man arriving on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet blast, and **they will gather his elect** from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. ”

PASSAGE #6

1 Peter 4:12–17

“Dear friends, do not be astonished that a trial by fire is occurring among you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in the degree that you have shared in the sufferings of Christ, so that when in the **revelation [apokalypsis] of his glory** you may also rejoice and be glad. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory, who is the Spirit of God, rests on you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or thief or criminal or as a troublemaker. But if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but glorify God that you bear such a name. **For it is time for judgment to begin, starting with the house of God.** And if it starts with us, what will be the fate of those who are disobedient to the gospel of God?”

PASSAGE #7

Revelation 6:9–11

“Now when the Lamb opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been **violently killed because of the word of God and because of the testimony they had given**. They cried out with a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Master, holy and true, before you judge those who live on the earth and avenge our blood?” **Each of them was given a long white robe and they were told to rest for a little longer**, until the full number was reached of both their fellow servants and their brothers who were going to be killed just as they had been.”

PASSAGE #8

Revelation 7:9, 13–14

Rev 7:9 After these things I looked, and here was an enormous crowd that no one could count, made up of persons from every nation, tribe, people, and language, **standing** before the throne and before the Lamb **dressed in long white robes**, and with palm branches in their hands. . . . Then one of the elders asked me, “**These dressed in long white robes**—who are they and where have they come from?” So I said to him, “My lord, you know the answer.” Then he said to me, “**These are the ones who have come out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb!**”

PASSAGE #9

Revelation 14:12–16

This [refuse the Mark of the Beast] requires the steadfast endurance of the saints—those who obey God’s commandments and hold to their faith in Jesus. Then I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write this: ‘Blessed are the dead, those who die in the Lord from this moment on!’” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “so they can rest from their hard work, because their deeds will follow them.” **Then I looked, and a white cloud appeared, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man! He had a golden crown on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. Then another angel came out of the temple, shouting in a loud voice to the one seated on the cloud, “Use your sickle and start to reap, because the time to reap has come, since the earth’s harvest is ripe!” So the one seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was reaped.**

SUMMARY

Intense Suffering & Martyrdom

BEFORE

Rapture & Resurrection

- 1 Thessalonians 4:15b
- 2 Thessalonians 1:6
- 2 Thessalonians 2:1, 2–3
- 2 Thessalonians 2:8
- Matthew 24:21–22, 27, 29–31
- 1 Peter 4:12–17
- Revelation 6:9–11
- Revelation 7:9, 13–14
- Revelation 14:12–16

- 1 Thessalonians 4:15b
- 2 Thessalonians 1:6
- 2 Thessalonians 2:1, 2–3
- 2 Thessalonians 2:8
- Matthew 24:21–22, 27, 29–31
- 1 Peter 4:12–17
- Revelation 6:9–11
- Revelation 7:9, 13–14
- Revelation 14:12–16