

The Thessalonians Church

All Scripture is KJV: 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY

The Book of 1 and 2 Thessalonians will challenge you to what you have been told before, but now you are going to see the truth for yourself, and you will have to either accept it or reject it.

What does the 2 books of Thessalonians tell us? – it teaches on

1. Jesus return, and his timing for his return? – (2 Thessalonians 2:4)
2. How Jesus will return, and in what way or manner?
3. Who are the elect, and how can we know who the elect are?
4. To whom is this book written, and for what purpose?
5. How Thessalonians fits in with other scriptures on the return of Christ?

So these are just some of the answers that these 2 books will give us.

1 Thessalonians 3:13 King James Version (KJV)

13 To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

After Paul had told the Thessalonian church that they were to reach out and love those within and those without the church; he reiterates the reason why they should love each other and those that needed salvation.

Here's why.....

Because he wanted them to be prepared for the time in which they would stand before the Lord at his return being "**unblameable**" in which they would stand in "**holiness**" **before God**, even our Father at the coming of the Lord Jesus with all his saints.

- ✚ So according to Paul, the Thessalonian church would also be able to stand before God holy at the return of Jesus Christ.
- ✚ Also according to this verse when Jesus returns for the current believing brethren he will also bring all those other believing saints with him which had died before in him. (so this also proves that when we die our soul is in heaven). This also proves the 144,000 are in heaven now. (Revelation 7 & 14). And these 144,000 have a new body prepared for them to go forth and minister during the time that God's wrath is poured out upon the earth in Revelation 8.
- ✚ So at the return of Jesus he brings all his OT & NT saints with him who were changed in the twinkling of an eye into their glorified bodies. The dead in Christ .

1 Corinthians 15:52

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

QUESTION:

- ✚ So the question is: Is this the rapture? Or simply the return of Jesus?
- ✚ And if you say that it is only the rapture, then why is he coming with all his saints?

ANSWER:

The answer simply is, that this is both the rapture and the return of Christ. In other words the second coming of Jesus is the rapture.

Does not the scripture say in 1 Thessalonians 4:15 ¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

- ✚ So either you believe what the scripture says that this is the return of Christ and the rapture, or you will have to make up another lie about this event.

1 Thessalonians 4: ¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

- ✚ This return of Jesus is exactly what is described for us in Matthew 24, Luke 21, and Mark 13. (& Luke 17)

The order of events match perfectly with Matthew 24, and the co located passages of the gospels as I have just mentioned, and they match perfectly also with Revelation 6 and Revelation 7 and 8 which also deals with the coming of the Lord.

- ✚ This passage is also dealt with by Luke in Acts 2 as he quotes Joel 2 of the OT.

Acts 2: ¹⁶ But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

¹⁷ And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

¹⁸ And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

¹⁹ And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:

²⁰ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord come:

²¹ And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Joel 2: Joel 2 King James Version (KJV)

1 Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: **for the day of the LORD cometh**, for it is nigh at hand;

² **A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness**, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.

³ A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them.

⁴ **The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run.**

⁵ **Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array.**

⁶ **Before their face the people shall be much pained:** all faces shall gather blackness.

⁷ **They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks:**

⁸ Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and **when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded.**

⁹ **They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses;** they shall enter in at the windows like a thief.

¹⁰ **The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:**

¹¹ **And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army:** for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: **for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?**

¹² Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:

¹³ **And rend your heart, and not your garments,** and **turn unto the LORD your God:** for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

¹⁴ Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God?

¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:

¹⁶ Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.

¹⁷ Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?

¹⁸ Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people.

¹⁹ Yea, the LORD will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen:

²⁰ But I will remove far off from you the northern army, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savour shall come up, because he hath done great things.

²¹ Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the LORD will do great things.

²² Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength.

²³ Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

²⁴ And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

²⁵ And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.

²⁶ And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed.

²⁷ And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

²⁸ And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

²⁹ And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

³⁰ And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.

³¹ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come.

³² And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

- ✚ So even Joel covered the great and terrible day of the Lord. So I guess the sun and the moon being darkened is a significant event to do with the ushering in of that great and terrible day of the Lord. Which is the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Even Jude covered this same event in his writings. Jude: ¹⁴ And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, **Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,** ¹⁵ **To execute judgment upon all,** and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

Even the book of revelation 6, 7 and 8 ties in perfectly with these scriptures about the return of Christ being that great and terrible day of the Lord

Revelation 6:5-7 King James Version (KJV)

¹² And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, **there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;**

¹³ And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

¹⁴ And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

¹⁵ And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

¹⁶ And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: *(Jesus said this in Luke 23:30)*

¹⁷ For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

- ✚ And then in Revelation 6:17 we see that the great day of his wrath has only just arrived – *(is come meaning it has only just come right now)*.
- ✚ And then in Revelation 7 we see the ruptured saints taken to heaven.

Revelation 7 King James Version (KJV)

1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

² And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

³ Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

⁴ And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

⁹ After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

¹⁰ And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

¹¹ And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

¹² Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

¹³ And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

¹⁴ And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

✚ So according to Revelation 7:15 the saints when they are raptured they are before the throne of God serving him day and night and he is there among them.

1. And it's not until Revelation Chapter 8 that we see God pouring out his wrath upon the earth and the wicked which is after the tribulation, and after the rapture.....
2. This means that judgment has only now come upon the earth. This then proves again that the Tribulation is not God pouring out his wrath upon his people.
3. This also proves that the rapture is after the tribulation, and that God only starts pouring out his wrath after the tribulation once the 144,000 have been sealed and it also proves that the trumpets come after the seals and not before.

4. And the trumpets come only after the saints or believers have been raptured and are in heaven.

Even Zephaniah covered the great day of the Lord.

Zephaniah 1 King James Version (KJV)

¹⁴ **The great day of the LORD is near**, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly.

¹⁵ **That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,**

¹⁶ **A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities,** and against the high towers.

- ✚ Even in the OT Malachi spoke of the coming of the Lord, and that great and terrible day.

Malachi 4 King James Version (KJV)

1 **For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven;** and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: **and the day that cometh shall burn them up,** saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

² **But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.**

³ And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.

⁴ Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

⁵ **Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:**

⁶ And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

- ✚ What Jesus told the disciples in Matthew 24, is what Paul told the Thessalonian church.

Matthew 24:31

And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, **and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.**

Mark 13:27

And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together **his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.**

- ✚ Luke 17 is the culmination of the disciples asking Jesus about when will the kingdom of God come.....look what Jesus said.....

Luke 17: ²² And he said unto the disciples, The days will come, when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see it. ²³ And they shall say to you, See here; or, see there: go not after them, nor follow them. (Jesus said this in 2 Thess 2:3-5 as Paul recorded it).

²⁴ For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day.

²⁵ But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation. ²⁶ And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

²⁷ They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.

²⁸ Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; ²⁹ But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.

³⁰ Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

³¹ In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back.

³² Remember Lot's wife. ³³ Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.

³⁴ I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.

³⁵ Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

³⁶ Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

³⁷ And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together. (Luke 17:37)

- ✚ The same day when these events took place, Jesus said it would be the same amount of time when he would pour out his wrath upon the wicked.
- ✚ In other words in the same day as the saints are raptured then in (about the space of a half hour in heaven) Jesus will then begin to pour out his wrath upon the wicked on the earth. (Rev 8:1).

1. The timing of the events and the events themselves described in Revelation 6, 7 and 8 are the exactly the same as in Matthew 24. (read and explain the chapter).

2. And when we look at this after the tribulation period, there is still a chance that people can be saved before God pours out his wrath.
3. These are scriptures that have been brought into the book of Acts as from Joel 2:32 and this is the same scripture quoted by Paul in Romans 10:13.
4. So it is possible for someone to still get saved after the tribulation period but before the rapture takes place. Because we see this in Matthew 24:

Acts 2:21

And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Joel 2:32

And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Joel 2: ³⁰ And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. ³¹ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come. ³² **And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered:** for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

Acts 2: ¹⁹ And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: ²⁰ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord come: ²¹ **And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.**

- ✚ But once the Rapture takes place then it is too late to get saved in the first resurrection.
- ✚ But there will be those who will later get saved who did not take the Mark of the beast and who turned to Jesus after the rapture and those that were born afterwards in the millennium who turned to Jesus.

CLOSE IN PRAYER.....

Verses that speak about the coming of our Lord Jesus.

[1 Thessalonians 2:19](#)

For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in **the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?**

[1 Thessalonians 4:15](#)

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain **unto the coming of the Lord** shall not prevent them which are asleep.

[1 Thessalonians 5:23](#)

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless **unto the coming of our Lord** Jesus Christ.

[2 Thessalonians 2:1](#)

Now we beseech you, brethren, by **the coming of our Lord** Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

[2 Thessalonians 2:8](#)

And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy **with the brightness of his coming:**

[James 5:7](#)

Be patient therefore, brethren, **unto the coming of the Lord**. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

[James 5:8](#)

Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for **the coming of the Lord** draweth nigh.

[2 Peter 1:16](#)

For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and **coming of our Lord Jesus Christ**, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

Revelation 9:11

11 And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.

1. Satan cannot be Abaddon because it is not his name. He is never mentioned anywhere else by these names.
2. It is the wrong timing – Satan is cast out of heaven (Dan 12:1) before the tribulation. Here in Rev 9:1 – the angel is coming from heaven.
3. Also He cannot be Satan because Satan does not have the keys to Hell –Jesus has the keys. (Revelation 1:18)

[Revelation 1:18](#) I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and **have the keys of hell and of death.**

4. Satan cannot cast himself into hell – can Satan bind Satan? (Mark 3: ²³ And he called them unto him, and said unto them in parables, How can Satan cast out Satan?)
 - ✚ Common sense would also tell that why would Abaddon or Apollyon be Satan, when he would be stinging and tormenting those who were not sealed. Surely Satan would want to torment Gods people and not the other way around?
 - ✚ So it makes no sense that it can be Satan.
 - ✚ Also the word Satan does not mean Destroyer like some people would like to claim.

Revelation 20:1-3

¹ And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and ²bound him a thousand years, ³ And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

ABADDON IN THE HEBREW- MEANS DESTRUCTION (HELL)

[Job 21:17](#)

How oft is the candle of the wicked put out! and how oft cometh their **destruction** upon them! God distributeth sorrows in his anger.

[Job 21:20](#)

His eyes shall see his **destruction**, and he shall drink of the wrath of the Almighty.

[Job 21:30](#)

That the wicked is reserved to the day of **destruction**? they shall be brought forth to the day of wrath.

[Job 26:6](#)

Hell is naked before him, and **destruction** hath no covering.

[Job 30:24](#)

Howbeit he will not stretch out his hand to the grave, though they cry in his **destruction**.

[Job 31:3](#)

Is not **destruction** to the wicked? and a strange punishment to the workers of iniquity?

[Psalm 55:23](#)

But thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of **destruction**: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in thee.

[Psalm 73:18](#) Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into **destruction**.

[Proverbs 15:11](#)

Hell and destruction are before the Lord: how much more then the hearts of the children of men?

[Proverbs 27:20](#)

Hell and **destruction** are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.

[Isaiah 13:6](#)

Howl ye; for the day of the Lord is at hand; it shall come as a **destruction** from the Almighty.

[Joel 1:15](#)

Alas for the day! for the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a **destruction** from the Almighty shall it come.

APOLLYON IN THE GREEK- MEANS DESTRUCTION (HELL)

[2 Peter 2:1](#)

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift **destruction**.

[2 Peter 3:16](#)

As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own **destruction**.

[Matthew 7:13](#)

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to **destruction**, and many there be which go in thereat:

[Philippians 3:19](#)

Whose end is **destruction**, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

[1 Timothy 6:9](#)

But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in **destruction** and perdition.

[1 Thessalonians 5:3](#)

For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden **destruction** cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

[2 Thessalonians 1:9](#)

Who shall be punished with everlasting **destruction** from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;