

The Last Days – Part 7
The Resurrection

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

John 20:1-17

The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid Him.

Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.

Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, and the napkin, that was about His head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed. For as yet they knew not the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.

The resurrection of Jesus gives us great comfort and hope: because He lives, we know that we shall live also. Remember the promise of God:

Titus 1:2

In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began

We all with patience wait for the coming of Christ, when all the saved who are in the grave rise again from the dead in new spiritual bodies. And we who are alive and remain unto His coming will be caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and we will see Jesus as He is.

Then the disciples went away again unto their own home. But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping; and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, and seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him.

And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing Him to be the gardener, saith unto Him, Sir, if Thou have borne Him hence, tell me where thou hast laid Him, and I will take Him away.

Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. Jesus saith unto her, Touch Me not; for I am not yet ascended to My Father but go to My brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto My Father, and your Father; and to My God, and your God.

John 20 gives one narrative of the Resurrection of Christ, but for a complete picture you need to read all of the accounts of the Resurrection (see Matthew 28, Mark 16, and Luke 24).

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The Promises of the Resurrection

The doctrine of the resurrections of the dead is very important to our Christian faith. Every Christian should know this subject well, taking time not only read about this, but to really study it.

Jesus revealed both resurrections

John 5:28 29

Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

There are 1000 years between the first and second resurrections.

John 6:39-40

And this is the Father's will which hath sent Me, that of all which He hath given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at **the last day**. And this is the will of Him that sent Me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at **the last day**.

John 6:44

No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at **the last day**.

John 6:54

Whoso eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at **the last day**.

That **the last day** is the day of Christ, the day He will come for us and will raise us up from the dead. And if we are still living when He comes, we will be changed in a moment into our new glorified body and rise to meet Jesus in the air

John 11:24

Martha saith unto Him, I know that He shall rise again in the resurrection at **the last day**.

John 12:48

He that rejecteth Me, and receiveth not My words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in **the last day**.

Note in the above Scriptures that **the last day** is singular. The event it speaks about will happen on that particular day. It will not happen a day before or a day after, but is a set time. God has set a specific day and hour for Christ to return.

Job had a revelation of the resurrection of the dead. The Book of Job is probably the oldest in the Bible - and yet it contains the knowledge of the resurrection of the dead in the latter day upon the earth!

Job 19:23-26

Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book! That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever! For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.

Job knew his Redeemer, and he knew he would one day see God. It was his desire that his words be printed in a book, graven with an iron pen, leaded in a rock forever. God gave Job his heart's desire, and more: Job's words are forever written in God's Holy Word.

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David spoke of the resurrection of Christ, and Peter preached it on the Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:31-36

He seeing this before spake of the Resurrection of Christ, that His soul was not left in hell, neither His flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, He hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on My right hand, Until I make Thy foes Thy footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

The resurrection of Jesus proves that He is both Lord and Christ. Many hearing and seeing on the day of Pentecost were pricked in their hearts, and said, *Men and brethren, what shall we do!* This was old time Holy Ghost conviction, and the result was that about three thousand souls believed on Jesus that day.

Acts 4:33

And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

Daniel revealed the resurrections

Daniel 12:2-4.

And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Hosea speaks of the resurrection promise to Israel

Hosea 13:14

I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes.

John the apostle saw the souls of them that were beheaded by the Beast and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years

Revelation 20:4

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the Word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

As part of the blessed hope, we shall not only see Him - but we shall be like Him!

I John 3:2-3

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.

I John 2:28

And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed

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Paul put a very strong emphasis on the resurrection power. He was willing to go to any length or effort to attain to the first resurrection, willing to suffer any loss. He said, *What things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ - for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 3:10, 11

That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death; if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

Romans 1:4

And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the Resurrection from the dead:

Romans 2:7

To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

Romans 6:5 - 11

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His Resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.

Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him: knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over Him. For in that He died, He died unto sin once: but in that He liveth, He liveth unto God.

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

I Corinthians 15:19, 20

If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

I Corinthians 15:54-55

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

Ephesians 5:27

That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

I Timothy 6:12-17

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; that thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, **until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:** which in His times He shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

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2 Timothy 1:10

But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel

The Book of Hebrews speaks of a better resurrection

Hebrews 11:35

Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

Hebrews 2:14-15

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

The doctrine of the resurrection of the dead is one of the major doctrines of our faith:

from Hebrews 6:1, 2

Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

Hebrews 9:28

So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

Peter encouraged the saints with the truth of the resurrection

I Peter 3:21, 22

The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto Him.

Begotten unto a lively hope

I Peter 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

I Peter 5:4

And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

God gives us a great witness of the resurrection of the dead in the Scriptures; they bring faith into our hearts. Carefully study the above accounts and they will build your faith.

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Christ must have preeminence in all things

- - I am the Resurrection and the life
- - I am the way the truth and the life
- - I am Alpha and omega
- - The beginning and the end
- - The first and the last.
- - The head of the body the Church
- - The head of every man
- - The first born from the dead
- - The first born of every creature
- - Who only hath immortality, dwelling in light
- - Who is the image of the invisible God
- - Who being the brightness of his glory
- - The express Image of His person
- - Even so the Son quickeneth whom He will
- - By Him all things were created
- - No man cometh unto the Father but by Me

Jesus is the first born from the dead and the only one who has immortality, dwelling in light

Colossians 1:18-19

And He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence.

I Timothy 6:16

Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

Hebrews 1:3

Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high

John 11:25-26

Jesus said unto her, I am the Resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this? She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that Thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

Revelation 1:8

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

John 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.

John 5:21

For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom He will.

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Unbelief among the Sadducees

Jesus brought up a question to the multitudes about the resurrection of the dead. Certain of the Sadducees came with their usual questions - because they didn't believe there was any resurrection

Luke 22:31-33

But as touching the Resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. And when the multitude heard this, they were astonished at His doctrine.

In Luke 20 the Sadducees brought up Moses and the law about widows who remarry. They asked Jesus whose wife she would be in the resurrection - though they denied the existence of any resurrection

Luke 20:27-36

Then came to Him certain of the Sadducees, which deny that there is any Resurrection; and they asked Him, saying, Master, Moses wrote unto us, If any man's brother die, having a wife, and he die without children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.

There were therefore seven brethren: and the first took a wife, and died without children. And the second took her to wife, and he died childless. And the third took her; and in like manner the seven also: and they left no children, and died. Last of all the woman died also. Therefore in the Resurrection whose wife of them is she? for seven had her to wife.

In His answer to them, Jesus spoke of the of the resurrection

And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: but they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the Resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage:

Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the Resurrection. Now that the dead are raised, even Moses shewed at the bush, when he calleth the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. For He is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto Him.

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Unbelief at Corinth

Some Christians in Corinth didn't believe in the Resurrection
I Corinthians 15:12-21

Now if Christ be preached that He rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no Resurrection of the dead? But if there be no Resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: and if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ: whom He raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: and if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. In this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

I Corinthians 15:42-50

So also is the Resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: it is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: it is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

Behold, I shew 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 trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

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Last Days Apostate Teachers
Know these modern wicked and evil forces

The unbelief of some at Corinth in the supernatural reveals the difficulty of many in every age to receive the Bible teaching of the supernatural. The spirit of Antichrist in our present generation still denies the supernatural.

The following is a message the Lord gave to me on March 1 1988

My Son I want you to know the modern wicked and evil forces that fight to destroy My Church and My people. Many intellectual and arrogant men who sit in high places control schools of theology. They are raising up a new generation. Their work is to deny the truth - men of corrupt minds; men who hold not the truth, who have not the truth. These deny the same things as always: My miraculous birth, My shed blood, and My Resurrection from the dead. The things they deny are the same as in past times.

Their ways have changed. They are very intellectual and learned in their way, and very subtle. Their influence over men is much greater than it was in other generations.

They not only teach these damnable doctrines, but cast their awful influence into the hearts of those that hear them. They are raising up a whole new brand, or group, of deceivers.

I showed you the vision of the innocent-looking water, with the feeling to walk right in. This is like the subtle work Satan is doing. Those who feel compelled to accept these damnable doctrines wade right in, not knowing the awful undertow that is in the water - and they are pulled under, never able to get out.

All those who accept this damnable doctrine of the rejection of Christ and His sacrifice will be lost forever - without hope, with no chance to ever repent. For them to repent would require a new sacrifice for sin.

The attack of these men and women is against those who were inspired to write the Word of God. They speak evil of those dignitaries of old, and of their writings. They dare to challenge the Scriptures of Truth. They don't accept the inspiration of the Word of God.

The course of events of the end of the age is an attack against the Church from within - to destroy those who believe in Jesus and in the Word of Truth.

These wicked and evil forces work under this spirit of antichrist to promote these awful doctrines of Satan. They will cause the church to suffer this great falling away, and to support the rise of the antichrist in this world.

They are of the spirit of antichrist; and, like the antichrist, they attack those in heaven. They are the architects and engineers of the falling away of the church, the rise of the antichrist.

The course of events of the end of the age is an attack against the Church from within to destroy those who believe in Jesus and the Word of truth.

[Click here for a complete version of this revelation!](#)

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“Raised from the dead” versus Resurrection

The resurrection of Jesus Christ was the first fruit of the first resurrection. Before Jesus others have been raised from the dead, but not unto immortality and eternal life.

Lazarus

Lazarus was in the grave four days, and had begun to stink. Jesus stood at the gravesite and said, *Lazarus Come forth*. He was bound in grave clothes, hand and foot, and a napkin was about his face. As he came forth, Jesus commanded that Lazarus be loosed and let go.

Though Lazarus was raised from the dead, he didn't ascend into heaven. He was brought back to his natural life here upon this earth, and would one day physically die again.

The order of the first resurrection

I Corinthians 15:23

But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits of the resurrection afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

Christ is the first born from the dead. He rose in a new glorified spiritual body to die no more, and ascended into heaven after forty days, to sit on the right hand of God.

I Corinthians 15:22-23

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. And He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence.

I Timothy 6:16

Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

The Scriptures make it clear that the first resurrection does not all happen at the same time. Christ was the first fruit of the first resurrection. We yet await the major resurrection of the Old Testament and New Testament (including the Church) saints

This first resurrection won't be complete until the end of the tribulation period, just before the beginning of the thousand-year reign of Christ as king on the earth:

Revelation 20:4-6

... and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. **This is the first resurrection.** Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. ⁷

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Who are these that arose?

Matthew 27: 51-5

And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after His resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

When we look into these three verses, we wonder and question, because we lack information to fully understand them. There are many opinions about who are these resurrected saints.

- Did they go back into to the grave?
- Did they ascend into heaven with Jesus?
- Were they witnesses of Christ's Resurrection?

The facts from these verses are -

- The veil of the temple was rent in twain from top to bottom
- There was an earthquake and the rocks rent
- The graves opened and many bodies of sleeping saints arose
- These came out of the graves after Christ was resurrected
- And they went into the holy city, appearing to many
- They were saints, not sinners
- There were many, but we don't know how many

These saints were resurrected from the dead after Christ's resurrection and appeared to many. I don't believe that the Lord would have sent them back to the grave again.

One conclusion is that these saints, with the spirits of *just men made perfect from paradise* (Hebrews 12.23), went with Jesus into heaven (Ephesians 4.8-10). However, we can't prove this by any Bible account.

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What Day? What Hour?

What is the subject in these Scriptures? The First Resurrection From The Dead! The Day of Christ.

What day and month is it speaking of? What year? When will it be? Wouldn't everyone like to know? But we can't know the day nor the hour of His coming. Not even the angels know. Only our Father in heaven knows when that day is.

Matthew 24:36-39

But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

My first concern is that you will be ready for the coming of the Lord. Be sure to study carefully the next section of this lesson on the subject of what it means to be ready when Christ comes.

We must live in expectation that Jesus could come today. Be ready!

The Lord is coming at the Last Trump - the Last Day - At that Hour
I 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.

Revelation 4:1

After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

Matthew 24:50

The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of

Matthew 25:13

Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

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The Rapture of the Church
Christ is coming for those who are ready!

A faithful warning - Christ is coming quickly! We don't know the day or the hour of His coming. The Scriptures below are a great revelation. They are the necessary truth to tell us up front, warning us that we cannot know the day nor the hour of His coming.

Matthew 24:36, 42, 44

But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

The message the Lord gives us is a warning to be ready. He will come quickly and suddenly. It is imperative that we be always ready - because we know not the day nor the hour of His coming.

We should be living for Him, saved, sanctified, undefiled, walking in the Spirit, holy, without blame in this present world - watching and praying that we will counted worthy to be found ready to meet Him at His coming.

Luke 21:34-36

And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.

The **Church at Philadelphia**, the sixth church, is an example to us!
Revelation 3:7-14

And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith He that is holy, He that is true, He that hath the key of David, He that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept My word, and hast not denied My name.

Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

Because thou hast kept the word of My patience, **I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation**, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

This hour of temptation refers to our being kept from the great tribulation.

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The Lord found no fault with the Church at Philadelphia. He opened a door to them that no man could shut. This Church appears to be an example to the Churches, with the promise to keep them from the hour of temptation that will come upon all the world, to try all them that dwell on the earth.

Let us follow their example and be ready for the coming of Christ for His Church.

You must be born again to be ready

John 3:3-8

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto Him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, **Ye must be born again.**

You must have this new birth if you are to be ready when Jesus comes!

Mark 16:15-16

And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that **believeth and is baptized shall be saved**; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

The test of the ten virgins: You must be a wise virgin if you are going to enter in when the Bridegroom comes

Matthew 25:1-13

Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

This is the test of those who are expecting to be caught up into heaven with Jesus when He comes for His Bride. They must be ready when He comes.

The Last Days – Part 7
The Resurrection

In this story of the ten virgins, five were wise and five were foolish. The difference between them was that the wise had oil in their vessels. They each had a lamp, but only the wise had vessels with oil in them.

At midnight they all rose to trim their lamps. And when the foolish saw that their lamps had no oil, they expected the wise to share their oil with them. But the wise said, *Not so, go and buy for yourselves.*

While they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came - and the wise were called unto the wedding. When the foolish came back from buying oil, they found the door shut! They cried out, *Lord, Lord open to us!* But he answered and said, *Verily I say unto you, I know you not.*

Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

Many today are like these five foolish virgins. They go to church, but have never gotten saved. They don't realize that they must be born of the water and Spirit if they are to enter into heaven. Many need to get serious about getting ready for the Lord's coming. Only fifty percent of the ten virgins were ready! Could it be that only fifty percent of the professing Church will be ready for the Rapture of the Church? Stop and think about it! Does that figure scare you?

I Thessalonians 4:13 to 5:1

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him.

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. 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:

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.

Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

I Corinthians 15:51 to 16:1

Behold, I shew 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 trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

The Last Days – Part 7
The Resurrection

Paul's Teaching on the Day of Christ

II Thessalonians 2:1-4 (KJV)

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him, that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

We want to look at this passage in the ASV and in the NIV Bible translations, and find one major difference!

II Thessalonians 2:1-5 (ASV)

Now we beseech you, brethren, touching the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together unto Him; to the end that ye be not quickly shaken from your mind, nor yet be troubled, either by spirit, or by word, or by epistle as from us, as that the day of the Lord is just at hand;

Let no man beguile you in any wise: for (it will not be,) except the falling away come first, and the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition, he that opposeth and exalteth himself against all that is called God or that is worshipped; so that he sitteth in the temple of God, setting himself forth as God.

II Thessalonians 2:1-4 (NIV)

Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to Him, we ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come.

Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshipped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

The KJV states that **the Day of Christ** will not come except the falling away come first, and the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.

But the ASV and the NIV translations state that **the Day of the Lord** will not be, except the falling away come first, and the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition. The phrase **falling away** means **the apostasy, a drawing back to perdition**. Many are falling away every day, even now, into antichrist activity.

The KJV states that **the Day of the Christ** will not be, except the falling away come first, and the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition. The other two translations convince many that Jesus will return for the Church in the middle of the tribulation period. This has been a long-standing question about II Thessalonians 2:1-3.

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I have used the KJV version for nearly 50 years. The KJV is one of the oldest English translations of the Bible, while the NIV and the ASV are more modern translations. These modern translators don't agree with the KJV on this text - the issue being the day of Christ versus the day of the Lord.

1 - The Day of Christ!

This is the Day of the Rapture! The Great First Resurrection! It is the day the graves of the righteous are opened and the dead in Christ rise first - and we who are alive and remain will be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of the eye, and rise to meet Jesus in the air as He comes for us, the Church.

2 - The Day of The Lord!

This relates to judgment and wrath. God hasn't appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ. The day of the Lord is the time of the great tribulation, a period of seven years. These seven years are in-between the end of the Church age and the beginning of Kingdom age.

Revelation 3:7-14 (KJV)

And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith He that is holy, He that is true, He that hath the key of David, He that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept My word, and hast not denied My name. Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from My God: and I will write upon him My new name.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

The Day of the Lord is to come in the future

When Paul wrote this letter to the Thessalonians, he plunged right into the problem that called forth his writing this letter. There had been reports that the afflictions endured by the believers were sure signs that the Day of the Lord had already come. **This Paul categorically denies.**

II Thessalonians 2:1-4

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him, that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, **as that the day of Christ is at hand.**

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, **except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;** who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

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The Great Falling Away, The Apostasy

Let no man deceive. See Matt 24:4ff . *By any means.* Those in 2 Thessalonians 22 or others. *That day shall not come* does not occur in the Greek text, but something like it must be supplied. A falling away, literally, the apostasy. The meaning of the word was known to Paul's readers, but we are not so fortunate. Apostasia usually means "rebellion," whether in a political or religious sense. The reference here is probably to the marshaling of the powers of evil against the people and purposes of God. Christ and Paul both warned against this final wicked conspiracy (e.g., Matt 24:10 ff.; 1 Tim 4:1-3; 2 Tim 3:1-9; 4:3 ff.). Apparently it will be of sufficient scope and intensity to mark itself off from the spirit of general opposition to God (*mystery of lawlessness*, 2 Thessalonians 2:7) which characterizes the world's attitude. The capstone of the rebellion will be the revelation of the man of lawlessness. *Be revealed* suggests that he is waiting behind the scenes until the time for his public appearance is ripe. In the NT only John uses the term "antichrist" (1 John 2:18,22; 4:3; 2 John 7), but there can be no doubt as to whom Paul had in mind. *Son of perdition* (cf. John 17:12) points both to the nature and to the fate ...*(from The Wycliffe Bible Commentary, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1962 by Moody Press)*

Revelation 3:14 -22

And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of My mouth.

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.

To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

The apostasy - the great falling away - the great rebellion.

There are multitudes that are lukewarm and backslidden. They are warned by Jesus of their state, but wouldn't repent. They will miss the rapture of the Church - and be caught in the great tribulation where they will buy gold tried in the fire. You should take heed that you are not in a lukewarm state; and if you are, repent while you have time.

[Click here for a series on The Apostasy of the End Times.](#)

The Last Days – Part 7
The Resurrection

Tribulation Saints

Who are these saints?

Revelation 7 9-17

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

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

And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence came they? 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. 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. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

This Scripture only tell us that they came out of great tribulation, while other Scriptures speak plainly to warn us to be ready when Jesus comes to rapture the Church.

A second group of saints: Who are these?

Revelation 15:3

And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints.

Revelation 4:4 - 6

And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. **This is the first Resurrection.**

Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

These are martyrs who are Jewish Christians. The first resurrection is now completed