

¹³ *But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.* 1 Thessalonians 4:13 Sleep is an euphemism for death (Psalm 13:3ⁱ; Luke 11:11-14ⁱⁱ). Today we would say, “those who are dead.” The Thessalonians were worried about those who had died. They were waiting for the Lord’s return but died before the event (Matthew 24:30,31ⁱⁱⁱ). To live in expectation of Jesus’ return is a healthy spiritual attitude (Matthew 24:44^{iv}). If we think He might appear today, it gives us extra motivation to be doing what He called us to do. Jesus encouraged this mindset in his teaching on the end-time. Regarding His return He said, ³² *“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”* ³³ *Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.* ³⁴ *It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake.* ³⁵ *Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—* ³⁶ *lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.* ³⁷ *And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”* Mark 13:32-37 Awake is a metaphor for being spiritually alert and on task.

During the same discourse He gave another warning to encourage us to keep this attitude of expectation. ⁴⁵ *“Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time?”* ⁴⁶ *Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.* ⁴⁷ *Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.* ⁴⁸ *But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’* ⁴⁹ *and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards,* ⁵⁰ *the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know* ⁵¹ *and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.* Matthew 24:45-51 Paul seems to have conveyed this expectation to the Thessalonians. That is why they were concerned that some among them had passed away before that day came.

Paul gives them an expression that we often use to comfort those who have had loved ones pass away. What he is about to explain to them is so that they *may not grieve as others who have no hope*. We have a hope the world does not have. Paul told the Philippians that he desired to depart and be with Christ which is far better (Philippians 1:23^v)! He looked forward to his beheading by the Roman empire because he so longed to be with Christ. **To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.**

There is a false doctrine based on this word “sleep.” The teaching is that the soul and body are in a suspended state in the grave awaiting the Lord’s return and resurrection. We will see why that is in error in the next verse. Our hope is that those we love who have gone before us are in Jesus’ glorious presence, the work in them completed, and joyous beyond our present experiences (1 John 3:2^{vi}). It is possible that Hebrews twelve is telling us that they are in the grandstands of heaven cheering us on as we run the race of faith (Hebrews 12:1^{vii}).

We have a hope that is greater than any other faith. The atheist thinks there is nothing after this life (Ephesians 2:12^{viii}). Millions of people revived from death declare that is not true. More importantly the Scriptures tell us it is not true (Daniel 12:2^{ix}). Others believe we are born again and again working off our bad karma. The gurus teach it

will take an infinite number of life cycles. Now that is depressing. Another faith says that if we die as a martyr, we will have seventy virgins. That sounds more like hell to me. Another says we will be Adam and Eve of our own planet. Oh no! Not again!

Church, we have the awesome hope of seeing our glorified Savior who loves us and gave himself for us. He will finish the work in us so that we all are like Him in body and the fruits of the Spirit (Philippians 1:6^x; 3:21^{xi}). Sin will no longer ravish our lives. Our joy will be unspeakable and full of glory. The best of this life will pale in comparison. There will be no lies or deception or ugliness or competition or pain. Our service to the King of kings will be thrilling, a pleasure we cannot yet fathom. That is why we do not grieve as those who have no hope. Our hope far surpasses that of any other faith. We grieve for the separation from our loved ones, but we rejoice knowing their present condition and fullness of joy. If you truly love them, you cannot but be encouraged at the thought of their present state.

¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 1 Thessalonians 4:14 Jesus' resurrection is proof that God can and will remold the dust of these present bodies into a body fit for heaven. Paul explained that the mortal must put on immortality. Paul attempts to describe this to the Corinthians as follows: ³⁵ *But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?"* ³⁶ *You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.* ³⁷ *And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain...* ⁴² *So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.* ⁴³ *It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.*

⁴⁴ *It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.* ⁴⁵ *Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.* ⁴⁶ *But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual.* ⁴⁷ *The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.* ⁴⁸ *As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven.* ⁴⁹ *Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.* ⁵⁰ *I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.* ⁵¹ *Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,* ⁵² *in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.* ⁵³ *For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.* ⁵⁴ *When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."* ⁵⁵ *"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"* ⁵⁶ *The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.* ⁵⁷ *But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Corinthians 15:35-57

When Jesus appeared to his disciples after the resurrection, He said He had flesh and bone, and yet He suddenly appeared in their midst (Luke 24:39^{xii} compare with 1 Corinthians 15:50^{xiii}). He encouraged them to touch him and ate a dried fish before their eyes (John 20:27^{xiv}; Luke 24:42,43^{xv}). Philippians 3:21^{xvi} tells us our resurrected bodies will be like his glorious body. In that day we will all fully express the fruits of the Spirit.

The last half of the verse tells us that God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep, or as we would say, have previously died. If your deceased loved one trusted Christ for their salvation, then their spirit is with the Lord and He will bring them with Him at his return. This is another contradiction of the soul sleep doctrine. If you die before the Lord returns, then you will be with Him at the return.

¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

1 Thessalonians 4:15 Paul is making certain they know what he is about to write is straight from the Lord's mouth. It is trustworthy information. You can bank on the following facts. Chapter 4 verse 16 through 5:7 closely follows the language of the Olivet Discourse, which is Matthew 24, especially 24:30 through 49. It is so linguistically similar that I think it is safe to assume that Paul had one of the gospels or at least a parchment of that passage. That is why he could say he was declaring this from the Lord.

Those who are living when Christ returns for the redeemed, will not be taken up before those who have died. The spirits of the dead are with Christ, but their bodies lay in the ground. They have been waiting a lot longer than the living for their new eternal dwelling. Here is how Paul expressed it to the Corinthians. *¹ For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³ if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.*

2 Corinthians 5:1-4 Our mortal bodies will be swallowed up by life. We change the old tattered tent of these bodies for a heavenly dwelling. Those who have died will have their transformed immortal bodies rise to meet their spirits in the air.

“The coming of the Lord” is a term for the return of Jesus to gather the saints from the earth. Paul calls this being caught up to meet the Lord in the air. Many people refer to this event as the rapture and separate the event from “the day of the Lord” in the following passage. However, in 5:2^{xvii} Paul seems to be telling them what to watch for so that day will not surprise them. If they are to watch for the signs, then they are still on the earth. I conclude that what many call the rapture and the day of the Lord come together. The fact that Paul tells the Thessalonians what to watch for and that he identifies the two events together contradicts a lot of popular interpretations.

Revelation 14 leads me to believe this takes place midway through the last 7 years. That chapter is an interlude between the tribulation trumpets and the vials of wrath. The previous chapter introduces the Antichrist and tells of his war on the saints.

2 Thessalonians 2 will return to the topic to tell them that our gathering together to the Lord will not come until the Antichrist is revealed (2 Thessalonians 2:3^{xviii}). After the description of the Antichrist in Revelation 13, chapter 14 tells of three angels announcing a final warning to all the world. That is followed by this call to the saints to endure.

¹² Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. ¹³ And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Blessed indeed,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!” Revelation 14:12,13 To die in the Lord means they are believers who have endured unto death, probably in conjunction with the Antichrist war on the saints (13:7^{xix}).

Jesus' parables refer to the gathering of the saints as a harvest (John 4:35^{xx}; Matthew 13:37-40^{xxi}). After the angels give a final call for salvation and warn the world of the consequences of worshipping the beast, one like a son of man with a golden crown sees the earth is fully ripe and sends his angel to harvest the earth. ¹⁴ *Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand.* ¹⁵ *And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe."* ¹⁶ *So he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, and the earth was reaped.*

Revelation 14:14-16 I understand this to be the coming of the Lord. Jesus refers to believers or those soon to be believe as a harvest. The description "like a son of man" was used to describe Jesus in Revelation 1:13^{xxii}. James 1:18^{xxiii} call believers the firstfruits, which is the first harvest of what will be given to God.

That harvest is followed by another harvest, and that harvest is thrown into the winepress of the wrath of God (14:19^{xxiv}). I believe that the winepress of the wrath of God is summed up in the seven vials of wrath.

Many people would argue that as believers we should not suffer the wrath of God so we will not be in the tribulation period. There are a few problems with that line of thought. First, is the passage that declares, "we are not appointed to wrath" about the tribulation period (5:9^{xxv})? I believe Paul is speaking of eternal judgement, for the rest of the verse declares "but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ." The contrast in the verse is salvation or eternal judgment.

The second problem is the possibility that the first half of the tribulation is a warning and not the wrath of God, or what I believe Paul calls the day of the Lord. Not all of the earth is affected in the first half of the tribulation. Though the judgments increase from a quarter of the earth to a third, reminiscent of the birth pains Jesus spoke of in Matthew 24^{xxvi}. Then the last half of the seven years is the judgment and wrath, referred to as the day of the Lord, ending with us following the Lord to end the siege on Jerusalem followed by Armageddon (Isaiah 13:9; ^{xxvii} Joel 1:15^{xxviii}; Amos 5:18^{xxix}; Obediah 1:15^{xxx}; and compare Zephaniah 1:7^{xxxi} with Ezekiel 39:17^{xxxii} and Revelation 19:17^{xxxiii}; Revelation 19:13-15^{xxxiv}).

The third problem is the belief that no believer is to be on the earth during the seven-year period when Revelation clearly describes saints and redeemed being in the tribulation. It is often said that the word church does not appear after the letters to the churches in chapters 2 and 3, so God's call to John in 4:1^{xxxv} is the rapture. True, the word *ekklesia* is not used, but the redeemed, and the servants of God, the bride, saints, and other expressions of believers are used many times. They are the church.

One interpretation for pretribulation rapture is taken from 2 Thessalonians 2:6,7^{xxxvi} where we are told that what hinders or restrains the Antichrist from coming will be taken out of the way. It is interpreted to mean that the restraining power is the Holy Spirit in the church. But the passage does not say what holds him back is the Holy Spirit, and even if it/He is taken out of the way that may not mean removed from the earth, but simply no longer restrains him. Why would Revelation 7:13,14^{xxxvii} declare a great number of saints come out of the great tribulation if the Holy Spirit was not present?

I know this will upset some people with a different view. Please understand this timing of our gathering together to the Lord has nothing to do with the main things: who

Jesus is and what He has done for us. We should have great fellowship and try to understand why believers differ in their interpretations without becoming angry or breaking fellowship over non-essential issues. I am simply explaining the way I understand the passage and why Paul is equating our gathering together unto him and the day of the Lord in the next chapter. Paul's purpose in sharing this description was to help the Thessalonians and us to be comforted when their fellow believers died, knowing that they were not lost or had not missed the harvest of the saints (5:9-11^{xxxviii}). That should be our main take away as well. That is why we do not mourn like those who have no hope.

¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 When Jesus returns to take us home, you will know it! I do not think people will be saying, "Where did all the Christians go?" The voice of the cherubim shake the thresholds of the temple in heaven (Isaiah 6:4^{xxxix}). The cry of command from the mouth of the resurrected Lord, the voice of an archangel, and the trumpet of God will resound around the world. 1 Corinthians 15:52^{xl} tells us the trumpet will sound and the dead in Christ will be raised imperishable. Graves will burst open, and it will not be zombies coming out, but saints with immortal bodies like Jesus' glorified body. If you witnessed that and you were not a believer, after hearing those three angels' warnings, to remain in unbelief would mean your heart was harder than a diamond! God is not willing that any should perish and will give ample evidence to the world that He loves us and offers salvation. Only those who would rather live without Him, those who reject grace and mercy, will face the wrath of God both in those final years of the tribulation and in the eternal lake of fire (Revelation 20:10^{xli}).

¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will always be with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 After the dead rise it will be the turn of those who are living. First our bodies will be transformed in what Paul called the twinkling of an eye. Bling! And then like in a Superman movie, we will rise and meet Jesus and all those who have gone before us in the air. What a reunion that will be (2 Corinthians 1:14^{xlii})! Where we go then is referred to as Paradise, the heavenly Garden of Eden (Luke 23:43^{xliii}). Those hardened hearts that remain on the earth will be enduring the wrath of God. They will be crying out for the mountains and rocks to fall on them and hide them from the wrath of God and the Lamb (Revelation 6:16^{xliv}; Luke 23:30^{xlv}).

We will be in the physical presence of Jesus. He is ever with us now. But we are so distracted and busy that we rarely realize the greatness of His constant love and care for us. We ever be aware of his presence then because the work in us will be complete and the distractions will be gone. His faithfulness is expressed now, and our faithfulness to Him to a limited extent now. But then our faithfulness will be consistent and complete. **Heaven, more than anything else, is being with the Lord.** He longs for that time to come. He has promised to not drink the fruit of the vine until that day dawns and we celebrate the wedding feast with the Lamb of God (Matthew 26:29^{xlvi}). We should be longing for that day even more than He does. He is complete without us, and yet He has set his love upon us. The more we realize the greatness of that love, the more we too will long for that day.

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" ¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to

me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”¹⁵ “Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.”¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.¹⁷ For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” Revelation 7:13-17 Without addressing the symbolism and imagery from which those verses are drawn, let me simply say that day will be wonderful beyond our present comprehension. This passage also tells us we will continue to serve God after death.

¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:18 When those we love have gone before us, we are to be encouraged with what Paul has said are the very words of God. Those who have died in Christ are now with Him, rejoicing in His presence, reveling in his love, and awaiting with Him the day when they will come with Him and hear his command go forth, the voice of the archangel, and the blast of God’s trumpet. They will receive their immortal bodies. Then they will watch all who remain be transformed and rise to meet the Lord in the air, to be forever in His presence. The kingdom of God will be complete. The bride will be whole and beautified. The fellowship with our loved ones who died before us and with the saints of old will be amazing. Yes, for the moment the loss of their presence is painful but set your heart on that glorious reunion. And do you know one more thing that brings comfort to our souls? Every past conflict, misunderstanding, and division with brothers and sisters in Christ will be over. Nothing but love permeates the atmosphere of heaven. Be encouraged church. These verses are the Word of the Lord (v 15^{xlvi}).

Questions:

- 1 What concern is Paul addressing?
- 2 Why is an expectation of the Lord’s return important?
- 3 What does “asleep” mean in this passage?
- 4 Who returns with Jesus?
- 5 What happens when the trumpet sounds?
- 6 Why does the pastor think this is midway into the tribulation?
- 7 What is the day of the Lord?
- 8 Where will we be?
- 9 What will we do?
- 10 Why should this encourage those whose loved ones have died?

ⁱ **Psalm 13:3 (ESV)**

³ Consider and answer me, O LORD my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,

ⁱⁱ **John 11:11-14 (ESV)**

¹¹ After saying these things, he said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.” ¹² The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.” ¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died,

ⁱⁱⁱ **Matthew 24:30-31 (ESV)**

³⁰ Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

^{iv} **Matthew 24:44 (ESV)**

⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

^v **Philippians 1:23 (ESV)**

²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

^{vi} **1 John 3:2 (ESV)**

² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

^{vii} **Hebrews 12:1 (ESV)**

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

^{viii} **Ephesians 2:12 (ESV)**

¹² remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

^{ix} **Daniel 12:2 (ESV)**

² And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

^x **Philippians 1:6 (ESV)**

⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

^{xi} **Philippians 3:21 (ESV)**

²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

^{xii} **Philippians 3:21 (ESV)**

²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

^{xiii} **1 Corinthians 15:50 (ESV)**

⁵⁰ I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

^{xiv} **John 20:27 (ESV)**

²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."

^{xv} **Luke 24:42-43 (ESV)**

⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate before them.

^{xvi} **Philippians 3:21 (NIV)**

²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

^{xvii} **1 Thessalonians 5:2 (ESV)**

² For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

^{xviii} **2 Thessalonians 2:3 (ESV)**

³ Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

^{xix} **Revelation 13:7 (ESV)**

⁷ Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation,

^{xx} **John 4:35 (ESV)**

³⁵ Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.

^{xxi} **Matthew 13:37-40 (ESV)**

³⁷ He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.

^{xxii} **Revelation 1:13 (ESV)**

¹³ and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest.

^{xxiii} **James 1:18 (ESV)**

¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

^{xxiv} **Revelation 14:19 (ESV)**

¹⁹ So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

^{xxv} **1 Thessalonians 5:9 (ESV)**

⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

^{xxvi} **Matthew 24:8 (ESV)**

⁸ All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

^{xxvii} **Isaiah 13:9 (ESV)**

⁹ Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it.

^{xxviii} **Joel 1:15 (ESV)**

¹⁵ Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is near, and as destruction from the Almighty it comes.

^{xxix} **Amos 5:18 (ESV)**

¹⁸ Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why would you have the day of the LORD? It is darkness, and not light,

^{xxx} **Obadiah 1:15 (ESV)**

¹⁵ For the day of the LORD is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head.

^{xxxi} **Zephaniah 1:7 (ESV)**

⁷ Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests.

^{xxxii} **Ezekiel 39:17 (ESV)**

¹⁷ "As for you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD: Speak to the birds of every sort and to all beasts of the field, 'Assemble and come, gather from all around to the sacrificial feast that I am preparing for you, a great sacrificial feast on the mountains of Israel, and you shall eat flesh and drink blood.'

^{xxxiii} **Revelation 19:17 (ESV)**

¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, "Come, gather for the great supper of God,

^{xxxiv} **Revelation 19:13-15 (ESV)**

¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

^{xxxv} **Revelation 4:1 (ESV)**

¹ After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."

^{xxxvi} **2 Thessalonians 2:6-7 (ESV)**

⁶ And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time.

⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way.

^{xxxvii} **Revelation 7:13-14 (ESV)**

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" ¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

^{xxxviii} **1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 (ESV)**

⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

^{xxxix} **Isaiah 6:4 (ESV)**

⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.

^{xl} **1 Corinthians 15:52 (ESV)**

⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

^{xli} **Revelation 20:10 (ESV)**

¹⁰ and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

^{xlii} **2 Corinthians 1:14 (ESV)**

¹⁴ just as you did partially understand us—that on the day of our Lord Jesus you will boast of us as we will boast of you.

^{xliii} **Luke 23:43 (ESV)**

⁴³ And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

^{xliv} **Revelation 6:16 (ESV)**

¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb,

^{xlv} **Luke 23:30 (ESV)**

³⁰ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’

^{xlvi} **Matthew 26:29 (ESV)**

²⁹ I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

^{xlvii} **1 Thessalonians 4:15 (ESV)**

¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.