

# FIRST THESSALONIANS

“Snatched Up” by Jesus

## **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NIV)**

<sup>13</sup> Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

<sup>15</sup> According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

## **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NIV)**

<sup>17</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage each other with these words.

# I. What Happens When We Die?

**1 Thessalonians 4:13 (NIV)** <sup>13</sup> Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.

# I. What Happens When We Die?

## **Matthew 24:40-41 (NIV)**

<sup>40</sup> Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left.

<sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

# I. What Happens When We Die?

## **Matthew 25:10-12 (NIV)**

<sup>10</sup> "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

<sup>11</sup> "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!'

<sup>12</sup> "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'

# I. What Happens When We Die?

## **Matthew 25:29 (NIV)**

<sup>29</sup> For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.

# I. What Happens When We Die?

## **Matthew 25:32,34,41 (NIV)**

<sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

<sup>34</sup> "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.'

<sup>41</sup> "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'

# I. What Happens When We Die?

## A. For the Saved

**2 Corinthians 5:8 (NIV)** <sup>8</sup> We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

# I. What Happens When We Die?

## A. For the Saved

**Philippians 1:21-23 (NIV)** <sup>21</sup> For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! <sup>23</sup> I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;

# I. What Happens When We Die?

## A. For the Saved

**Luke 23:43 (NIV)** <sup>43</sup> Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

# I. What Happens When We Die?

## A. For the Saved

**1 Thessalonians 4:14 (NIV)** <sup>14</sup> We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

# I. What Happens When We Die?

## B. For the Lost

**Luke 16:19-31 (NIV)** <sup>22</sup> "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup> So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

# I. What Happens When We Die?

## B. For the Lost

<sup>25</sup> "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup> And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

# I. What Happens When We Die?

## B. For the Lost

**Revelation 20:11-15 (NIV)** <sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

# I. What Happens When We Die?

## B. For the Lost

<sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. <sup>14</sup> Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. <sup>15</sup> If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

## II. What Happens When Jesus Returns?

### A. A Sudden Descent

<sup>16a</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven,

**Acts 1:11 (NIV)** <sup>11</sup> "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.

## II. What Happens When Jesus Returns?

### B. A Loud Shout

<sup>16b</sup> ...with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God

## II. What Happens When Jesus Returns?

### C. A Great Resurrection

<sup>16c</sup> ...and the dead in Christ will rise first.

1 Corinthians 15:42-57 (NIV)

<sup>42</sup> So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; <sup>43</sup> it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; <sup>44</sup> it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

<sup>45</sup> So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven. <sup>50</sup> I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

<sup>51</sup> Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed-- <sup>52</sup> in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup> For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." <sup>55</sup> "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" <sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

## II. What Happens When Jesus Returns?

### D. A Glorious Rapture

<sup>17a</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds...

*“to seize or snatch, to swoop down and take away”*

## II. What Happens When Jesus Returns?

### D. A Glorious Rapture

<sup>17a</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds...

**Matthew 24:40-41 (NIV)** <sup>40</sup> Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

## II. What Happens When Jesus Returns?

### E. A Happy Meeting

<sup>17b</sup> ...to meet the Lord in the air.

*But just think of stepping on shore-And finding it Heaven!  
Of touching a hand-And finding it God's!  
Of breathing new air-And finding it celestial!  
Of waking up in glory-And finding it home!*

## **II. What Happens When Jesus Returns?**

### **F. A Grand Reunion**

<sup>17c</sup> ...And so we will be with the Lord forever.

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