

Paul's First Epistle To The

THESSALONIANS

CHAPTER 4:13-18

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM 234 ~ JUNE 9, 1996

TITLE:

" RAPTURE! HOW A CHURCH OUGHT TO GO " PT.2
AWAITING THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST

THEME:

1 Thessalonians 1:10

"We are to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."

1.) The Hope of the Church

vv. 13-14

Verse 13

" But I **do not** want you to **be ignorant**,

2.) The Power of His Word

vv. 15-16

Verse 15a

For this we say to you **by the word of the Lord**,

3.) The Rapture of God is for Us

vv. 17-18

Verse 17a

Then "**we**" who are alive and remain.....

ALL OF THIS - IN THE CONTEXT OF
WHAT IS CALLED: THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

THERE'S UNNECESSARY CONFUSION

in this area #1 because of laziness #2 we really do not want to know
#3 And The Church is to blame because of the neglect of the Prophetic doctrines

Prophetic Attention Will Intensify
BETWEEN NOW AND THE NEXT 3 1/2 YEARS AS WE APPROACH
- THE THIRD MILLENNIUM

TIME magazine

SPECIAL ISSUE: "BEYOND THE YEAR 2,000
THE GREAT EVENT - Waiting for the End of the World. Pg. 9

"There has always been in the heart of men a millennium bent, In the book of Revelation (or Apocalypse) chapter 20 which states that Jesus will return to rule an earthly kingdom for a literal 1,000 years during which the world is released from the injustice of all human-run governments. There's an undeniable tingle about us approaching another 1,000 years. Some of it stems from the magical allurements of special numbers, and some of it from the Bible itself. Again, Revelation 20 inscribes a famous vision of martyrs who "reign with Christ for a thousand years." This is the origin of the celebrated capital-M Millennium (from the Latin for a thousand). Millennial expectations and predictions have been occurring ever since Jesus' teachings, but most, oddly, bear no relation to the actual beginning of new centuries. One Millennialist - preacher William Miller prophesied that Jesus would return in 1843 then 1844. Enthusiastic Millerites waited eagerly, only to see several deadlines pass uneventfully. Many Jehovah's Witnesses were led to expect the End, most recently in 1975 which resulted in many of them leaving the apocalyptic group in confusion regarding prophecy and doctrine. The **remedy** and **correction** for such biblical mis-calculations can be found in the Bible itself. Concerning the End, Jesus instructed his followers that **"you know neither the day nor the hour."** And in Second Peter, Peter reminds believers that **"with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."** Good verses to memorize as Anno Domini 1999 approaches."

1/4 of the Bible is dedicated to Prophetic Events - for a number of Reasons

#1

That we might know what the future holds - Jean Dixon ?
(what I have spoken, I shall bring it to pass saith the Lord)

#2

That the Validity and Accuracy of the Bible can be Judged & Examined
(Peter, the Pontificating Pontiff says "it's a more sure word")

#3

That we might have a strong, expectant, - living Faith
(I have told in advance so that when it comes to pass, you will believe)

THERE'S UNNECESSARY CONFUSION

in this area #1 because of laziness #2 we really do not want to know #3 And The Church is to blame
because of the neglect Prophetic Study and attention to it's doctrine of end time events !

LAZINESS:

Romans 13:11

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. (NKJ)

KNOWING:

1 John 3:2-3

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. :3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

DOCTRINE:

2 Timothy 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

7 reasons why the church will not go through the Tribulation Period

(if you hold to this view by the way -
you a pre millennial, pre tribulational- futurist)

#1 THE TRIBULATION IS JEWISH IN CONTEXT

The Holy of Holies of Bible Prophecy in the New Testament is the
"Revelation of Jesus Christ"

The Holy of Holies of Bible Prophecy in the Old Testament is the
"Revelation given to Daniel the Prophet"

BUT THE GENERAL PURPOSE OF THE TRIBULATION PERTAINS TO ISRAEL

It is a time that has been promised to Israel & World (Not the Church)

and it must be exactly 7 years long (2,520 Babylonian days not 2,555 Grecian days) based upon a 360 day year.

ALL BIBLE PROPHECY IS BASED UPON A 360 DAY YEAR

it is a Jewish event that Jesus made clear to His Brethren after the flesh

Matthew 24:15

"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. "Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. "And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! "And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

Jeremiah 30:7

Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.

Jeremiah 30:11

For I am with you,' says the LORD, 'to save you; though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you in justice, and will not let you go altogether unpunished.'

Joel 3:12

"Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; for the winepress is full, the vats overflow-- for their wickedness is great." Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will diminish their brightness. The LORD also will roar from Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; the heavens and earth will shake; but the LORD will be a shelter for His people, and the strength of the children of Israel. "So you shall know that I am the LORD your God, dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, and no aliens shall ever pass through her again.

THE GENERAL PURPOSE PERTAINS TO ISRAEL & THE WORLD

Isaiah 26:19

Your dead shall live; together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; for your dew is like the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead. Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past. For behold, the LORD comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; the earth will also disclose her blood, and will no more cover her slain.

#2 BECAUSE OF HISTORICAL PARALLELS

A.) **ENOCH** His message was "prepare yourself - the Lord is coming back"

Jude 1:14

Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "**Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, - MARANATHA**

Enoch was Raptured before the Judgment fell

B.) **NOAH** In the Ark before the flood ever came upon the world

Genesis 7:16&10

So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in. :10 And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth.

C.) **LOT** Pre-removed out of the valley of Sodom & Gomorra

Luke 17:29

"but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.

Genesis 19:22

"Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there."

D.) **RAHAB** delivered out of the judgment of Jericho

by being a gentile redeemed by the scarlet red cord of protection

#3 SPECIFIC PROMISE TO THE CHURCH ALONE

1 Thessalonians 1:10

"We are to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."

1 Thessalonians 5:1-9

1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. **2** For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. **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.

HE GOES ON TO SAY...

4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. **5** You are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. **6** Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. **7** For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. **8** But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. **9** For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

REVELATION 3:10

Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

SPECIFIC PROMISES TO THE CHURCH ALONE #3

#4 JESUS' LOCATION WITH HIS CHURCH

THE LOCATION OF JESUS CHRIST IN REVELATION CHAPTERS 2&3

WHERE IS JESUS IN THE PASSAGES HISTORICALLY ?

Revelation 2:1

"To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, `These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, **who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:** (among the churches)

Revelation 3:20 Laodiceans

"Behold, **I stand at the door and knock.** If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. (in the church)

From Revelation 4:1 to Revelation 19 Jesus is in Heaven with the Church

John 14:1

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. John 14:2 "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

TURN TO REVELATION 19:11-14

Revelation 19:7

("Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." :8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.)

JESUS IS HERE AND NOW BY THE SPIRIT AND THAT'S ALWAYS THE CASE

Matthew 28:20

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

#5 THE MINISTRY OF THE 24 ELDERS IN HEAVEN

Revelation 4:4

Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.

Revelation 4:10

the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

Revelation 5:6

And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. (NKJ)

Revelation 5:8

Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures **and the twenty-four elders** fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.
(location please - in heaven)

Revelation 7:11

All the angels stood around the throne and **the elders** and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,
(location please - in heaven)

Revelation 7:13

Then one of **the elders** answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" (from the tribulation - saints)

Revelation 11:16

And **the twenty-four elders** who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, (location please - in heaven)

Revelation 14:3

They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, **and the elders**; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.
(location please - in heaven)

Revelation 19:4

And **the twenty-four elders** and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!"
(location please - in heaven)

Revelation 7:13

Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" (location please - in heaven)

WHO ARE THESE GUYS ?

Well they're not Angels

Revelation 5:11

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, **and** the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,

They're not Living Creatures

Revelation 5:8

Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures **and** the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having

They are not the Gentile Multitudes

Revelation 7:9,11,13

Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

And They are Obviously not the 144,000

WHO ARE THESE GUYS ?

- Elders are the representative of the New Testament church in the scripture
- 24 elders refers to the 24 courses of priests in the old testament that were to continually serve the Lord in His temple
(1 Chronicles 24:4)

Revelation 4:4 & Revelation 3:21

Around the throne were **twenty-four thrones**, and on the thrones I saw **twenty-four elders sitting**, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. +++++ **3::21** "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. (Promised to the church)

Revelation 5:8 (NIV Fans Hang On to Your Index)

NIV is great for the O.T. not for the N.T.
NAS is not good in the O.T. but better in the N.T.
NKJV nails it here to the wall in the original language as usual

Revelation 5:8

Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. :9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed **us** (NIV = Men) (NAS = Men) to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, :10 And have made **us** (NIV = Them) (NAS = Them) kings and priests to our God; and **we** (NIV = They) (NAS = They) shall reign on the earth."

**This makes a Difference
in your tribulation view people**

Revelation 1:4

John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, :5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, :6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

(In Revelation 5:9-10 - Are they praising God for their salvation or the salvation of others ? - Their Salvation

**(all manuscripts have "us" but one - The Codex Alexandreus)
NIV & NAS**

The 24 elders represent the redeemed Church

#6 THE GENTILE BELIEVERS AT THE 2 COMING

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. :17 Then we (Paul and the Gentiles) who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we (Paul and the Gentiles) shall always be with the Lord.

The Post Tribulation View Says That

the tribulation saints and the church are one and the same
and will survive, in part,
the tribulation period - impossible

Revelation 6:11

Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

((Then we (Paul and the Gentiles) who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air)) - NOT

(NOT ONE ESCAPES THE FURY OF THE ANTICHRIST MY FRIEND - NOT A ONE)

Revelation 11:7

Now when they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, (the 2)

Revelation 13:7

It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over..... every tribe, tongue, and nation.

Revelation 13:15

he was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

Daniel 7:21

"I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, (primarily gentiles)

Revelation 20:4

And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

IN THE TRIBULATION PERIOD,

ALL GENTILE NATIONS WILL RECEIVE THE MARK OF THE BEAST...

IN THE TRIBULATION PERIOD,

ALL GENTILES WHO REFUSE THE MARK AND TURN TO JESUS CHRIST
MUST DIE FOR THEIR FAITH - EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM

WITHOUT A PRETRIBULATION RAPTURE -
YOU CANNOT HAVE ANY GENTILES ALIVE AND REMAINING AT
THE COMING OF THE LORD... IMPOSSIBLE

#7 WHERE WILL THE CHURCH MEET JESUS?

1 Thessalonians 4:17

Then we (Paul and the Gentiles) who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we (Paul and the Gentiles) shall always be with the Lord

Zechariah 14:3

Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. :4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south. (The second coming vs. John 14:1-3)

The Fact of the Matter is

I believe the Bible clearly teaches that Jesus Christ will return before the
7 year tribulation period...

2,750 YEARS AGO - Isaiah 26:19

Your dead shall live; together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; for your dew is like the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead. Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until **the indignation** is past. For behold, the LORD comes out of His place to punish **the inhabitants** of **the earth** for their iniquity; **the earth** will also disclose her blood, and will no more cover her slain.

I also believe the Bible clearly teaches that Jesus Christ will return before
the battle of Ezekiel involving Russia, the muslim nations and Israel

ARE YOU READY FOR HIS SUDDEN RETURN ?

HOW DO YOU KNOW FOR SURE ?