

“We Look for the Resurrection of the Dead”

1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Corinthians 15:20-24, 51-58

Introduction: Will I Him?

We Look for the Resurrection of the Dead

The Grounds for Our Resurrection (1 Cor. 15:20-24; 55-57)

1 Corinthians 15:20-24 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have *fallen asleep*.²¹ For since *death came through a man*, *the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man*.²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ *all will be made alive*.²³ But each in his own turn: Christ, *the firstfruits*; then, When he comes, those who belong to him.²⁴ Then the *end will come*, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.

The Drama of Our Resurrection (1 Thes. 4:14-18)

1 Thessalonians 4:14-18 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.¹⁵ 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.¹⁶ 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.¹⁷ 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.¹⁸ Therefore encourage each other with these words.

The Radical Change Brought by Our Resurrection (1 Cor. 15:51-54)

1 Corinthians 15:51-58 Listen, I tell you *a mystery*: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed--⁵² *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.⁵³ For the perishable must clothe itself with the *imperishable*, and the mortal with *immortality*.⁵⁴ 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*."

And the Life of the World to Come

Momentary Marriage (Luke 20:34-36)

Luke 20:34-36 Jesus replied, "The people of this age marry and are given in marriage.³⁵ But those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage,³⁶ and they can *no longer die*; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the resurrection.

Everlasting Marriage (Rev. 21:2-5, 9-11)

God's Eternal Presence (Rev. 21:3, 22-25; 1 Thes. 4:17-18; Is 7:14)

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

God's Eternal Comfort (4; 7:17)

Revelation 7:17 For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Conclusion: For Ages of Ages (Rev. 11:15)

Revelation 11:15 The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."