

An Overview of Biblical Prophecy

(2) What's next?

Paul deals with the uninformed brethren...IThess.4:13

To whom does Paul address this teaching (doctrinal) passage? IThess.4:13; 1:1

To believers (brothers) in the church of Thessalonica who were uninformed (ignorant).

And what was the specific area of ignorance for them? 4:13; 5:1-2

Grieved over believers already dead. Also thought they were now in the 'day of the Lord'.

As Paul unfolds this teaching, what is his stated goal? 4:18; 5:11 Comment?

To comfort and edify (build up) the believers. No real comfort apart from the Truth!

What did these brothers believe was happening? 5:1-3; IIThess.2:1-2; Why? 3:3-4

They thought they had missed the rapture and were in the 'day of the Lord'. Great trials.

How is this situation relevant to us today? 3:3-4; IITim.3:12

Persecution/trials are predicted for the Church, but not "The Tribulation", God's wrath.

What is the "Day of the Lord"? Isa.13:3-13 (note vs.6)

It is the end-time wrath of God poured out on unbelievers. Tribulation/return/millennium

How does the Rapture differ from the Day of the Lord? Compare 4:13-18 to 5:1-4

Note the pronouns. Shift from us/we (Rapture) to them/destruction (Day of the Lord).

The details of the "catching away" of believers...IThess.4:13-18

What is Paul's first truth to teach them? vs.14a note contrast with 'fall asleep', vs.13

We believe that Jesus died. He suffered the full penalty of death. Now believers 'sleep'!

What is the second truth? vs.14b Rom.4:25

Jesus rose from the grave! He was raised because of our justification! It is finished!!

And finally what is the third truth (because of the first two)? 4:14c

God, the Father, will bring with Jesus those who have 'fallen asleep' in Him. Bride w/Him

What is this event really about? Jn.14:1-3

The rapture (catching away) is a family affair! It's the Bride of Christ going home/Christ.

What is the specific point of comfort to the Church? vs.13-14

Those who have 'fallen asleep' will not miss anything! They come with Him to get "us"!

What is the next truth Paul teaches? vs.15

Believers still living when Christ comes 'to gather' will not precede earlier believers.

What happens to all believers at that instant of 'gathering'? ICor.15:50-53

We are changed, instantly, to our glorious imperishable new body. Fit for heaven/eternity

What was the early church doing and how should these truths impact us? 1:10; ICor.15:58

They were waiting eagerly for Christ's return. Live abounding in the work of the Lord!