



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

Presenting *every man* perfect in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

Volume 24
Issue 580

The Hope of Paul's Acts Epistles

Part 1

by — Tom L. Ballinger

When writing about the resurrection ... in I Thessalonians 4 Paul said,

This we say unto you, by the Word of the Lord ... (:15).



great, saying **NONE OTHER THINGS than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come.**

Paul's Acts ministry and what he wrote in his Acts epistles can be found in the Old Testament Scriptures, and that includes the hope he wrote about in I Thessalonians 4 and I Corinthians 15.

Paul was quoting and using the Word of the Lord to show them their hope. The hope found in I Thessalonians 4 with its trumpet, angels, shout and voices was written down in *"the Word of the Lord."*

Also, in I Corinthians 15, when writing about the same hope of resurrection (which some call the *"rapture"*), he says,

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be BROUGHT TO PASS the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O grave, where is thy victory?" (:54-55).

If Paul means what he says, and says what he means, the hope of I Corinthians 15 was **prophesied** in *"the Word of the Lord."*

Paul is quoting from two different books in *"the Word of the Lord,"* Hosea 13:14 and Isaiah 25:8, to show the Corinthians their hope.

This agrees with what Paul said in Acts 26:22 where, when summing up his Acts ministry, said,

Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day witnessing both to small and

In this study we will show you that the hope that Paul wrote about in I Thessalonians 4 and I Corinthians 15 is found not only in the Old Testament Scriptures, but was taught by Jesus Christ in His earthly ministry in Matthew 24 and other places.

That this runs contrary to what is taught in most churches today is certain, but there are as many *"doctrines and traditions of men"* there. For years it has been the *"party line"* that I Thessalonians 4 and I Corinthians 15 is the hope of today, and that no one knew or wrote about this hope prior to Paul. This doctrine has been taught for so long and so loud that Christendom accepts this with no questions asked.

Yet, we just read that what Paul said to the Thessalonians about their hope, he said to them *"by the Word of the Lord"*; and we read in I Corinthians 15 that, when that resurrection takes place, Old Testament Scriptures would *"be brought to pass."*

Let it be said at the offset that we do not believe that the hope of today is found in I Corinthians 15 or I Thessalonians 4. We believe that God revealed *a new and superior hope* to Paul after the Acts period and that it is found in his Prison Epistles.



If you want to get to the bottom of this issue and find out for yourself if what we are saying is true, we recommend you get three Bibles and lay them out before you. Open one to Matthew 24, another to I Corinthians 15, and the other to I Thessalonians 4.

The subject is the same in all three books, and it is resurrection. We are going to compare what Jesus says about the resurrection in Matthew 24, which He taught during His earthly ministry, with the resurrection Paul wrote about in 1 Corinthians 15 and I Thessalonians 4. If Jesus and Paul say the same thing, then they must be talking about the same resurrection. On the other hand, if they say contradictory things about the resurrection then they are not speaking of the same resurrection.

In Matthew 24 Jesus taught the 12 apostles about a resurrection and He said,

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: and then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. ... from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven (:29-31; Mark 13:27).

Let's compare what Jesus says here with what Paul says.

(1) The Hope of Matthew 24 is the second coming of Christ.

For as the lightening cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be (:27).

*... they shall see the Son of Man **coming** (:30).*

The hope of I Corinthians 15 and I Thessalonians 4 is the second coming of Christ.

*For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's **at His coming** (I Corinthians 15:21-23).*

*So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for **the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ** (I Corinthians 1:7).*

*For this we say unto you by the Word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto **the coming of the Lord** shall not prevent them which are asleep (I Thessalonians 4:15).*

The hope of the Acts believers was the coming of the Lord. Paul mentions it 10 times in his Acts epistles: I Corinthians 1:7; 4:5; 11:26; 15:23; I Thessalonians 2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:23; II Thessalonians 1:10; 2:1.

Now, if the Lord has already come once to die for sinners, then the coming we have been reading about must be His Second Coming, right? Why is it so hard



57 pp., PB

The Sovereignty of God

by — George Addair

The trend of the centuries has consistently been that of the exaltation of man and the abasement of God. Many feel that the Creator has delegated His rule and authority to the use or abuse of the creature. They have reduced God and His Divine office to the extent that multitudes of people now have only a superficial conception of Him.

See order form.

for believers to admit that? A believer once told me that his hope was not the Second Coming of Christ, but it was the “rapture” and he quoted I Thessalonians 4:15 to me!

If my eyes are not deceiving me, doesn't Paul say they would be caught up at “*the coming of the Lord*”? Doesn't he mention His coming 10 times in his Acts epistles? If Christ has already come one time, wouldn't this be His Second Coming?

(2) In Matthew 24, when Jesus comes He comes in the clouds.

They shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven (:30).

In I Thessalonians 4 and I Corinthians 15, when Jesus comes He comes in clouds.

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air (:17).

If you want to know where the clouds are, look up into the air, and you will see them. It's the clouds in the lower atmosphere.

(3) In Matthew 24, when Jesus comes in the clouds He will come with angels.

*And He shall send forth His **angels** (:31).*

In I Thessalonians 4 and I Corinthians 15, when Jesus comes in the clouds He will come with angels.

*He will descend from heaven with ... the voice of the **archangel** (:16).*

Michael is the archangel and the prince of Israel (Daniel 12:1-2) and where Michael goes so do *his angels*.

*There was war in heaven: **Michael and his angels** fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels (Revelation 12:7).*

(4) In Matthew 24, when Jesus comes in the clouds with angels a trumpet is blown.

*And He shall send His angels with a great **sound of a trumpet** (:31).*

In I Thessalonians 4 and I Corinthians 15, when Jesus comes in the clouds with angels a trumpet is blown.

***For the trumpet shall sound** and the dead shall be raised (I Corinthians 15:52).*

*The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven ... **with the trump of God** (I Thessalonians 4:16).*

(5) The trumpet that is blown in Matthew 24 is the last trumpet, for it is blown after the great tribulation.

Immediately after the tribulation of those days ... He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet (:29, 31).



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The trumpet in I Thessalonians 4 and I Corinthians 15 is specifically called the last trumpet.

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised (I Corinthians 15:52).

If Paul said they would be raised at *the last trumpet*, it means that there are other trumpets blown before it. There is no denying the fact that before the Second Coming of Christ trumpets are going to be blown. In Revelation 8-11 there will be at least 7 trumpets blown before Jesus comes. In I Corinthians 15 Paul said the dead would be raised at **“the LAST TRUMPET.”** If there are 7 trumpets blown before He comes, to which trumpet is Paul referring? That’s easy: it’s number 7 in Revelation 11:15 – and it so happens that, when the seventh trumpet is blown in Revelation 11, a resurrection of the Saints takes place, they are judged and rewards are given out to them (read Revelation 11:15-18; also read II Corinthians 5:8-11).

Every trumpet that is going to be blown before Jesus comes is found in the book of Revelation, so don’t waste your time running all over the Bible, trying to find another trumpet to get around the last trumpet in I Corinthians 15. If a trumpet is going to be blown, if a seal is going to be opened, if a vial is going to be poured out in the tribulation, *you will find it in the*

book of Revelation or Daniel. If it’s not in those books don’t waste your time running through the Bible to come up with another trumpet, vial or seal.

It’s amazing what people will do, to get around that “*last trumpet*”! Just believe the Book and relax: members of the Body of Christ won’t be here when “*the last trumpet*” blows anyway, for I Corinthians 15 and I Thessalonians 4 is not our hope.

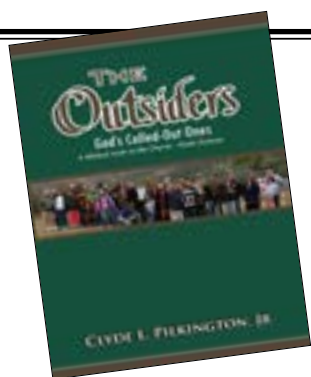
God gave us a new and better hope and it’s found in the Prison Epistles of Paul and *it takes place before the first trumpet even blows.* We will lay out the details of this hope later, but in the Acts period, a pre-tribulation hope was unheard of.

(6) When the resurrection of Matthew 24 takes place, not only will the Lord descend from heaven in the clouds with angels and a trumpet, but a voice will be heard also.

The voice is not mentioned in Matthew 24 but it is in John 5:25, 28.

The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

In I Thessalonians 4 and I Corinthians 15, when



128 pp., PB.

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The Outsiders: God’s Called-Out Ones – A Biblical Look at the Church – God’s Ecclesia

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

In 1995, after sixteen years of being in the “pastorate” the author walked away. He left the “religious system” by resigning from the very “church” and “ministry” he had formed. In many ways this work is a testament to these actions. This testimony was thirty years in the making – the results of a spiritual journey that the author found to be common to other saints scattered throughout the world and across history. This is an opportunity to explain why some who love the Lord no longer “go to church.” It does not seek to persuade others to do something different, but rather to be simply who and what they already are “in Him.” This is an uncovering of the truth of the church, and an encouragement for the members of His Body to enjoy the position and standing “in Christ” that they already possess, realizing that they are truly “complete in Him” (Colossians 2:10), that He alone is their Life (Colossians 3:4), and that His Life is full of freedom (Galatians 5:1).

The Outsiders was very encouraging. Thanks for your thoughts and study on the true Body of Christ and the lonely road we travel at times. – **MO**

I thank God for *The Outsiders*. I couldn’t put it down. Read it all in one sitting. – **PA**

The Outsiders has something different about it. Upon finishing it an awareness has taken hold of my mind and spirit – a “knowing” that I have been afforded a special measure of His grace in just being allowed to be exposed to the truth contained within. – **KS**

the Lord descends from heaven into the clouds with angels and the sound of a trumpet, a voice will be heard.

The Lord shall descend from heaven with a shout (I Thessalonians 4:16).

The shout is for the dead; the trumpet for those alive.

(7) In Matthew 24, when Jesus comes with His angels, and a shout and the sound of a trumpet, His elect will be gathered together.

They shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other (:31; cf. Mark 13:27).

In I Corinthians 15 and I Thessalonians 4, when Jesus comes with a sound of a trumpet, and angels, His elect will be gathered together.

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him (II Thessalonians 2:1).

Those whom He gathers together here are His elect

also according to I Thessalonians 1:4; II Thessalonians 2:13.

(8) In Matthew 24, when Jesus comes in the clouds it will be sudden and unexpected.

Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh (:42-44).

In these verses Jesus compares His coming with a thief breaking into a house. A thief comes suddenly and unexpected. He comes in and then gets out as fast as he can *with the valuables and jewels he came after.*

In these verses Jesus Christ is as a thief breaking into a house. The house is this world of which the devil is the god [II Corinthians 4:4]. As a thief breaks into a house to take out something of value, His coming is to take His elect out of this world so that He can destroy it (II Peter 3:10).

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Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 24, No. 580 – January 16, 2017

Issued semi-weekly

This free electronic publication is dedicated to:

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- the affirmation that God will save all mankind through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3, 4; 4:10; Titus 2:11);
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret in ages past" (Romans 16:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Ephesians 1:1-3);
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15);
- the recovery of rich Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding, and fear (Mark 7:7, 13);
- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with:
 - total freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14);
 - union in His death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6);
 - adult sonship position (Galatians 4).

We do not claim infallibility for the contents of this publication. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

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ABBREVIATION KEY

Scripture Version

(Unless otherwise noted all Scripture quotations are taken from the *Bible Student's Version*).

CV: Concordant Literal Version

DAR: Darby Translation

DT: Dabhar Translation

FF: Ferrar Fenton Bible

KJV: King James Version

RE: Rotterdam's Emphasized Bible

WT: Weymouth Translation

YLT: Young's Literal Translation

Reference Sources

AA: Analytical Analysis (Welch)

BDB: Brown-Driver-Briggs

Hebrew Lexicon

CB: Companion Bible Notes & Appendixes (Bullinger)

CC: Concordant Commentary (Knoch)

CKC: Concordant Keyword

Concordance (Knoch)

CL: A Critical Lexicon and

Concordance (Bullinger)

CWS: Complete Word Study Dictionary (Zodhiates)

FoS: Figures of Speech (Bullinger)

SEC: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

TGL: Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon

UR: Unsearchable Riches

VED: Vine's Expository Dictionary

YAC: Young's Analytical Concordance

Reference Notations

cf. – compare

e.g. – for example

et al. – and others

etc. – et cetera (and so on)

ff. – and the following

i.e., – that is

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