

# In a Moment, In the Twinkling of an Eye

A question that often arises in regard to the coming of Jesus is what exactly does **1 Thessalonians 4:14** mean?

***“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.”***

It is commonly believed among many churches today that when Jesus comes back in the Rapture, He is going to catch away believers and resurrect the dead and take them to heaven.

After a seven-year reign of the Antichrist, Jesus is then going to return a second time with the saints to set up His earthly Kingdom. This common belief that Jesus is coming back the first time for the saints and seven years later, after the Great Tribulation and the reign of the Antichrist, He is going to come back with the saints to set up His Kingdom, is **NOT** what the Bible says.

Almost all churches believe and teach this today. This is the traditional view, but is this really what the Scriptures mean?

**First of all**, the Apostle Paul was writing to the Church in Thessalonica about the advent of the Return of Jesus. In **1 Thessalonians 4:14**, we read that those believers who had died, God was going to bring with Him.

Where were these believers when He came? They were in Hades, the holding place for the dead or gravedom. Jesus said in **Matthew 16:18** that the gates of Hell or Hades or the graveyard, would not prevail against His Church. In other words, the gates to the cemeteries would not keep the Church of Jesus Christ locked in on Resurrection Day.

**Mat 16:18** And<sup>G1161</sup> I say also<sup>G2504 G3004</sup> unto thee,<sup>G4671</sup> That<sup>G3754</sup> thou<sup>G4771</sup> art<sup>G1488</sup> Peter,<sup>G4074</sup> and<sup>G2532</sup> upon<sup>G1909</sup> this<sup>G5026</sup> rock<sup>G4073</sup> I will build<sup>G3618</sup> my<sup>G3450</sup> church;<sup>G1577</sup> and<sup>G2532</sup> the gates<sup>G4439</sup> of hell<sup>G86</sup> shall not<sup>G3756</sup> prevail against<sup>G2729</sup> it.<sup>G846</sup>

**G86**

ᾍδης

hadēs

*hah'-dace*

From **G1** (as a negative particle) and **G1492**; properly **unseen**, that is, “Hades” or the place (state) of departed souls: - grave, hell.

Jesus came to restore what Adam and Eve lost when they disobeyed in the Garden of Eden; they lost spiritual life. They did not die physically that day, but spiritually.

This is why Jesus said in **Revelation 1:18**, “***I am He that liveth and was dead, and, behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.***”

**Rev 1:18** (G2532) *I am* he that liveth, G2198 and G2532 was G1096 dead, G3498 and, G2532 behold, G2400 I am G1510 alive G2198 for evermore, G1519 G165 G165 Amen, G281 and G2532 have G2192 the G3588 keys G2807 of hell G86 and G2532 of death. G2288

Jesus said in **John 5:28-29**, “***... all that are in the graves shall hear His voice and shall come forth....***”

The Jews knew that on the Last Day of the Last Days all who had died would be resurrected. This fact is evident in the conversation that Jesus had with Martha at the death of her brother Lazarus. (**John 11:23-24**)

Jesus explained to Martha that He was the resurrection and the life. He said, “***...he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.***” (**John 11:25-26**)

It is clear that Jesus is talking about a spiritual resurrection. These physical bodies will one day return to dust from whence they came. (**Genesis 3:19**)

**Genesis 3:19** *in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, **till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.***

The Day of Resurrection was on the last day of the last days of God’s Covenant with the Nation of Israel that He made with them at Mt. Sinai.

The Last Day of the Last Days was in the year AD 70 of the first century. It was on this Last Day that an Old Covenant ended, and a New Covenant began.

**In this Last Day time frame, there was**

- a Resurrection,
- the Kingdom of God was consummated,
- there was the marriage of the Lamb,
- and the White Throne Judgment was set up and
- In a moment, in a twinkling of an eye, the dead were raised and those who were alive were changed. The “we” in these verses was “them” who were alive in the first century, **not us today**. (1 Corinthians 15:51-54, 2 Corinthians 5:1)

All born-again Christians went to be with the Lord in the air. (1 Thessalonians 4:17) The word “air” used here is not the “air” that we breath or the atmosphere.

The word “air” is translated from the Greek word “aer” which means dimension. Heaven is not a geographical location, but a spiritual dimension.

The Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of Heaven or Heaven itself is all around us. It was on Resurrection Day that Hell or Sheol, grave or pit was emptied out and abolished forever. (Revelation 20:14)

**Rev 20:14** And<sup>G2532</sup> death<sup>G2288</sup> and<sup>G2532</sup> hell<sup>G86</sup> were cast<sup>G906</sup> into<sup>G1519</sup> the<sup>G3588</sup> lake<sup>G3041</sup> of fire.<sup>G4442</sup> This<sup>G3778</sup> is<sup>G2076</sup> the<sup>G3588</sup> second<sup>G1208</sup> death.<sup>G2288</sup>

**G86**

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From **G1** (as a negative particle) and **G1492**; properly **unseen**, that is, “Hades” or the place (state) of departed souls: - grave, hell.

In **1 Thessalonians 4:14-17**, the “**we**” in these verses was “**them**” in the first century that were to be caught away. It is not “**us**” today.

<sup>14</sup> For if **we** believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so **them** also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and **the dead in Christ** shall rise first: <sup>17</sup> then **we** which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with **them** in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall **we** ever be with the Lord.

Today, it is at death that we, born-again Christians, inherit Eternal Life. (**2Corinthians 5:1**) It is at death, the people who are not born-again, those who are not covenant-connected will go right to God’s judgment. (**Hebrews 9:27**)

**2Co 5:1** For <sup>G1063</sup> we know <sup>G1492</sup> that <sup>G3754</sup> if <sup>G1437</sup> our <sup>G2257</sup> earthly <sup>G1919</sup> house <sup>G3614</sup> of *this* tabernacle <sup>G4636</sup> were dissolved, <sup>G2647</sup> we have <sup>G2192</sup> a building <sup>G3619</sup> of <sup>G1537</sup> God, <sup>G2316</sup> an house <sup>G3614</sup> not made with hands, <sup>G886</sup> eternal <sup>G166</sup> in <sup>G1722</sup> the <sup>G3588</sup> heavens. <sup>G3772</sup>

**Heb 9:27** And <sup>G2532</sup> as <sup>G2596</sup> <sup>G3745</sup> it is appointed <sup>G606</sup> unto men <sup>G444</sup> once <sup>G530</sup> to die, <sup>G599</sup> but <sup>G1161</sup> after <sup>G3326</sup> this <sup>G5124</sup> the judgment: <sup>G2920</sup>

We read in **Deuteronomy 33:2**, at the giving of the First Covenant at Mt. Sinai, of God coming with **ten thousand of His saints or angels**. This happened at the giving of the Old Covenant.

**Deu 33:2** And he said, <sup>H559</sup> The LORD <sup>H3068</sup> came <sup>H935</sup> from Sinai, <sup>H4480</sup> <sup>H5514</sup> and rose up <sup>H2224</sup> from Seir <sup>H4480</sup> <sup>H8165</sup> unto them; he shined forth <sup>H3313</sup> from mount <sup>H4480</sup> <sup>H2022</sup> Paran, <sup>H6290</sup> and he came <sup>H857</sup> with ten thousands <sup>H4480</sup> <sup>H7233</sup> of saints. <sup>H6944</sup> from his right hand <sup>H4480</sup> <sup>H3225</sup> *went* a fiery <sup>H784</sup> law <sup>H1881</sup> for them.

We read in **Jude verse 14** that the Lord cometh with ten thousand of His saints. This was said in the first century at the beginning of the New Covenant. This is how God signified the coming of both Covenants.

**Jud 1:14** And <sup>G1161</sup> Enoch <sup>G1802</sup> also, <sup>G2532</sup> the seventh <sup>G1442</sup> from <sup>G575</sup> Adam, <sup>G76</sup> prophesied <sup>G4395</sup> of these, <sup>G5125</sup> saying, <sup>G3004</sup> Behold, <sup>G2400</sup> the Lord <sup>G2962</sup> cometh <sup>G2064</sup> with <sup>G1722</sup> ten thousands <sup>G3461</sup> of his <sup>G848</sup> saints, <sup>G40</sup>

When Jesus returned in AD 70, He consummated the Kingdom of God and married His Bride, the Church, the New Jerusalem. (**Hebrews 12:22, Revelation 21:2**)

**Hebrews 12:22** but ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the **city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem**, and **to an innumerable company of angels**,

**Revelation 21:2** And I John saw **the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven**, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Then began the New Everlasting Covenant with a New Heaven and a New Earth in the world. (**Revelation 21:1-4**)

**Revelation 21:1-4, 1** And I saw **a new heaven and a new earth**: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. **2** And I John saw **the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven**, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, **the tabernacle of God is with men**, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. **4** And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and **there shall be no more death**, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: **for the former things are passed away**.

It was on the Last Day of the Old Covenant that the Day Eternal began. God set up His Tabernacle, His Sanctuary, in the midst of the Church which is His spiritual body. (**Ezekiel 37:26-28, 1 Corinthians 6:19**)

<sup>26</sup> Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be **an everlasting covenant with them**: and I will place them, and multiply them, **and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore**. <sup>27</sup> **My tabernacle also shall be with them**: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>28</sup> And the heathen shall know that I the Lord do sanctify Israel, **when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore**.

The Promise of eternal life was received when Jesus consummated His Kingdom. (**1 John 2:25, Galatians 3:29**) All this was accomplished in one single event, that event being the Return of Jesus in AD 70.

**1 John 2:25** And **this is the promise that he hath promised** us, even eternal life.

**Galatians 3:29** And if ye be Christ's, **then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

## Conclusion

The Bible **never** speaks of a seven-year delay or of a “**first**” second coming followed by a “**second**” second coming of Jesus to destroy the “Antichrist” and to set up His new physical Kingdom on Earth.

The resurrection of those who **had fallen asleep** in Christ and the change that happened to those born-again believers **who were still alive** all took place in a single event.

This event happened as the Scripture describes it in **1 Corinthians 15:51-54**: “**In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye**”. The dead were raised incorruptible, and the living were changed.

This same single event is also described by Paul again in **1 Thessalonians 4:14-17**. It all happened at one single event which took place “**in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye**”.

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