

The Grace Proclamator and Promulgator (USPS Standard Mail Permit Number 876) is published monthly (subscription free) by the Central Baptist Church, PO Box 876, Grenada, MS. Postage paid at Grenada, MS 38902.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Grace Proclamator and Promulgator PO Box 876, Grenada, MS 38902-0876

Editor: Pastor Bill Lee

billleecb@gmail.com

Assistant Editor: Laurence A. Justice

PLANNING TO MOVE?

If at all possible, please notify us three weeks in advance of your change of address so that we may keep your paper coming. It costs approximately 49 cents to get your new address from the Postal Service and that may take long enough that two papers are returned at a cost of up to \$1.50 before we get the correction. This will mean you miss one or two papers.

Non-profit Org.
Presorted Standard
US Postage Paid
Grenada, MS 38901
Permit No. 876

The Grace Proclamator & Promulgator
PO Box 876
Grenada, MS 38902-0876

Address Correction Requested

Victory Baptist Church Annual Conference

The Song of the Saints

(A Conference on the Importance of the Churches' Singing)

August 10-11, 2022

Victory Baptist Church | Kansas City, Missouri

Speakers: Dr. David Howard, Pastor Laurence Justice,
and Pastor Robert Walker

Wednesday 5pm Fellowship Dinner

Thursday Conference Messages Commence at 9am

Pastor Joshua Sommer: 816-663-3081 joshuasommer90@gmail.com



The Grace Proclamator and Promulgator

To testify the gospel of the grace of God.. Acts 20:24

Published as a mission project of
Central Baptist Church Grenada, Mississippi

May 2022

Page 1

THAILAND MISSIONS REPORT

PASTOR BILL LEE

"I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together". Psalm 34:1-3

These words came to my mind as I prepared to write this report on the Lord's work in Thailand. How we ought to acknowledge and give thanks unto our God, for His mercy endureth forever.

In surveying the Thailand mission work, the hand of the Lord is evident everywhere I look. The blessings of the Lord always far exceed anything we might ask or even think. What is impossible for man is being done on a daily basis in Thailand by the power and providence of our God.

There have been many obstacles and hindrances along the way, but the Lord's work in Thailand continues through the labors of Bro. Paul Brown and Bro. Matt Villandry. And as I mention these two faithful missionaries, I would be remiss if I did not mention both Susan Brown and Brittany Villandry, the faithful and supportive wives of these two God-called men. The work of the Lord in Thailand is truly a family affair with both Bro. Villandry and Bro. Brown. The work would be difficult, if not impossible, without the help and support of the missionaries' wives and families.

I mentioned obstacles and hindrances in the work, and there have been several. The situation with Covid has certainly altered the work in many ways. The restrictions of movement and travel, as well as meetings or gather-

ings, have made things more difficult. Government regulations change frequently. But presently there is more freedom of movement which allows more work among the villages, although some villages have imposed their own restrictions regarding those from the outside entering.

There have also been sicknesses and injuries with both Bro. Villandry and Bro. Brown. Bro. Villandry tested positive for Covid, but has since recovered. There have also been other health issues, but the Lord has brought he and his family through these.

As many of you know, Bro. Brown recently had a wreck in his truck. Many years ago the Lord planted a tree beside the road on which Bro. Brown was traveling. As he lost control of his vehicle, he crashed into this tree. It was this tree, planted by the Lord years before, which prevented Bro. Brown from going off into a two- or three-hundred-foot drop-off down the side of the mountain. Bro. Brown suffered some injuries, but the Lord prevented things from being much worse. Thankfully, Bro. Brown has been able to resume and continue his work. He has been able to resume the preachers' training there with presently thirty in attendance.

God's watch care over His people is an amazing thing. I am sure many might call it luck that this tree prevented his plunge down the mountain side, but this certainly is not the case. If God can direct our steps, and He does, He certainly can direct the path of an out-of-control vehicle. And as I have mentioned, with the obstacles and hindrances which have occurred, we humbly bow to the sovereignty of our God, knowing He still works all things after the counsel of His own will and they will all be for our good and for His glory.

Also, to illustrate the blessings of the Lord in this work, Bro. Brown will be traveling to a village in order to be with them as they celebrate their twenty-fifth anniversary as a church. I will never forget preaching in this village for the first time many years ago. When I had finished preaching, one of the men told me that that was the first time anyone in that village had ever heard the name of Jesus Christ. This church was established by the grace of God, and has continued faithfully through the years, enduring much opposition and persecution.

(Report: continued on page 15)

How long will the risen Christ be with His disciples in the making, baptizing, and teaching of disciples? "Unto the end of the world (age)."

All the statements from Matthew lead one to believe that the coming of Christ in glory with his angels, in the clouds, with the sound of a trumpet, will take place at the end of the age and that Jesus' disciples will make, baptize and teach disciples till that glorious coming after the tribulation. Meditate upon these thoughts about "the end of the world (age)."

Part 2 of this article will be included in the next issue.

(Report: continued from page 2)

I also want to mention a special work and need in Bro. Villandry's ministry. There is a great need for biblically sound books in the Thai language. There are practically no doctrinally sound books for the people to read and study. The "Christian" books which are available are Arminian in content or else they promote a universal church theory.

Bro. Villandry has already had some doctrinally sound books translated into the Thai language, and as funds are available, he will have these printed. There are several books by John McArthur, Ray Ortlund, Paul Washer, John Piper, and others Bro. Villandry would like to have translated and printed in the Thai language.

These books would be a valuable tool to help Bro. Villandry in his work in teaching the village pastors and also to distribute among those in Thailand who have expressed an interest in biblical truth. The cost of the translations and printings is expensive. I believe this is something that is needed in Bro. Villandry's work and would be a valuable tool in reaching many with the truth of God's Word. If any would like to help in this endeavor, please contact me and I will get you more details about the books and cost involved.

Let me close by thanking each individual and church who faithfully support this work with your prayers and financial support. I will also give a reminder of the Scripture I used to begin this report: "I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together". ♦

1. Matthew 13:30 – “Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.” Jesus interprets these words in the next scripture.
2. Matthew 13:39-43 – “...the harvest is the end of the world (age); and the reapers are the angels... So shall it be in the end of this world (age). The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend...Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun.”
3. Matthew 13:49 – “So shall it be at the end of the world (age): the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just.” This is the parable concerning the net. Remember the harvest is the end of the age. The angels are the reapers.
4. Matthew 24:3 – “...when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world (age)?” Note the disciples connected the coming of Christ with the end of the age. How did our Saviour answer their question? See Matthew 24:29-31.

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened and the moon shall not give her light...And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man...And they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds...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...”

Compare these words with those above in Matthew 13. The coming after the tribulation, the end of the age, the angels sent by Christ, the gathering of the elect – all dovetail to bring us to the end of the age at Christ’s coming after the tribulation.

But add to this, one other passage.

5. Matthew 28:19-20 says, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world (age). Amen.”

WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR THE CHRISTIAN

PAUL D. JUSTICE

Rapture Before Tribulation Or Rapture After Tribulation?

The title of this booklet asks a question of great practical importance for the believer in Jesus Christ. Every Christian will agree that one’s view of the future affects not only how he lives now, but it also prepares him for that future revealed in God’s Word.

This question can be certainly answered only by the Word of God. As this booklet proceeds one will recognize that the writer accepts the great fact that “all scripture is given by inspiration of God” (2 Timothy 3:16-17) and was given by men “moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Peter 1:20-21). The scriptures are the Word of God. It is to these “holy scriptures” we must go to seek an answer to the question, “What lies ahead for the Christian?” The writer is willing to subject his beliefs and thoughts to the test of these scriptures, and he asks the same of the reader.

In addition to this great foundation truth of the verbal, plenary inspiration of the scriptures, the writer holds to the great fundamental teachings of the Word of God. The Deity of Christ, His virgin birth and sinlessness, His substitutionary death for sinners of the cross, His wonderful resurrection from the dead in the body in which He suffered, and His glorious, literal coming again are firmly accepted as the clear teachings of God’s Word. Also, the great fundamental doctrine of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:8-10) is an expression of the writer’s hope for forgiveness of sin and everlasting life.

However, this booklet is not for the purpose of discussing all of these teachings of God’s Word. Only one aspect of the coming again of our Lord Jesus Christ is here under investigation. Plainly stated, will the Christian enter the period called the “great tribulation” (Revelation 7:14), or will the Christians of this age be removed from the world before this great tribulation? Will Christ come for the Christian before the tribulation or after?



1942-1985

Space does not permit us to discuss all aspects of this subject, but it is assumed in this study that on the basis of Daniel 9:24-27, Matthew 24, Revelation 13, and 2 Thessalonians 2 there will be a period of great tribulation immediately preceding the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus says in Matthew 24:29-30 that, “Immediately after the tribulation of those days...” the Son of man will be seen “coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” The same thing is found in 2 Thessalonians 2 where Christ destroys the man of sin at His coming. This chapter shows that “the falling away” and the revelation of the man of sin occur before Christ’s coming. In the book of the Revelation the same is found. The beast reigns with the ten kings in a period of tribulation and the beast is defeated at Christ’s second coming (See Revelation 19). This period of trouble is to last seven years (Daniel 9:27) in the middle of which begins the most severe part. The last 42 months (Rev. 13:5-7) or 1260 days (Rev. 12:6) or 3 ½ times (Rev. 12:14, Daniel 7:25) are “...a time of trouble such as never was” (Daniel 12:1), and in the Greek it is called “the tribulation the great (one)” in Revelation 7:14. “Immediately after the tribulation of those days” Jesus will come in power and great glory. It is then, as we have seen, that “the anti-christ” or man of sin will be destroyed.

The scriptures also teach that at Christ’s glorious second coming “the first resurrection” of the saved dead will take place, and Jesus will reign with His saints for a thousand years (Revelation 19-20).

But as was already noted, these things are assumed in this booklet, and the matter under discussion concerns whether or not Christians will enter the period of tribulation mentioned above or whether they will be raptured out of the world to escape it.

A PLEA TO THE READER

This article is not intended to provoke controversy. It is sent forth to encourage study of the scriptures concerning this subject. The writer is willing to be shown the way of the Lord more perfectly, and he merely asks the reader to be willing to do the same. The Bereans were a noble people. They “...searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11). Reader, please do not lay this article down until you have examined to see if it truly represents the teaching of the scriptures on this subject.

Yes, this subject is practical. Surely, all will agree if Christians do go into

anticipated his death (2 Timothy 4:6-8). If Christ and the apostles did not teach an “any moment coming,” it is certainly true that the great tribulation could be one of the prophesied events to precede our Lord’s coming for His people. We may say Christ may come soon. Scripture did not teach Christ may come at “any moment” as some have understood.

The Judgment For Rewards

When does scripture teach that believers will receive their crowns or rewards? Meditate on the following scriptures:

1. Mathew 16:27 – “For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.” Jesus is here talking to His disciples. Verse 18 speaks of the church.
2. 2 Timothy 4:8 – “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only , but unto all them also that love his appearing.” The crown is received at the day of his appearing.
3. Revelation 11:15-18 – “And the seventh angel sounded (the last trumpet of seven)...and the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets and to the saints...”
4. Revelation 22:12 – “And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” The only coming stated in Revelation is in 1:7. Compare this verse 22:12 with Matthew 16:27. Note Jesus’ parables place the judgment of His servants at His coming in glory after the tribulation.

When will Christ reward His saints? When He comes, after the tribulation. There is no specific statement in scripture that Jesus will judge the churches before the tribulation ends.

THE END OF THE AGE

In the gospel of Matthew “The end of the world” (Greek, “age”) is mentioned several times. Consider these statements, put them together, and ask yourself, “Do these help determine whether Christ comes before or after the great tribulation?”

gird thee and carry thee whether thou wouldest not. This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God..." In 2 Peter the apostle Peter says, "Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle even as our Lord Jesus Christ shewed me. Moreover I will endeavor that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance." Clearly Peter knew that Christ's words would come to pass when he grew old. How then could Peter teach the "any moment" coming?

Briefly consider the following passages and ask yourself, Do these imply an any-moment rapture of Christians?

1. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8.
2. Acts 9:15-16 – "But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake."
3. Acts 27:23-25 – "Saying, fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar...Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer; for I believe God that it shall be even as it was told me."
4. 2 Peter 3:3-9 – "...in the last days scoffers walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep all things continue as they were...The Lord is not slack concerning his promise...the day of the Lord will come..." Does Peter speak as though he were teaching the Christians that Christ would come at any moment after Christ left the earth?
5. The entire twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew speaks of events preceding Christ's coming "after the tribulation."
6. In 2 Thessalonians 2 Paul says, "The falling away" and the "revelation" of the man of sin will occur before the day of the Lord.

This topic cannot be exhaustively treated here. It is hoped that the reader will pursue this subject on his own at greater length. Remember even Paul

this period they would do well to prepare for it. If they do not enter it then their outlook will be different.

Sincere Christians differ on this subject, and it would be good to see them study this subject afresh so that in these last days the churches may not sound an uncertain note. Let us seek to take the subject out of the realm of heated debate and search the scriptures in dependence upon the Holy Spirit to find God's truth.

Remember the question is not, "Is there going to be a 'rapture' (catching up)?" but "When is the rapture?" Let us investigate God's Word to see if the time of the 'rapture' is before or after the seven-year tribulation period.

In the study we will look first at various passages of scripture to see if we can determine if Christ comes for the Christian before or after the tribulation. Then we will study the subject under several topics. After this several problems for the view of the "rapture" after the tribulation will be discussed. A few thoughts concerning the history of this subject will be presented, and then a practical conclusion will be made. May our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ be honored, may the Holy Spirit be our guide, and may God our Father receive all the glory (Romans 11:33-36).

SCRIPTURES CONCERNING CHRIST'S COMING

All passages cannot be listed here but several will be noted which will help in the study. Statements are underlined which throw light upon the timing of the coming of Christ for the Christian.

1. Matthew 16:27 – "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works." This statement is made after Christ announced the building of His church and the demands of discipleship. Note Jesus in a church setting speaks of coming in glory with His rewards.
2. Matthew 24:3, 29-31 – "...what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world (age)?... 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...then shall appear the sign of the Son of man...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.”

3. Matthew 24:40-42 – “Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left...” When will one be taken and the other left? At the coming of the Son of man, and this coming is said to be immediately after the tribulation just a few verses before in Matthew 24:29-31. In Matthew 24 Jesus is not talking to the nation of Israel. He is plainly talking to “the disciples.” It is Jesus’ disciples who are told of His coming after the tribulation. These disciples heard Jesus promise the church in Matthew 16, they heard his discourses in Matthew 24, they heard the upper room discourse in John 13-17, they were present at the first Lord’s Supper, and received the great commission in Matthew 28:19-20. These same disciples were told of His coming after the tribulation.
4. Luke 21:25-31 – “And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads: for your redemption draweth nigh...so likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.” The things Jesus’ disciples will see are mentioned in vv. 25-26 and are ended when the Son of man is seen “... coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”

No statement is made in the four gospels which says the coming of Christ precedes the tribulation. But when the time is mentioned it is after the tribulation.

5. Acts 1:9-12 – “And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight...the same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in the manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet...”

The manner of Jesus’ going into heaven is the manner in which He returns. Note the cloud. Note it took place on the Mount of Olives. Compare Zechariah 14:4 where we learn that Christ’s second coming will terminate upon the same Mount of Olives. Note also that Acts 1:8 speaks of witnessing to the uttermost part of the earth and then Luke connects with that the promise of Christ’s coming, Acts 1:9-12.

come at any moment after His ascension. One teacher says, “The translation of the church to heaven is imminent. It can take place at any time. Our Lord may come for his church in our lifetime, this year, even today, however, we do not know that he will... These verses indicate that there are no intervening events between Christ’s going to the Father’s house in heaven and His return to take His own from earth to heaven... He made it clear that He was going away, and that the next event after His departure would be His return to take His own to be with Him...”¹. Along with these interpretations it is often said that the Christian should not look for any signs of Christ’s coming and that such are only for the Jews.

If we accept this interpretation of scripture it would, of course, imply that Paul, James, John and the other apostles taught an “any moment coming.” But did they do so? Through their experiences and writings do they teach us that Christ could have come at any moment since Christ went back to heaven? Or do they teach us that intervening events would take place, including the great tribulation? Let us note some important thoughts from God’s Word.

Jesus said to His disciples in the upper room, “They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. And those things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me. But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them.” (John 16:1-4) Jesus also promised the Comforter’s coming – after His departure. Could Jesus have come before the coming of the Spirit (Acts 1:4-5)? If not, how could He have come after His ascension before Pentecost? Did Jesus leave the impression that His disciples would be raptured at “any moment” after His departure in Luke 21:2, “...they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name’s sake.” “...And some of you shall they cause to be put to death.” (v. 16).

In this same chapter, Luke 21, Jesus tells the same disciples that Jerusalem will be destroyed and the Jews led captive into all nations, and that the disciples would see this (Luke 21:20-24). Do these passages teach that Jesus’ disciples should have expected an “any moment” coming? Much more could be said on this topic but consider Jesus’ words to Peter in John 21:18-19 “... when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall

appearing is what the Christian is expecting.

19. I Peter 1:7 – “That the trial of your faith...might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.
20. I Peter 1:13 – “Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” His glorious revelation is tied to our hope. (See again Titus 2:13).
21. I Peter 4:13 – “But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed ye may be glad also...”
22. I Peter 5:1,4 – “And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.” When will the faithful elder (pastor) receive his crown? Seven years prior to Christ’s appearing? No. When He appears.
23. I John 3:2 – “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.” See again Colossians 3:4. In I John 2:18 John reminds the believers that they had heard that anti-christ shall come. Apparently it is important for Christians to know this.
24. Revelation 1:7 – “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him...” This is the keynote of the Revelation which was sent to the churches. If no other coming of Christ is specifically mentioned in this Revelation then the coming in 1:7 must be the coming John prayed for, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”

TOPICAL STUDY

Here it may be rewarding to investigate several topics related to our subject. Perhaps they will help in determining whether the churches meet their Lord in the air before or after the tribulation. May the Lord use these thoughts to encourage further study of these matters.

THE ANY MOMENT TEACHING

Some believe the scriptures teach that Christ could have come at “any moment” after the day of Pentecost. Others would say Christ could have

6. Acts 2:34-35 – “...the Lord said unto my Lord, sit thou on my right hand, until I make thy foes thy footstool.” Surely at Christ’s glorious second coming anti-christ and his followers will be made Christ’s footstool.
7. Romans 8:18-19, 23 – “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation (revelation) of the sons of God...even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.” Note how present suffering is contrasted with glory revealed in us at the revelation of the sons of God. This is when our bodies are redeemed at the resurrection. This seems to connect our resurrection with the glorious coming.
8. Romans 11:25-26 – “...that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, there shall come out of Zion the Deliverer.” Note the present time of Israel’s blindness is the time when the fulness of the Gentiles is coming in. Verse 26 shows that after the fulness of the Gentiles comes in the Redeemer comes out of Zion. Here no mention is made of the fulness of the Gentiles occurring seven years before the salvation of Israel when the Redeemer comes (compare Zechariah 12).
9. I Corinthians 1:7-8 – “So that ye come behind in no gift: waiting for the coming (in the Greek the word is apocalypse, “revelation”) of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Note here the churches are waiting for the revelation (not secret coming) of the Lord. Also Paul speaks of the “the end” and the day of the Lord Jesus Christ. The end, the day of the Lord, the revelation of Christ – these indicate the coming of Christ at the end of the tribulation and for this the believer waits.

10. I Corinthians 15:22-24 – “Christ the firstfruits (of the resurrection): afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming (the “rapture”). Then cometh the end...”

Here there is no mention of two resurrections of those who belong to Christ. Not one before the tribulation and one after, only one resurrection of those who are Christ's. Compare Revelation 20. The first resurrection is when He comes to destroy the anti-christ.

11. I Thessalonians 4:16-17 – “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: 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.”

Note carefully – this passage does not say Christ will come before the tribulation. It states that He is coming and we shall meet Him in the air. All believe He is coming – the question we are discussing is when?

12. I Thessalonians 5:1-10 – “For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night (v. 2)...But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief (v. 4),...but let us watch and be sober”... (v. 6). Note the coming of Christ in Chapter 4 is connected with “the day of the Lord” Chapter 5. The day of the Lord occurs at the second coming. Paul tells us in 2 Thessalonians 2, “...for that day (of the Lord) shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed (the anti-christ)...” Christ comes at the day of the Lord. The day of the Lord comes after “the apostasy” (falling away) and the revealing of the anti-christ. Read Acts 2:20. “The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come.” See Matthew 24:29-31. These signs will precede Christ's coming after the tribulation.

Also Christ's coming as a thief is taught by Jesus when he spoke of His glorious coming after the tribulation (see Matthew 24:43). John speaks of Christ coming as a thief when he speaks of Armageddon. Read carefully Revelation 16:14-16. Paul also speaks of the rapture like a coming of the thief in the night.

13. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 – “And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ...When he shall come

to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe...”

When will the churches have rest from trouble? Seven years before Christ comes in glory? No. When He comes in glory with His angels the churches will have rest.

14. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 – “Now we beseech you, brethren, by (concerning) the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by (concerning) our gathering together unto him (‘rapture’), that ye be not soon shaken...that the day of Christ (the Lord) is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed...whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy (him) with the brightness of his coming...he called you...to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The rapture, the day of the Lord, the brightness of Christ's coming are parallel in this scripture. Did Paul intend his readers to think nothing was to happen before Christ's coming for the churches? Compare this passage with 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10. The coming in 2 Thessalonians 2 much be timed after the tribulation.

15. I Timothy 6:14-15 – “That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ...” Does this present a secret rapture before the tribulation?
16. 2 Timothy 4:1 – “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom”.
17. 2 Timothy 4:8 – “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown...which the Lord...shall give me at that day: and not to me only but unto all them also that love his appearing. Note the crown, that day, his appearing are all spoken of together. Compare Colossians 3:4. “When Christ...shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.”
18. Titus 2:13 – “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ”. In Greek this reads, “Expecting the blessed hope and appearance of the glory.” Read Titus 2:13 in the New A.S.V. The blessed hope of the Christian at the glorious