

## FF I Thess 4 & 5 Episode

Remember in Acts 17, he was only able to teach in their synagogue for 3 Sabbath days before he was run out of town? 3 weeks, 10 verses in Acts about his visit. This epistle gives more detail about how loving and how receptive they were. They became examples to the believers. The Word sounded forth from them. We can see that Paul, both when he was there, and in this epistle, taught them very much about the Christian's hope of being gathered in what is called the rapture.

Saved from wrath 1 Thess 1:10, 5:9

How to receive God's Word 2:13

I was taught that the gathering together, or rapture, in 1 Thess 4:16-17 was completely different from Matt 24:31 and I strongly believed that for 30 years. Then I read some things that made me question that. That's the main question for this episode. Are the gathering events in Mt 24 and 1 Th 4 the same or different?

This is at the heart of the Prewrath view, because Matt 24:31 is after the abomination of desolation, after the great tribulation, after the cosmic events of the 6<sup>th</sup> seal and ushers in the 7<sup>th</sup> seal (see Matt 24:15-31). See chart on the Matt 24 timeline. Dan 12:1-3 is another description of the great tribulation. FF disagrees with the pre-trib view, that this happens before the final 7 years, which is the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel.

Jesus Christ ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of God—right? How many times does he come down and go back up prior to or during the return (parousia)? He comes for his church at the rapture and he comes with his saints at Armageddon. Is the appearing and coming in Matt 24:31 the coming of Jesus with his saints to the battle of Armageddon? No. Look at the differences.

<b>Matthew 24:29-31</b>	<b>Revelation 19:11-16</b>
Time of cosmic signs, 6th Seal	After 7th seal
Sends angels gathers the elect	Armies of heaven with him
Loud trumpet sound	On a white horse
Dead rise	Sword, robe dipped in blood
Living caught up in the clouds	Wiping out the enemies at Armageddon

Now compare Matt 24 with 1 Thess 4. Notice the similarities.

<b>Matthew 24:29-31</b>	<b>1 Thessalonians 4:16-17</b>
Coming on clouds of heaven	Lord descends from heaven
Great power and glory	Cry of command
Sends forth his angels	Voice of arch angel
Loud trumpet call	Trump of God
Time of resurrection. Dan 12:1-2	Dead rise
Gather his elect - same Gr. root as gathering in 2 Th 2:1	Living caught up in the clouds

## 1 Thess 5:1-7

Paul says he really didn't even need to write to remind them because they know perfectly well the Day of the LORD (DL), comes like a thief in the night. Paul was only there about 3 weeks and then he was run out of town. How did they know this?

- a. Unlike today, teaching about the DL was something basic that would be taught within the first 3 weeks.
- b. It is throughout the OT prophets and the Jews and Gentiles who were associated with the synagogue would know that.
- c. Paul or someone taught them what Jesus had said in the Olivet Discourse.

They also knew it was like **labor pains** because the prophets compared the DL to that (Jer. 30:6-9, Isa 13:6-13).

Paul tells them to **stay awake and watch** (5:4-7). That is exactly like Jesus's message in Matt 24:42-44.

Sometimes people quote the saying that no one knows the day or hour to support the pre-trib idea that the rapture is before the entire 70<sup>th</sup> week. When Jesus uses the phrase, he is referring to the day or hour of the gathering in Matt 24:31. All the signs he prophesied must come first, but still, no one will know the exact day or hour. 1 Thess 5 is agreeing point by point with what Jesus says in the Olivet Discourse. He is saying they already know these points from the OT prophets and/or from what Jesus said. These verses are explaining that 1 Thess 4:16-17 is the pre-wrath rapture right before the Day of the LORD—not a pre-trib rapture before the entire 70<sup>th</sup> Week.

## Closing

Paul's writings in 1 & 2 Thessalonians have 30 points in common with the Olivet Discourse spoken by Jesus in Matt 24. In 4:16-17, Paul is giving additional details of the same gathering spoken in Matt 24:31.

Why does this matter? If you believe the church of the body of Christ will be on earth during the first 6 seals, then you realize what a test of a Christian's character that will be. We need to be spiritually developed into believers who understand those challenges and are ready to face them and to Finish Faithful. If you knew the final 7 years of Daniel were going to start next year, would you live differently? Well we don't know that, but it's good to be thinking and preparing for how our various Christian communities, should live. Are we called to hide out and isolate with stored food, guns and ammunition? No! It will be about radical faith, obedience and spiritual power and the great final harvest brought about by our testimony.