



Thoughts from First Thessalonians ...

Descent of the Lord

Jesus' return is the great finale for earth! For those who simply live on this planet and are unaware of the scripture's teaching, the earth seems so massive that it would have to last forever. However, those who believe and understand even a modicum of the word of God know that God created the heavens and earth out of nothing, and that He will destroy them when He is done with them. "They will perish," the writer of Hebrews quoted from the Psalms, "but You remain; and they all will become old as a garment, and as a mantle You will roll them up" (Hebrews 1:11,12). This will happen in connection with Jesus' second coming; this is THE END!

▼ **What happens** — Mankind would not know that the Lord will return except that the scripture informs us of that event. As most of earth's residents were unaware or unwilling to accept that the great Flood was coming in Noah's day, so it is with regard to the coming of the Lord Jesus. In general, people will continue to have their focus on buying and selling, planting and harvesting, tearing down and rebuilding, marrying and being given in marriage until the day that Jesus comes; and they will be totally surprised and unprepared for the second coming of Christ. "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout," the inspired apostle Paul informs us, "with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first" (1 Thessalonians 4:16). Clearly, this is no secret event; the impression is that the voice and the trumpet will be heard all over the earth. "We shall not all sleep," Paul informed the church at Corinth, "but we all [the whole human race] shall be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed" (1 Corinthians 15:51,52). Everyone — good and bad — will either be resurrected or instantly changed into a resurrection body at that trumpet blast and archangel's shout.

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It is encouraging to know how all the events and confusion of earth's upheavals and uprisings turn out. Faithful saints, either those resurrected or those who were instantly changed in the twinkling of an eye, will meet the Lord in their resurrected bodies in the air. "Therefore comfort one another with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:18). Amen!!!

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