

Story 127: Paul Writes to the Christians in Thessalonica

After Paul left Thessalonica, he wrote two letters to the believers there. He answered some questions they asked. They heard that Jesus Christ would return to the earth one day. They asked when this would happen. Paul reminded them that only God knows the exact time. He explained what will happen to believers when Jesus returns.

“My friends, we want you to understand how it will be for *those followers who have already died*. Then you won’t grieve over them and be like people who don’t have any hope....

“With a loud command and with the shout of the chief angel and *a blast of God’s trumpet, the Lord will return from heaven*. Then *those who had faith in Christ before they died will be raised to life*. Next, all of us who are still alive *will be taken up into the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the sky*. From that time on we will all be with the Lord forever. Encourage each other with these words.”

– I Thessalonians 4:13, 16 -18

“I don’t need to write you about the time or date when all this will happen. You surely know that the Lord’s return will be as a thief coming at night. People will think they are safe and secure. But destruction will suddenly strike them like the pains of a woman about to give birth. And they won’t escape.”

– I Thessalonians 5:1-3

“. . . Our Lord Jesus will punish *anyone who doesn’t know God* and won’t obey his message. Their punishment will be eternal destruction, and they *will be kept far from the presence of our Lord and his glorious strength*. This will happen on that day when the Lord returns to be praised and honored by all who have faith in him and belong to him. This includes you, because you believed what we said.” – II Thessalonians 1:8-10