

# The Great Wait: Delight and Discernment in the Second Coming

*Predict the Future with Confidence*

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

September 7, 2025

The Lord's Day Morning

Today's text presents a clear sequence of past, present, and future events that all true Christians should be able to agree on:

1. **The Past Incarnation.** Jesus, God in flesh, died as a substitute to pay the penalty for sin, then rose again to prove his payment was accepted by God and announce victory over death (4:13–14).
2. **The Present Great Wait.** The elect experience: birth, sin, re-birth, belief, justification, adoption, waiting while fighting in the *church militant*, then death. The body returns to the earth, while the soul joins the Lord and the *church triumphant* in heaven during the intermediate state (4:15).
3. **The Future Return:** Jesus will make a surprising, noisy, majestic descent from heaven on an unknowable date with the elect from the intermediate state (4:16).
4. **The Resurrection:** The souls of believers in the *church triumphant* will be united to resurrected immortal bodies (4:16).
5. **The Transformation:** Believers in the *church militant*, alive at the return, will receive transformed immortal bodies (4:17a; cf. 1 Cor. 15:51–52; Phil. 3:21).
6. **The Seizing:** All believers are caught up to meet the Lord in the air (4:17–18).
7. **The Judgment:** King Jesus will condemn his enemies and vindicate his people (5:1–3)
8. **The Eternal State:** All believers will always be with the resurrected Lord in their resurrection bodies (5:10; 4:17).

**Planning \_\_\_\_\_ That Maximizes Hope**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ of your salvation.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ of your salvation to others.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ in order.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ to your \_\_\_\_\_.