

What will happen to the living and the dead at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ?

NEW TESTAMENT SEMINARY MANUAL

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18, looking for insights about what will happen to the righteous when Jesus comes again. Note the difference between what will happen to those who have died and those who are still living at the Second Coming. (The words “asleep” and “sleep” in these verses refer to those who are dead.) It may be helpful to read the Joseph Smith Translation of 1 Thessalonians 4:15, 17 (in verse 15, footnote *a*, and verse 17, footnote *a*).

- What was significant to you in these verses?

Next, read Doctrine and Covenants 88:96–98, looking for additional insights about these events. (You may also want to read verses 99–101 to learn about what will happen to those who did not accept Jesus Christ in this life.)

- What additional insights did you gain?

One truth you may have identified could be that **faithful Saints who die before the Second Coming will be resurrected when Christ comes again.**

The term “caught up” (1 Thessalonians 4:17) refers to the righteous joining together to meet the Savior at His coming. Many Christians use the word *rapture* (from a Latin term meaning “caught up”) when referring to this time.

Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles shared the following about this sacred event:



Nothing lifts my desire to speak of Christ more than visualizing His return. While we do not know when He will come, the events of His return will be breathtaking! He will come in the clouds of heaven in majesty and glory with all His holy angels. Not just a few angels but all His holy

angels. These are not the cherry-cheeked cherubim painted by Raphael, found on our Valentine cards. These are the angels of the centuries, the angels sent to shut the mouths of lions, to open prison doors, to announce His long-awaited birth, to comfort Him in Gethsemane, to assure His disciples at His Ascension, and to open the glorious Restoration of the gospel.

Can you imagine being caught up to meet Him, whether on this side or the other side of the veil? That is His promise to the righteous. This amazing experience will mark our souls forever. (Neil L. Andersen, “We Talk of Christ,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2020, 91)

Take some time to imagine what it might be like to be numbered among the righteous at the Savior’s coming.

- What thoughts or feelings might you have on that day? How do you feel knowing that the Savior wants you to join Him when He comes? How does imagining that future day influence you today?

In 1 Thessalonians 4:18, Paul encouraged the Saints to “comfort one another with these words.”

- How do Paul’s teachings provide you with comfort? How could they provide comfort in future circumstances you might face?