



The Anchor Of Hope In Death 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Hope that the cross provides, in a Cosmic Battle Throughout the Ages

Before time began

Lucifer

- Who he was and what he did

Ezekiel 28:12-15 You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering... 14 You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. 15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created...

- How he fell

Isaiah 14:12-15 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! 13 You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' 15 But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit.

- Judgment passed (lightning and thunder)

Ezekiel 28:15-16 (Pride, beauty, wisdom corrupted for the sake of his splendor) You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you. 16 In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub,

- Lightning - cast out of heaven, lost distinguished position of authority, sealed in his ultimate fate (Luke 10:18)
- Thunder - Day of the Lord (1 Thessalonians 5)
- History actually resides between the lightning and thunder

The Fall of Humanity

- Tempted, Adam and Eve decide who to listen to, who to obey
- God pronounces curses and provides glimmer of HOPE (*euangelion*)
Genesis 3:15 (seed of the woman, bruise heel, crush Satan's head)

Genesis 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

Old Testament

- Satan working behind scenes trying to prevent the birth of the One who would crush his head
 - Empires of the Old Testament (Egypt, Babylon, Medes, Persians, Greeks, Romans - all manipulated and used by Satan to try to destroy the nation that would give birth to the promised Messiah, the one that would crush the head of Satan)

New Testament

- Satan continuing his work
 - Herod killed all the children
 - Jesus on the cross (bruised heel of Jesus - temporary)
 - Jesus in the resurrection (bruised head of Satan - fatal)
 - Strategy to wreak havoc on the Church and Israel (John 10:10, Eph 6:10-12)

Review

- All sex outside the bond of marriage is sin. All. You don't get a pass because you used to be married...or because you are going to be married.
- Sexual sin needs to be addressed. Confessed. And start walking in a different direction. Flee.
- You can be cleansed of all sexual sin by the blood of Jesus.
- This is part of the cosmic battle.

1 Thessalonians 4:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

- Paul had spent a few weeks w/ the Thessalonians and stressed the return of Christ.
- Now, some wondering and worrying about those who had died.
- Uninformed=ignorant. Four times we see Paul ask believers not to be ignorant:
 - Don't be ignorant about God's plan for Israel ([Romans 11:25](#)).
 - Don't be ignorant about spiritual gifts ([1 Corinthians 12:1](#)).
 - Don't be ignorant about suffering and trials in the Christian life ([2 Corinthians 1:8](#)).
 - Don't be ignorant about the second coming of Jesus ([1 Thessalonians 4:13](#)).
- We don't grieve like other people do! Funerals are different for believers.
- If you don't have hope...why NOT live for today? Why are Hedonists wrong? Why not eat the most, have the most sex, drink the most?

- Even an atheist like Nietzsche argued that the end of Christianity, when everyone realizes there is no God, leads to...a life with no hope or purpose.
- **Apart from Christ, there is NO HOPE at death!**

1 Thessalonians 4:14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

- The doctrine of the resurrection of Christ that we just celebrated is critical. Can't waffle on this.
- Sleep = death (for believers)

1 Corinthians 15:17-20 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

- Did not use this term for non-believers--they do not see rest.
- Was great fear of death in this culture. There is great fear of death in our culture.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-16 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

- Jesus is coming Himself, personally. This is a word from the Lord. Count. On. It.
- God won't leave those who have passed.
- Jesus comes back from the right hand of the Father.
- Trumpets used primarily to call God's people to Himself, and when it was time to go to war (Numbers 10:3, 9)

Numbers 10:3 And when both are blown, all the congregation shall gather themselves to you at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

Numbers 10:9 And when you go to war in your land against the adversary who oppresses you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, that you may be remembered before the LORD your God, and you shall be saved from your enemies.

- Why a trump? War is coming.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

- Believer--you will always be with the Lord. Nothing can separate you from the love and the promise of the Lord.
- Some of you have been stood up, let down.
- **Jesus does not stand up His Church. He stands UP for His Church. He bought her, He will come for her.**

1 Thessalonians 4:18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

- The resurrection...eternal life should be ENCOURAGING. Christians should be the least anxious, the most at peace, the ones who sleep the best.
- Those apart from Christ should be rightly terrified.
- What do you do with this news? Jesus told his disciples, "Go make more disciples."
- The first part of making disciples is sounding the alarm.

2 Corinthians 9:11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men (NKJV)