

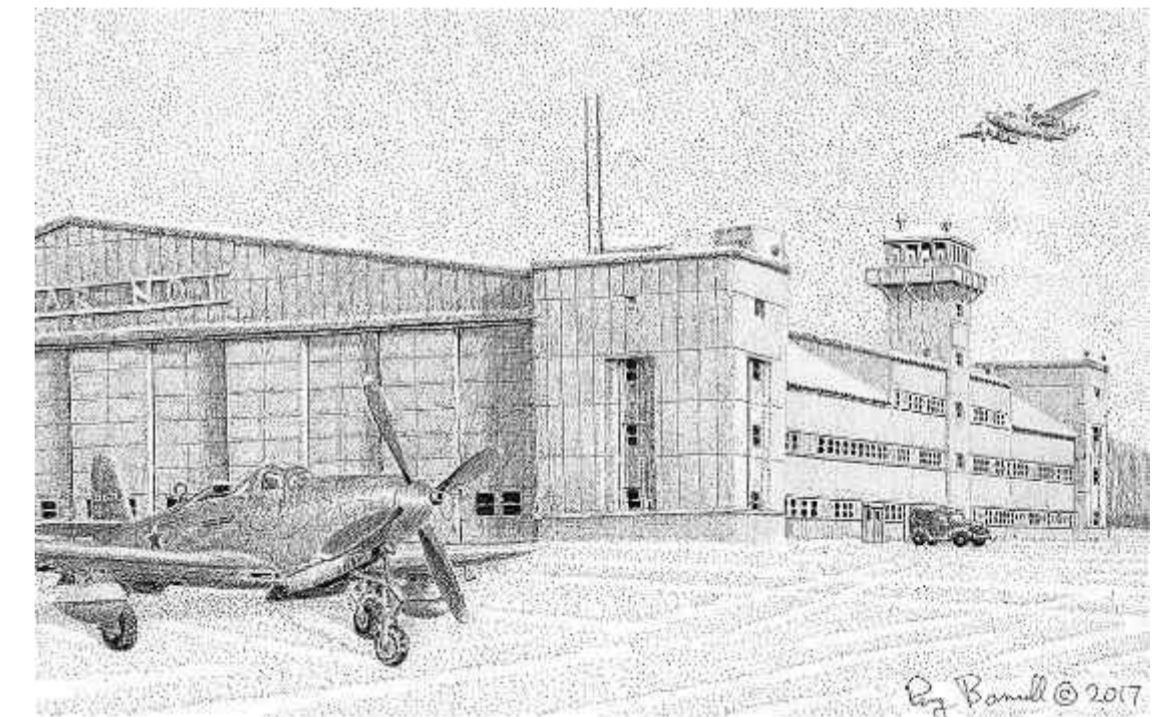
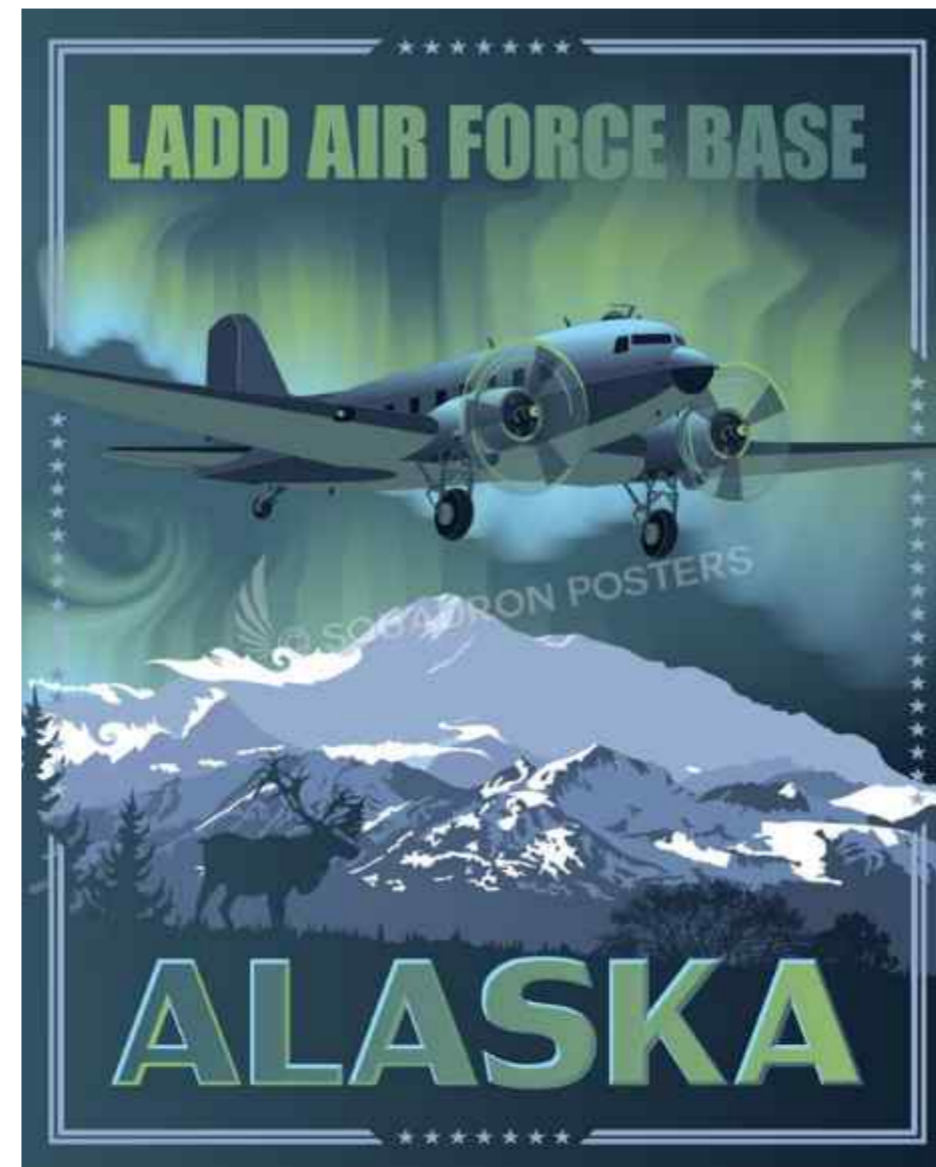
ABOUNDING HOPE

I THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

THE HOPE THAT COMFORTS THE HURTING



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I Thessalonians 4:13-18

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18,

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. ¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷ Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

I. THE CHARACTER OF THE INSTRUCTIONS

1 Thessalonians 4:13,

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren,
concerning them which are asleep,
that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

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II. THE CONTENTS OF THE INSTRUCTION (4:14-17)

1 Thessalonians 4:14,

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again,
even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

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THE CONTENTS OF THE INSTRUCTION (4:14-17)

1 Thessalonians 4:15,

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord,
that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord
shall not prevent them which are asleep.

COMPARISON OF JOHN 14:1-3 AND 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

JOHN 14:1-3	1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18
Trouble (14:1)	Sorrow (4:13)
Believe (14:1)	Believe (4:14)
God, me (14:1)	Jesus, God (4:14)
Told you (14:2)	Say to you (4:15)
Come again (14:3)	Coming of the Lord (4:15)
Receive you to Myself (14:3)	Caught up To meet the Lord (4:17)
Be where I am (14:3)	Ever be with the Lord (4:17)

THE CONTENTS OF THE INSTRUCTION (4:14-17)

1 Thessalonians 4:15,

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord,
that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord
shall not prevent them which are asleep.

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THE CONTENTS OF THE INSTRUCTION (4:14-17)

1 Thessalonians 4:16,

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout,
with the voice of the archangel,
and with the trump of God:
and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

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1 Thessalonians 4:16,

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with the voice of the archangel,
and with the trump of God:
and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

JOHN 5:25-28

John 5:25-29,

Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. ²⁶ For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; ²⁷ And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. ²⁸ Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, ²⁹ And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

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The Differences between the Rapture and the Revelation

Table 1

THE RAPTURE	THE REVELATION
Christ gathers His own - 1 Thes. 4:16-17	Angels gather the elect - Matthew 24:31
Resurrection is prominent - 1 Thes. 4:15-16	Scripture does not mention the resurrection
Christ comes to reward His believers	Christ comes to judge the earth
The Lord snatches away true believers from the earth - 1 Thes. 4:15-17	The Lord takes away unbelievers - Matthew 24:37-41
At the rapture, unbelievers remain on the earth	At the revelation - believers remain on the earth
No mention associated with rapture as to the establishment of Christ's kingdom	Christ sets up His kingdom
At rapture, believers receive resurrected bodies	No one will receive glorified bodies

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THE CONTENTS OF THE INSTRUCTION (4:14-17)

1 Thessalonians 4:17,

Then we which are alive *and* remain
shall be caught up together with them in the clouds,
to meet the Lord in the air:
and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

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III. THE COMFORT IN THE INSTRUCTIONS (4:18)

1 Thessalonians 4:18,

Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

INVITATION - “TO TURN TO GOD”

Dear God:

I have been serving idols and living for the material and the temporal. I now turn from such a life to the true and living God. Please forgive me of my sins. I believe Jesus Christ died for me and rose again from the grave. Please save me by your grace.

I pray in Jesus' Name, Amen.