

1 Corinthians 15:21-28: In recent weeks we have studied the truth of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, a Biblical truth verified by the apostles, several women, and more than 500 other eyewitnesses.

In the text before us, specifically (V23), Paul wrote of Christ being the first fruits; or the first to be raised from the dead; THEN afterward, THOSE THAT ARE Christ's at His coming.

(V24): THEN cometh the end, WHEN He (Christ) shall have delivered up the Kingdom to God, even the Father. WHEN He, Christ, shall have put down all rule and all authority and power"

This morning, we will probably not get past: "Then cometh the end".

(4) truths from our text (1 Corinthians 15:23-24): One of these truths has already happened, (3) of these truths/events have not yet happened.

"But EVERY MAN in his own order: The first truth has happened; Christ rose (ALIVE) from the dead! "Christ IS the first fruits of them that slept", (V20).

The context of this passage teaches us that immediately after the resurrection of the saints, "they that are Christ's at His coming", THEN cometh the end. What end?

What I will show you from the scriptures is that the coming of the Lord Jesus is coupled with the resurrection of the just, and immediately after that:

Then, comes THE END of the world.

There are also other things happening in this text: (V24): THEN cometh the end, WHEN Christ shall have delivered up the Kingdom to God; THEN cometh the end, WHEN Christ shall have put down all rule, authority, and power.

(V25-26): "For He must reign, till He hath put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death"

For He MUST REIGN TILL, Jesus is reigning now. Matthew 28:18.

I hope to put this all together starting today in the context of other supporting passages of the Holy Scriptures in this study of last things.

But for today, I want to us focus our attention on the (3) Biblical events (from our text) that have not yet happened:

(V23-24): Christ's 2nd coming, the resurrection of the dead, (of they that are Christ's at His coming), then cometh the end of the world.

And in the supporting passages, you will also see some other end times Biblical events that will take place on the day Christ returns.

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

First: The Lord answering the apostles' questions: READ: Matthew 24:1-14

NOTE: Deceivers, wars, rumors of wars, **BUT the end is not yet!** Nations and kingdoms shall rise against each other, there will be famines and pestilences: **All these are the BEGINNING of sorrows!** **THEN,** you will be hated of all nations for my Name's sake, **AND THEN,** there will be betrayals and hatred, many false prophets, abounding iniquity, and the love of many waxing cold.

Matthew 24:13-14

Matthew 24:36-39: The coming of the Son of Man likened to "THE DAY" that Noah entered into the ark when ALL of humanity was destroyed in the flood of God's judgment; all except those (8) souls, that were saved in the ark, (In Christ). Luke 17:26-30

The righteous/the wicked were present in the world all the way to the end/when the flood came; it was the destruction of all of lost humanity.

"So shall it be also in the days of the Son of Man"

Next: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:6: This passage, also written by Paul is nicely coupled with 1 Corinthians 15:50-53. (Read 1 Corinthians passage first)

The return of Christ CALLED the day of the Lord; it will come suddenly, as a thief in the night. On that day when Christ returns: Sudden Destruction to all of lost humanity! Just like the days of Noah!

(V4): Christian: THAT DAY should not overtake you. What day? The day when Christ returns, gathers His people out of this world, and then destroys the world!

If you're lost, you're wasting time, the door is still open, Christ is still saving sinners! Don't wait until the Lord shuts the door! It'll be too late!

Next: Peter speaks of scorners, who in the last days will scoff at the return of Christ! Where is He? 2 Peter 3:1-14

The scoffers say: "Where is the promise of His coming"? "The Lord is NOT SLACK concerning His Promise"! What promise? That He will return!

The day of the Lord/thief in the night: Identical to 1 Thessalonians 5:2, these terms identify to us THE DAY of Christ's 2nd coming! Also, that same day, the heavens/earth pass away, melt with fervent heat; all that is in them will be burned up.

In Noah's day, the earth was destroyed by the flood; in the end of the world, it will be destroyed by fire.

Back to 1 Corinthians 15:23-24:

When Christ returns, THEN COMETH THE END. We've seen the passages that speak (EXCLUSIVELY) about the resurrection of the just, (the saints, or "the dead in Christ") who are said to rise first. But what about the wicked dead?

Remember the order of the resurrection: Christ, the first fruits, which has already happened, they that are Christ's at His coming, they shall rise first on the day of Christ's return,

THEN, the rest of the dead will be resurrected immediately afterward! So, there is an order, but that order all comes to pass the same day, the day that Christ returns!

1 Corinthians 15 and 1 Thessalonians 4 speak exclusively about the resurrection of the dead in Christ, (and I will also show you a few in the Gospel of John), but there are other passages that teach that the wicked dead will also be raised on the same day, on the last day or the end of the world.

Daniel 12:1-3, John 5:24-29, 6:37-40, 44, 54, 11:24, 12:48, Acts 24:14-15, Matthew 13:37-43, 25:31-46, Revelation 20:11-15

The resurrection of ALL of the dead happens at the return of Christ, which is also the last day, which is the end of the world, and at the day, the final and only judgment of all mankind takes place. Acts 17:31, Romans 2:16

Recap: On the day when Christ returns, it is the last day, the end of the world. On that day, all of the dead will be resurrected from the dead and summoned to the judgment seat of Christ, which is the great white throne.

The day of Christ's return is called (both) in 1 Thessalonians 5 and 2 Peter 3 the day of the Lord, the Lord's return is likened to a thief coming in the night.

Immediately after the Lord's return and the resurrection of all of the dead. The destruction of the world.

I will leave you with this: The Holy Scriptures teach us ALL to always be looking for and expecting the Lord Jesus to return. 2 Peter 3:13-14, 17