

It's time for us to rest.

**2 Thessalonians 1:7 - 8** “*And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, (8) In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:*”

When Jesus Christ came the first time He had a mission, **John 1:14** “*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” Jesus did not come to judge, **John 12:47** “*And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.*” It was not His mission to judge, and He did not Judge, He came in grace and mercy to do His Father's will. **John 6:38** “*For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.” If Jesus had come to judge, He would have condemned everyone to the eternal hell. But God the Father dispatched His Son in the Body of Jesus Christ, the Son of man to save lost people. Luke 19:10 “*For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*” Thank God I am one of those He redeemed by His own blood. **Revelation 5:9** “*And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;” On the cross just before Jesus died He said these words, John 19:30 “*When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.” He had completed the task of mercy and grace that His glorious Father had given Him to do. We are saved because Jesus Christ lived, was boldly punished, hung on a tree, shed His blood, gave-up the ghost, rose from the grave, and ascended to sit on His throne on God's right hand. This is what grace looks like, Ephesians 2:4 - 5 “*But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, (5) Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)”*****

Now Jesus has a new mission, to be the judge of the world. Back in **Revelation 5:9** “*And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof:” The only one that has the authority to judge the lost and the righteous is Jesus Christ. Jesus said in **Matthew 28:18** “*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*” **John 5:22** “*For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:*” This is what Jesus opening the seven seals to the to the book*

revealing the Tribulation and wrath on this earth. **Revelation 5:11 - 13** *“And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; (12) Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. (13) And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.”* It is Jesus’s honor as the One that redeemed a remnant of people with grace and mercy, to also to deliver the judgement and wrath of God on the lost and condemned. After He returns in the clouds to rapture the dead from the grave and those that remain on the earth, the grace and mercy of God is removed from the earth and the wrath of God begins in His judgment. Thank God we who are saved are saved from this wrath. **Romans 5:9 - 10** *“Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. (10) For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”*

This is what this part of chapter 1 is talking about, this time.

A. It is our time to rest with Jesus. **“you who are troubled rest with us” V. 7**

1. When discussing God’s judgment to people, we need to always remember that it is always in righteous. V. 6 *“Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;”* No matter how horrible or terrible we may see it, no matter how sad we may feel for them, it is a righteous judgment of God. In heaven we will not be sad for them but rejoice that God has judged them Rev. 5
2. While God will recompense affliction to the lost, He will deliver rest to the saved. Here we must suffer many things, and maybe even death, but in heaven we will rest. **Matthew 11:28** *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”*
3. Today are our sad days, living on this earth among the lost who are evil at heart. What a blessing it will be when we rest with Jesus in heaven.

B. When Jesus returns, not one Christian will be on the earth, not one. *“...when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,” V. 7*

1. Oh, what a day that will be, when our Lord and Saviour is revealed from heaven. **1 Thessalonians 4:16 - 18** "*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.*"
    - a. We do not know what the shout will be, some say it is the call to come up, but the scriptures are not clear.
    - b. Angels do retrieve Christians from the earth. **Matthew 24:30 - 31** "*And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (31) And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*"
    - c. They escorted Lazarus to Abraham. **Luke 16:22** "*And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;*"
  2. Folks, either way, when Jesus returns it will be a glorious sight, and it will be a very bright, loud, and prosperous day for us.
  3. We ought to thank God and His Beloved Son that we will not suffer what is about to happen. **1 Thessalonians 5:9 - 11** "*For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, (10) Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. (11) Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.*"
  4. While Christians have and remain to suffer for the Lord Jesus Christ, no amount of our suffering can describe the among of suffering lost people will suffer in God's wrath.
- C. After the rapture, Jesus will begin His wrath. "*In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God...*"
1. Sin will be dealt with because it is the most hated thing to God. **Psalms 5:5 - 6** "*The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity. (6)*"

*Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man.”*

2. **Proverbs 6:16 - 19** "These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: (17) A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, (18) An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, (19) A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."
3. What does the Lord mean by "*In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God...*" Jesus no longer is a God of grace and mercy, God has had enough of the people in this world, just like before the flood. The fire refers to the power of God. Hebrews 12:28 - 29 "*Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: (29) For our God is a consuming fire.*"
4. People may laugh today, but a day is coming when Jesus Christ shall appear in what people fear the most, a flaming and consuming fire to make them accountable. **Hebrews 10:27 - 31** "*But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. (28) He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: (29) Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? (30) For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. (31) It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."*