THE DEPARTURE

July 1, 2020
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John 15:10-11 (NIV) (10) If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. (11) I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

- Living In His Love And Living A Life Of Obedience Are Prerequisites Of Joy

- Joy Is The Byproduct Of Obedience
THE DEPARTURE

Let’s Get Our Lives Aligned To God And To His Word -- So That His Joy May Be In Us And Our Joy May Be Full

God’s Word Brings Faith, Knowledge, Increase, Revelation, And It Adds To Our Joy
Daniel Was Given Prophetic Dreams And Visions Which He Could Not Fully Understand That Are Being Revealed In Our Day

Daniel 12:4 (NIV) (4) But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge.
2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 (NIV) (1) Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, (2) not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. (3) Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.
TWO SEPARATE EVENTS

- (1) The Coming Of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Second Coming)
- (2) Our Being Gathered To Him (Rapture)

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NIV)**

(16) For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. (17) After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.
CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF THESE EVENTS:

1. THE CATCHING UP OF THE CHURCH
2. THE DAY OF THE LORD
3. THE 2ND COMING

Paul Wrote This 2nd Letter To Deal With The Misconception -- The False Teaching – That The Tribulation Had Already Started
The Day Of The Lord –Is Prefaced By The 7 Yr. Tribulation –

It Is The Culmination Of God’s Fury In A Final Outpouring That Consumes Those Who Have Not Put Their Faith In Christ

Their Great Fear Was That The Rapture Had Taken Place -- They Had Missed It
So Much Uncertainty  But What Does It All Point To?
Not Our Demise, But Our Great Hope -- The Blessed Hope

(1 Thes. 4:18 NIV) Therefore encourage each other with these words.

The World Envisions A Great Reset -- But We Know That Before That There Is A Great Catching Away
1 Thessalonians 1:10 (NIV) (10) --Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.
1 Thessalonians 5:1-8 (NIV) (1) Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, (2) for you know very well that the day of the Lord (TRIBULATION) will come like a thief in the night. (3) While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. (4) But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. (5) You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. (6) So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. (7) For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. (8) But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.
1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 (NIV) (9) For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. (10) He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. (11) Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

There Is Reason For Encouragement  The Day Of The Lord Is Not The Catching Away – It Takes Place After That.
In This Passage 2 Thessalonians 2 Paul Is Doing A Review Using Different Terms To Describe The Coming Events

(2 Thes.2:3 NIV) Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the (APOSTASIA) rebellion occurs.

THE DAY OF THE LORD CANNOT COME UNTIL FIRST THERE IS AN APOSTASIA (REBELLION) FIRST
Apostasia Can Also Be Translated:

- Rebellion
- A Falling Away
- An Abandonment
- A Departure
The Rapture Can Be A “Catching Away Or A Departure”

▪ “A Catching Away Is A Departure”

▪ “A Departure Is A Catching Away”
THINGS WE MUST CONSIDER

CONTEXT – What Is Paul Referring To? What Question Is He Answering? How Does The Term ‘Apostosia’ Fit Into This Context?

Words Can Have Multiple Meanings: Take A Word Like “File” -- It Can Mean Many Different Things Based On Context
Paul Is Telling The Church In Thessalonica That They Don’t Have To Be Afraid That They Have Entered Into The Tribulation

- First There Must Be An ‘Apostasia’ -- A Departure
- This Is An Event That Will Not Happen Until There Is A Departure (Rapture)
A Prophetic Declaration Can Have More Then One Fulfillment

▪ It Can Mean “What It Says -- And More Than It Says”

▪ The Closer We Get The More Sense It Makes
Catholic Bible Translations After Reformation Spoke Of Rebellion And Falling Away

- Before That Translations Used “Departure”

1599 GENEVA BIBLE: "Let no man deceive you by any means for that day [speaking of the tribulation] that day shall not come except there come a departing first and that man of sin [the Antichrist] be disclosed even the son of perdition."

- Catholic Translations Changed Departing To Rebellion Due To The Protestant Reformation
“THE DEPARTURE HAPPENS FIRST”

- You Can’t Have The Day Of The Lord Until The Church Departs In The Rapture

- The Imminent Return Works – Only --- If Nothing Has To Happen Before The Departure
Luke 21:36 (NIV) (36) Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

- Why Would Jesus Ask Us To Watch And Pray That We Might Be Able To Escape If He Has No Rescue Plan & Escape Available?
- Why Would Jesus Link The Escape From All That Is Going To Happen With Us Standing Before Him?
The Rapture Or The Departure Is All About Jesus Calling His Bride To Be At The Ready

- He is Saying “Get Ready My Church -- I Want To See You” And I Am Coming Soon

- Revelation 3:10 (NIV) (10) Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.
2 Peter 2:9 (NIV) (9) if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.

God’s Soon Coming Departure Plan Is...

- That For Those Who Live In Jesus
- For Those Who Are Ready For His Coming
- The Lord Will Come And Catch Them Away For Their Departure Before The Great Tribulation