

**“IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE”**

*1 Thessalonians 4:13-16*

*John 14:1-3*

*1 Corinthians 15:51-53*



**“IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE”!**

*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

*1 Corinthians 15:51-51*

1. **Jesus is COMING!**  
*1 Thessalonians 4:14-16*  
*John 14:2-3 / Matthew 24:42, 44*
2. **We are going to be CAUGHT UP!**  
*1 Thessalonians 4:17 Matthew 24:32-42*
3. **We are going to be CHANGED in the twinkling on an eye!**  
*1 Corinthians 15:51-52 1 John 3:1-2*

**Jesus' coming should cause us to be a CHANGED people!**

*1 John 3:3*

4. **Jesus' coming is our COMFORT!**  
*1 Thessalonians 4:18*

**PROBLEM:** The believers in Thessalonica were deceived and turned from comfort to CONFUSION . . .  
. . . from peace to PANIC.

*2 Thessalonians chapter 2*

**The coming of Jesus is our BLESSED HOPE!”  
Watch and be ready!**

## JESUS WILL RETURN FOR HIS BRIDE!

*John 14:1-3 / Luke 22:15-20*

Jesus used the analogy of the Jewish Old Testament custom of the wedding ceremony to describe His return to Heaven and His promised future return for His Bride (*Ephesians 5:22-23*).

1. The bridegroom would leave his father's home to go to the home of his future bride. *John 3:16*
2. The price for the bride was negotiated and paid.
3. Once the price was paid and the bride was in agreement, the covenant of marriage would now be established between the groom and his bride.
4. The bride and bridegroom were now consecrated for one another and were to remain pure and separate for one another (*1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Ephesians 5:25-27, 1 Corinthians 1:2, 6:11, Hebrews 10:10, 13:12*).
5. Bride and groom would drink wine from one glass thus establishing their new covenant. The bridegroom would often refrain from drinking wine until the wedding was consummated. Today, the groom steps on the glass to show that this was an unbreakable covenant never to be repeated (*1 Corinthians 11:25, Luke 22:15-20*).
6. The groom would return to his father's home for an extended period of time . . . usually one year (*John 20:17, Acts 1:9-11*).
7. The groom would spend this time preparing a place for his bride to live. (*John 14:1-3*)
8. The bride would prepare herself for marriage.

9. The groom and his attendants (wedding party) would return for his bride usually at night (*1 Thessalonians 4:16, Matthew 24:42-44, 1 Thessalonians 5:2*).
10. The bride did not know the exact time of his return but she was to be ready and watching (*Matthew 24:42, 44*).
11. The sudden coming of the groom was announced by a shout and trump (*1 Thessalonians 4:16*).
12. The large wedding party composed of the bride and groom and their friends and family would return to the father's house (*1 Thessalonians 4:17*).
13. Upon arrival there was a seven day wedding feast and celebration (*Revelation 19:7-9*).
14. During this time of great celebration, the marriage was consummated. (This could suggest the "Bema Seat" or "Judgment Seat of Christ".) After the marriage was consummated, the groom would announce the consummation to the other members of the wedding party waiting outside the chamber (*John 3:29*).
15. For seven days, the bride remained "hidden" in the bridal chamber. These days were referred to as "the seven days of the huppah." (These seven days could speak of the seven years of Tribulation on earth when Christ is with His bride and both are hidden from the world.)
15. At the conclusion of the seven days, the groom would bring his bride out of the bridal chamber, now with her veil removed so all could look upon the bride he had purchased. (This could be symbolic of Christ coming in glory with a huge procession out of heaven *Revelation 19:7-8*).