

What's the Bible All About?

7 - The Biggest Celebration

Epistles & Revelation (1 Thessalonians – Revelation)
Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney

1 & 2 Thessalonians - Living in Light of That Great Day (Christ's Return)

The second coming of Christ is mentioned 318x in the Bible, and these two little letters to the Thessalonians contains 20 of those references to the 'coming of the Lord.' The Thessalonians were new believers who were suffering and discouraged! Paul knew they needed to get their eyes off of the present and fixed on the future.

“Not everyone thinks it helpful to focus on the future. They've bought into the old adage that people who do are 'so heavenly minded they're of no earthly good.' On the contrary, I'm persuaded that we will never be of much use in this life until we've developed a healthy obsession with the next. Our only hope for satisfaction of soul and joy of heart in this life comes from looking intently at what we can't see. Therefore, we must take steps to cultivate and intensify in our souls an ache for the beauty of the age to come... evidently there is something about heaven that makes our anticipation of its experience profoundly life-changing.” (*One Thing ~ Developing a Passion for the Beauty of God*, Sam Storms, p. 163-164)

Romans 8:18 “For I consider that the sufferings of this present age are not worthy to be compared to the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 “For this reason we do not lose heart, for though the outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working FOR us an eternal... weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen...”

Friends may have deserted you, a husband or wife may have rejected you; but you have a Bridegroom - Jesus Christ - who loves you dearly. Who lived and died for you and is coming back to get you!

1 Thes. 1:9-10

1 Thes. 2:19-20 “For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For you are our glory and joy.”

1 Thes. 3:12-13 “And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you. So that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.”

1 Thes. 4:16-18 “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

1 Thes. 5:23 “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 & 2 Timothy & Titus – Go Hard After God & Finish Well

These are three letters from Paul, giving instructions to his young disciple, Timothy, who is pastoring the first church in Ephesus and for Titus who is pastoring in Crete.

1 Timothy 4:7 “... and exercise yourself unto godliness.”

1 Timothy 4:15-16 “Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them...”

2 Timothy 4:7 “I have fought the fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

The Christian life is not a sprint – it’s a marathon. It’s certainly not for the faint of heart.

2 Timothy 2:1-7

Go hard after God - put forth effort – and finish well!

Philemon – New Testament Postcard on Forgiveness

Written to Philemon – a prominent member of the Colossian church that met in Philemon’s house. It’s a letter from Paul asking for forgiveness for a runaway slave named Onesimus.

Hebrews - Christ is Better!

This is the best book to show that the finished work of Christ is better than all the OT laws and sacrifices – and that we don’t have to go back ever again to that old system! It’s over. Christ fulfilled it all!

Hebrews 1:1-4

Hebrews 7:19, 22-28

Hebrews 8:6

Everything is better now! Word ‘**better**’ used **10x**. No more sacrifices... no more specific details from Leviticus.

James –Christianity With Its Boots On

The book of James is considered the New Testament equivalent to the Old Testament book of Proverbs. It’s full of practical wisdom on every day issues like wisdom, trials, prejudice, faith and works, fights, money, and praying for the sick.

1 & 2 Peter – Suffering and the Sovereignty of God

These books tell you HOW to suffer well and WHAT to think about it while you’re suffering so that you can keep going and not quit.

1 Peter 2:21-23 “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: ‘Who committed no sin, nor was guile found in His mouth’, who, when He was reviled did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously.”

1 Peter 4:12-13, 19 “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake in Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy... **v. 19** Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.”

1, 2, & 3 John –Love Letters

These letters talk about loving God, loving His Word, and hating your sin.

1 John 5:13 “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God in order that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.”

Jude – Watch Out for False Teachers

These 21 letters of EXPLANATION build to a dramatic climax in the final book of the Bible – the book of Revelation – which is the CELEBRATION of all that God has promised from the very beginning regarding redemption... and God’s glory to all the nations!

Revelation – Celebration & Consummation

The book of Revelation is a book of worship! Celebration for all that God has done for us in His Son Christ Jesus... celebrating WHO He is and WHAT He’s done.

Just like God promised to Eve in Genesis 3, and to Abraham in Genesis 12, He has crushed Satan’s head and blessed all the nations of the world through our Redeemer – Jesus Christ!

Revelation 7:9-12 “After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” And all the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen.”