Clouds and the Gathering

The return of Jesus Christ is perhaps one of the most misunderstood prophetical even of all times. And the way some people teach it, it sounds more like a fairy tale than the reality of what it truly is. We should understand that Jesus Christ's return (i.e. His Second Advent) **will** be a *literal* event, as it is written…

26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.
27 And then shall they see the Son of man ***coming in a cloud*** *with power and* ***great*** *glory.*
28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then ***look up****, and* ***lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.***
Luke 21:26-28

Jesus Christ coming to take control ***of the earth*** de facto *and* de jure - meaning, He will be here *literally* and He will have *the right* to be. And we're told that when the *true* Jesus Christ comes back, *everyone* will see Him (Rev 1:7). As Jesus said in Matt 24:27: *For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be*. The word '**lightning**' here means (of course) ***lightning*** but, by analogy, it also means ***glare*** (i.e. to shine with a harsh uncomfortably brilliant light) (#796). And it comes from a word that means ***to flash as lightning*** (#797). So, Jesus was simply explaining to us that, when He returns, everyone will see His return because **the heavens will open up** (as written in Rev 19:11; Rev 6:14 and Mth 24:23-31) **and a bright (glaring) light will shine through as Jesus and His angels return to gather up all people on earth and separate them for the 'judgment of Christ'** (2 Cor 5:10; Isa 24:17-23; Matt 13:40-42, 47-50, Matt 24:29-31, 25:31-46; Mark 13:24-27; Rev 20:1-6). So, to reiterate: *Jesus Christ will be taking full control of the whole world* ***literally***. And, Lk 21:27 (above) says He'll be coming in a cloud (which is often referred to when speaking of *His transportation*, but can also be used to refer to a *group of people*) and that He'll come with *great* power and glory. This is why those who do *not* love Him (or did not remain faithful to Him, Mth 7:21-23) will be crying their eyes out. How would you like it if you found out that the One who you despised, disobeyed and even made fun of was going to be *your judge*?

Now, Paul does a very good job at explaining Jesus' return, which is something that people have wondered about, even since the prophet's pinned the Old Testament. And, even in Jesus' day, many did not realize there would be *two* separate Advents. Similarly, today many Churches have varying ideas on the return of Jesus Christ. The most commonly taught is the 'Rapture theory' that surmises believers will be taken up to "Heaven" while the unbelievers are left to live a "hell on earth" during the tribulation of the antichrist. While this may seem like an enticing refuge to believe in, the truth is much different [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/457]. The verse that is used to support the Rapture theory (1 Thess 4:17) is actually speaking about what happens when

Jesus returns to earth (to stay, *never* to leave ever again), and those who teach the Rapture fail (wittingly or unwittingly) to quote this verse *in context* with the subject…

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep (those that have already died in the flesh)*, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.* (The heathen don't believe in life after death)
14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus ***will God bring with him***.
15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (go before) *them which are asleep* (already dead)*.*
16 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.
1 Thess 4:13-18

We see here that Jesus will be coming back **with** the believers who have *already* died; we cannot prevent (go before them) because they are *already in their eternal bodies,* but we (who remain on earth) are still in our flesh bodies. Jesus *will* descend from Heaven and *He comes to rule* the earth. It does not say that He, *or we,* will *go back up to* Heaven! Verse 17 specifically says that we, which are alive and remain (we're still in the flesh, we have not died yet), will be 'caught up together' with them in the clouds. Do you know what this means? The words '**caught up'** actually means *to sieze* (# 726). And, it comes from a word which means *to* ***take for oneself,*** i.e. *to prefer* (#138). And the prim root is means *to lift up;* by implication*, to* ***take up*** *or* ***away*** (#142). And, *where* are they taken? It says in the **air**. What does that mean? The word '**air'** means to ***breathe unconsciously***, i.e. ***respire***; and, by analogy, ***to blow*** as well as "***air***" (*as naturally circumambient*) (#109). This "air" is called the "breathe of life" that God blew into Adam to make him a living soul (Gen 2:7). Therefore, **what is being described, in 1 Thess 4:17, is the *change of body* the elect receive once they are gathered from the four corners of world**. Paul goes into *great* detail about this in the 15th chapter in his second letter to the Corinthians [which you can study here: https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Corinthians/33]. Again, the 'clouds' refer not only to a *large group* (Heb 12:1, Ezek 38:9,16) but *also a means of transportation for God* and His servants (i.e. 'holy angels'). Further, the Lord (YHVH) God Almighty has appeared **in a cloud** many, *many* times before. Consider the following…

And ***the LORD went*** *before them by day* ***in a pillar of a cloud****, to lead them the way; and by night* ***in a pillar of fire****, to give them light; to go by day and night:*
22 He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.

Ex 13:21-22

And it came to pass, that in the morning watch ***the LORD looked*** *unto the host of the Egyptians* ***through the pillar of fire and of the cloud****, and troubled the host of the Egyptians,*
Ex 14:24

And the LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee ***in a thick cloud****, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever. And Moses told the words of the people unto the LORD.*
Ex 19:9

And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the vail before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear ***in the cloud*** *upon the mercy seat.*
Lev 16:2

And the LORD came down ***in a cloud****, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease.*
Num 11:25

And the LORD came down in ***the pillar of the cloud****, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth.*
Num 12:5

And it came to pass, when the congregation was gathered against Moses and against Aaron, that they looked toward the tabernacle of the congregation: and, behold, ***the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD appeared****.*
Num 16:42

10 And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD,
11 So that the priests could not stand to minister ***because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD****.*
1 Kings 8:10-11

13 It came even to pass, ***as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD****; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good;*

*for his mercy endureth for ever: that **then the house was filled with a cloud**, even the house of the LORD;*
*14 So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: **for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.***
2 Chron 5:13-14

*The burden of Egypt. Behold, **the LORD rideth upon a swift cloud**, and shall come into Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it.*
Isa 19:1

3 The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him.
*4 And I looked, and, behold, **a whirlwind** came out of the north, **a great cloud**, and a **fire infolding itself*** (sound familiar? Moses saw this in a burning bush)*, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire.*
Ezek 1:3-4

*26 And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of **the throne** was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it.*
27 And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about.
*28 As **the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain**, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of **the glory of the LORD**. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.*
Ezek 1:26-28

*3 Now the cherubims stood on the right side of the house, **when the man went in; and the cloud filled the inner court.***
*4 Then **the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub,** and stood over the threshold of the house; **and the house was filled with the cloud**, and **the court was full of the brightness of the LORD's glory.***
5 And the sound of the cherubims' wings was heard even to the outer court, as the voice of the Almighty God when he speaketh.
Ezek 10:3-5

6 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.

7 Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth.
8 There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it.
*9 He bowed the heavens also, **and came down**: and darkness was under his feet.*
10 And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind.
*11 He made darkness his secret place; **his pavilion round about him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies.***
12 At the brightness that was before him his thick clouds passed, hail stones and coals of fire.
13 The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail stones and coals of fire.
14 Yea, he sent out his arrows, and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings, and discomfited them.
15 Then the channels of waters were seen, and the foundations of the world were discovered at thy rebuke, O LORD, at the blast of the breath of thy nostrils.
16 He sent from above, he took me, he drew me out of many waters.
17 He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me.
18 They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the LORD was my stay.
Ps 18:6-18

*Ascribe ye strength unto God: his excellency is over Israel, and **his strength is in the clouds.***
Ps 68:34

*1 Bless the LORD, O my soul. O **LORD my God**, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty.*
2 Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain:
*3 Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who **maketh the clouds his chariot**: who walketh upon the wings of the wind:*
Ps 104:1-3

9 And it shall come to pass at that day, saith the LORD, that the heart of the king shall perish, and the heart of the princes; and the priests shall be astonished, and the prophets shall wonder.
10 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! surely thou hast greatly deceived this people and Jerusalem, saying, Ye shall have peace; whereas the sword reacheth unto the soul.
11 At that time shall it be said to this people and to Jerusalem, A dry wind of the high places in the wilderness toward the daughter of my people, not to fan, nor to cleanse,
12 Even a full wind from those places shall come unto me: now also will I give sentence against them.

*13 Behold, **he shall come up as clouds**, and his chariots shall be as a whirlwind: his horses are swifter than eagles. Woe unto us! for we are spoiled.*
Jer 4:9-13

*13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like **the Son of man** came with the **clouds of heaven**, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.*
*14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and **his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.***
Dan 7:13-14

*The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and **the clouds are the dust of his feet.***
Nah 1:3

*14 **The great day of the LORD is near**, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly.*
*15 That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, **a day of clouds** and thick darkness,*
Zeph 1:14-15

Do you think 'the cloud' God 'rides in' is only in the Old Testament? Think again…

1 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,
2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.
3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.
4 Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.
*5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and **behold a voice out of the cloud**, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.*
Matt 17:1-5

Our Heavenly Father also came to earth in His flying vehicle when Jesus and a few of His apostles were on the 'mount of transfiguration'. And it's from that flying vehicle (or another one close to the Lord's vehicle) that Elijah and Moses came out of (and went back to) to speak to Jesus. It is thus 'from the cloud' (in His flying vehicle) that God testified that Jesus was His beloved Son who pleased Him so well and commanded the apostles to hear Him. And this is why, when Jesus ascended up to Heaven, He too was taken 'in a cloud'…

9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, ***he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.***
10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;
11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same ***Jesus****, which is taken up from you into heaven,* ***shall*** *so* ***come in like manner*** *as ye have seen him go into heaven.*
Acts 1:9-11

So, Jesus ascended to heaven (forty days after He literally raised from the dead) by a cloud, which covered one of those amazing flying vehicles. Yet, verse 11 also tells us that Jesus will return 'in like manner', which is why it is written…

And then shall they see the Son of man ***coming in a cloud*** *with power and great glory*.
Luke 21:27

Behold, ***he cometh with clouds****; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen*
Rev 1:7

11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.
12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven ***in a cloud****; and their enemies beheld them.*
Rev 11:11-12

14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and ***upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man****, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.*
15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.
16 And ***he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth****; and the earth was reaped.*
Rev 14:14-16

Are you starting to get the picture? **Jesus is returning *to this earth* and He does so *in a cloud***. And *nowhere* is it written that He's going to leave the earth after returning to gather 'the elect'. That's a 'tradition' made up by man… actually a sick woman in the 1830's. You can learn more about this in the *Incredible Cover-Up* by Dave MacPherson. But, the point to our study is that: Jesus Christ is returning 'in' and 'with' clouds (flying vehicles *in the air*) to gather His elect

(those who remain faithful to Him, regardless of their race or gender) for the purpose of *remaining on earth* and *governing it.* And, it's written even plainer further on in Matthew…

*21 For then **shall be great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*
22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.
*23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; **believe it not**.*
24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders (Rev 13)*; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*
25 Behold, I have told you before.
*26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; **believe it not**.*
*27 **For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.***
28 For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.
*29 Immediately **after the tribulation** of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:*
*30 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**.*
Matt 24:21-31

When Jesus Christ returns '*in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory'*, He will have His angels gather His 'elect'. Being of 'the elect' simply means you're one who God has *selected* (#1588) to serve Him in His Administration (regardless of your race or gender) *because* you refused to be a part of Satan's ungodly system (you would not take the 'mark of the beast' nor worship Satan). This is why Jesus said *ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you* (John 15:16). So, we cannot volunteer to be a part of God's Government; we can only be chosen to work for Him in that capacity. It's an honor and a privilege that only those who *remain loyal to Him* will receive *because* they could not be 'bought' (i.e. they would not sell their Christian morals out and worship false gods and idols).

So, where else does the Bible speak of Jesus gathering His elect when He returns? Still yet *many* places…

1 The mighty God, even the LORD, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof.
2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined.
3 Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him.
4 He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people.
5 ***Gather my saints together unto me****; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice.*
6 And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself. Selah.
Ps 50:1-6

Save us, O LORD our God, and ***gather us from among the heathen****, to give thanks unto thy holy name, and to triumph in thy praise.*
Ps 106:47

9 O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!
10 Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.
11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: ***he shall gather the lambs with his arm****, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.*
Isa 40:9-11

1 But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.
2 When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.
3 For ***I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour****: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee.*
4 Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.
5 Fear not: for I am with thee: ***I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west;***
6 I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth;
7 ***Even every one that is called by my name****: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.*
8 Bring forth the blind people that have eyes, and the deaf that have ears.

9 ***Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled****: who among them can declare this, and shew us former things? let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified: or let them hear, and say, It is truth.*
10 Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.
11 I, even I, am the LORD; and ***beside me there is no saviour****.*
Isa 43:1-11

7 For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but ***with great mercies will I gather thee.***
8 In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer.
Isa 54:7-8

6 Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant;
7 Even them ***will I bring to my holy mountain****, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.*
8 ***The Lord GOD which gathereth the outcasts of Israel*** *saith, Yet will* ***I gather others to him, beside those that are gathered unto him.***
Isa 56:6-8

10 Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, ***cast up the highway****; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people.*
11 Behold, the LORD hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, Say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold, ***thy salvation cometh****; behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.*
12 And they shall call them, ***The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD****: and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken.*
Isa 62:10-12

2 Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD.
3 And ***I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds;*** *and they shall be fruitful and increase.*
Jer 23:2-3

10 For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.
11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.
12 Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.
13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.
14 And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and ***I will gather you from all the nations****, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive.*
Jer 29:10-14

10 Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, ***He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.***
11 For the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he.
12 Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all.
13 Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow.
14 And I will satiate the soul of the priests with fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, saith the LORD.
Jer 31:10-14

37 Behold, ***I will gather them out of all countries****, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and* ***I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely:***
38 And they shall be my people, and I will be their God:
39 And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them:
40 And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.
41 Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul.
42 For thus saith the LORD; Like as I have brought all this great evil upon this people, ***so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them****.*
Jer 32:37-42

14 Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

15 Son of man, thy brethren, even thy brethren, the men of thy kindred, and all the house of Israel wholly, are they unto whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, Get you far from the LORD: unto us is this land given in possession.
16 Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come.
*17 Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; **I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.***
18 And they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable things thereof and all the abominations thereof from thence.
19 And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:
20 That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.
21 But as for them whose heart walketh after the heart of their detestable things and their abominations, I will recompense their way upon their own heads, saith the Lord GOD.
22 Then did the cherubims lift up their wings, and the wheels beside them; and the glory of the God of Israel was over them above.
23 And the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city, and stood upon the mountain which is on the east side of the city.
24 Afterwards the spirit took me up, and brought me in a vision by the Spirit of God into Chaldea, to them of the captivity. So the vision that I had seen went up from me.
25 Then I spake unto them of the captivity all the things that the LORD had shewed me.
Ezek 11:14-25

*33 As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, and **with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you:***
*34 And **I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered,** with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out.*
35 And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face.
36 Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD.
*37 And **I will cause you to pass under the rod**, and **I will bring you** **into the bond of the covenant:***
38 And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.
Ezek 20:33-38

*12 I will surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee; **I will surely gather the remnant of Israel**; I will put them together as the sheep of Bozrah, as the flock in the midst of their fold: they shall make great noise by reason of the multitude of men.*
Mic 2:12

*6 **In that day**, saith the LORD, will I assemble her that halteth, and **I will gather her that is driven out,** and her that I have afflicted;*
7 And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever.
Mic 4:6-7

18 I will gather them that are sorrowful for the solemn assembly, who are of thee, to whom the reproach of it was a burden.
19 Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee: and I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame.
*20 At that time will I bring you again, even in **the time that I gather you**: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, **when I turn back your captivity** before your eyes, saith the LORD.*
Zeph 3:18-20

7 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country;
*8 **And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem**: and <u>they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.</u>*
Zech 8:7-8

11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:
*12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and **gather his wheat into the garner**; <u>but</u> he will <u>burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire</u>.*
Matt 3:11-12

47 Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles.
48 If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.
49 And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all,

50 Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.
51 And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation;
52 And not for that nation only, but ***that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.***
John 11:47-52

7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;
8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;
9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:
10 ***That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:***
11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:
12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.
13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,
14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.
Eph 1:7-14

25 Behold, I have told you before.
26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.
27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.
28 For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.
29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:
30 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.
Matt 24:25-31

However, it's not just God's 'elect' (those who remain faithful to Him) that are gathered, the wicked ones on earth are also gathered…

37…He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;
38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;
39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.
40 As ***therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world****.*
41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;
42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.
43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.
Matt 13:37-43

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.
6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and ***cast them into the fire, and they are burned****.*
John 15:5-6

47 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:
48 Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and ***gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.***
49 So shall it be at the end of the world: ***the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,***
50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.
Matt 13:47-50

And yet, it's not just the faithful 'elect' of Jesus Christ and the wicked rulers (and fallen angels) on earth that will be gathered, all other people will be too…

1Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.
2 ***For I will gather*** [#622, means to destroy fully!] ***all nations against Jerusalem to battle****; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.*
3 ***Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle****.*

*4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and **the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst** thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a **very great valley**; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.*
5 And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.
6 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark:
7 But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light.
8 And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.
9 And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.
Zech 14:1-9

15 For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire.
16 For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.
17 They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one tree in the midst, eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the LORD.
*18 For I know their works and their thoughts: it shall come, that **I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory.***
Isa 66:15-18

*8 Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for **my determination is to gather the nations**, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.*
*9 For **then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.***
Zeph 3:8-9

31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:
*32 And **before him shall be gathered all nations**: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:*
33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:…
… 41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:…
…46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.
Matt 25: 31-34, 41-46

So, we're told (in many Scriptures) that 'the elect' will be gathered when Jesus returns (Mth 13, 24, 25, etc., etc.) but we're given many Scriptures that *also* tell us *all* other people will be gathered too (even the really wicked ones). And what for? For the 'judgment of Christ', as it is written in 2 Cor 5:10: *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad*. And so, as Matt 13:49 says, *the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just*. And, while the wicked will be 'cast them into a furnace of fire' (Matt 13:42) that's won't happen until the end of the Millennium, when they are totally blotted out of existence, after the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev 20:10-15). But, they *will* be put in prison when Jesus returns, after they are judged, as it is written…

21 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth.
22 And ***they shall be gathered together****,* ***as prisoners are gathered in the pit****, and* ***shall be shut up in the prison****, and* ***after many days shall they be visited****.* ['visited' means to be judged and that happens at the end of the Millennium, Rev 20:10-15]
23 Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously.
Isa 24:21-23

So, the truly wicked people will be gathered up and put in prison (even Satan himself, Rev 20:1-3) while all others will be gathered and organized for the Millennial teachings. And what of God's elect? As we've learned, they will also be gathered *and brought to Jesus Christ*, who will be ruling from Jerusalem, after He cleanses it (Zech 8:7-8). We've covered a multitude of Scriptures to prove this point, but we should understand that 1 Thess 4:17 is not speaking of any 'rapture' but rather, it's explaining what also happens to the 'elect' when Jesus Christ returns. You see, after Jesus Christ returns to earth (and He's coming to stay and rule forevermore) and gathers all people, His 'elect' will be brought to Him for the purpose of giving them eternal life (1 Thes 4:17; Rev 20:4-6; 1 Cor 15:50-57; Col 3:4, etc.) and delegating their duties for the Millennial teaching period (Ezek 44:23-24; Jer 23; Ezek 34) so they can then *get to work* in their new duties for the Millennium. Since they are in Jesus' worldwide government, they will be given 'security clearance' to the great city of Jerusalem *where Jesus will be ruling from*. Thus, Jerusalem will be the capital (headquarters) from which Jesus Christ, and His righteous

government (the Body of Christ) will rule from, forevermore. This is not a fairy tale… it is REALITY. In closing, give some thought on what the definition of 'rapture' really is: (1) an expression or manifestation of ecstasy or passion (2) a state or experience of being carried away by overwhelming emotion (3) a mystical experience in which the spirit is exalted to a knowledge of divine things… none of these meanings of 'rapture' point to being grounded upon the truth, which is God's Word (John 17:17) as we should be. If we believe in 'fairy tales' then our faith is truly on quite shaky ground…

21 ***Not every one that saith unto me****, Lord, Lord,* ***shall enter into the kingdom of heaven****; but he that* ***doeth*** *the will of my Father which is in heaven.*
22 ***Many will say to me in that day****, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*
23 And ***then will I profess unto them, I never knew you****:* ***depart from me****,* ***ye that work iniquity.***
24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, ***and doeth them****, I will liken him unto a wise man,* ***which built his house upon a rock****:*
25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and ***it fell not****: for* ***it was founded upon a rock****.* [Deut 32:4; 1 Cor 10:4]
26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, ***and doeth them not****, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which* ***built his house upon the sand****:*
27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and ***it fell****: and* ***great was the fall of it.***
Matt 7:21-27

So, if you are not founded (mentally or emotionally) upon God's Word (which is the Rock) then your Christian morals are truly on 'shaky ground' because you really don't know God's Word. And, if you really don't know God's Word then you cannot stand for – or upon – it, can you?

26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.
27 And this word, Yet once more, signifieth ***the removing of those things that are shaken****, as of things that are made,* ***that those things which cannot be shaken may remain****.*
28 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.
Heb 12:26-29

So, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will indeed be coming 'in a cloud', which not only means His flying vehicle that has a cloud round about it, but also with many others (His faithful servants who have already passed on from the flesh body), who also come with Jesus, in a flying vehicle. In Heb 12:1, Paul clearly shows us that the word 'cloud' is also used (as a figure of

speech) to refer to a large group of people. So, in every sense, Jesus will return 'in a cloud' – i.e. the cloud that surrounds His magnificent flying vehicle and 'with clouds' which are His many faithful servants who are also in flying vehicles. And they won't be coming to 'fly' people away from the earth, but to *take full control* (dominion) *over the earth*, forevermore. For more documentation on this, check out the following studies…

You Will See Clouds and Wheels, Part 1 https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/392
You Will See Clouds and Wheels, Part 2 https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/393
Flying Upon the Wings of the Wind https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Ezekiel/764

So, let's close with a strong warning from our Lord and Savor…

1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and ***by our gathering together unto him,***
2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.
3 ***Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition****;*
4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that ***he as God sitteth in the temple of God****, shewing himself that he is God.*
5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?
6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.
7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.
8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:
9 Even him, ***whose coming is after the working of Satan*** *with all power and signs and lying wonders,*
10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; ***because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.***
11 And for this cause God ***shall send them strong delusion****, that they should believe a lie:*
12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.
13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:
14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
2 Thess 2:1-14

To learn more about this warning from Paul (above) and why it's so vital to understand how Jesus Christ will truly be returning to earth, check out the three-part series on 'Apostasy'…

The Apostasy – Part 1 https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/499
The Apostasy – Part 2 https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/500
The Apostasy – Part 3 https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/501

So, let's remember that, studying God's Word is not 'in vain' so long as you are sincerely seeking the truth for yourself and not the traditions of man, which actually make God's Word useless to you (Mth 15; Mk 7) because they are *not true* [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/212]. The following studies help to remind us of this very fact…

Your Labor Is Not In Vain – Part 1 https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/502
Your Labor Is Not In Vain – Part 2 https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/503

So, while many Christians are waiting for an escape [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/334] that will never come, those who are serious are studying God's word in 'sincerity and truth' and working to serve the Lord until He returns, just as He said to (Mth 25:14-30). The parable of the 'ten virgins' [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/286] perfectly explains the difference between those who *call* themselves Christians verses those who *really are*…

***Blessed** is he that readeth, and they that **hear** the words of this prophecy, **and keep** those things which are written therein: **for the time is at hand**.*
Rev 1:3

AMEN.