“DOWN HE COMES, UP WE GO”
SERIES

“THE KING COMES DOWN”

WEEK 1

WORD

"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..."

1 Thessalonians 4:16
(Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13–5:11 for context)

SPARKS

- What is something you always try to keep ready because you never know when you might need it?
- Have you ever received good news after a long season of waiting? How did it feel?
- If you could spend an entire day with someone you haven't seen in a long time, who would it be and what would you do together?

Have you ever wondered what will happen when King Jesus returns?
In his letter to the Thessalonian church, Paul addressed believers who were experiencing persecution and had questions about Christians who had already died. They wanted to understand what would happen when Jesus returned and what it meant for those who had fallen asleep in Christ.
Paul reminded them that the return of Jesus is not just a future event to speculate about. It is a promise that gives believers hope, direction, and a reason to live differently today.
The return of the King changes how we live, how we face sorrow, and what we look forward to. So, what will happen when King Jesus returns?

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1. JESUS WILL COME DOWN.

1 Thessalonians 4:16
'16 ***For the Lord himself will come down from heaven,*** *with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel..."*

Jesus is coming again, and His return will be personal and unexpected. Paul reminds the believers in 1 Thessalonians 5:1–3 that no one knows the exact time or date of His coming. Just as a thief comes unexpectedly, the Day of the Lord will catch many people unprepared.
Because Jesus is coming again, we must not live carelessly or become distracted by the things of this world. Staying awake means being spiritually alert, faithful, and intentional in our walk with God. We should live each day ready to meet our King, not waiting until tomorrow to take our relationship with Him seriously. If Jesus could return at any moment, is there anything in the way you live today that you would want to change?

1

2. THE DEAD WILL RISE UP.

1 Thessalonians 4:16
'16 ...and with the trumpet call of God, and ***the dead in Christ will rise first."***

One of the concerns of the Thessalonian believers was what would happen to Christians who had already died before Jesus returned. Paul assured them that those who died in Christ would not be left behind or forgotten. In fact, the dead in Christ will rise first!
This is the wonderful hope we have in Jesus. Death is not the end for those who belong to Him. As Paul explains in 1 Corinthians 15:51–52, the dead will be raised imperishable, and believers will be changed in the twinkling of an eye.
We grieve when we lose someone we love, and our sorrow is real, but we do not grieve without hope. Because Jesus conquered death, we have the assurance that those who died in Christ will also be raised.
Our hope is not based on wishful thinking but on the promise of the One who has already defeated the grave. When life brings disappointment, loss, or uncertainty, how does the promise of resurrection change the way you face those moments?

2

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3. THE SAINTS WILL BE CAUGHT UP

1 Thessalonians 4:17
"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."***

What a glorious day it will be when Jesus returns! Those who are still alive in Christ will be caught up together with those who have been raised from the dead to meet the Lord in the air.
But the greatest part of this promise is not simply being caught up into the clouds. It is being with Jesus forever! In John 17:24, Jesus expressed His desire for His followers to be with Him and see His glory. This shows us that being with Christ is at the heart of our eternal hope.
Our ultimate expectation is not just about what will happen in the sky, but about the joy of being in the presence of our Savior.
This is what makes our future so wonderful. One day, we will no longer experience separation, suffering, or the struggles of this present life. We will be with the Lord forever. Until that day comes, we have every reason to live with anticipation and hope. Are you more excited about the things you hope to receive when Jesus returns, or about being with Jesus Himself?

3

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LIVE IT!

- Make your relationship with God a daily priority, not just something you turn to when you need help.
- Bring your grief and disappointments to God instead of allowing them to take away your hope.
- Live with eternity in mind when making decisions about your time, relationships, and resources.

PRAYER

- Thank God for the promise that Jesus is coming again and that His return is certain.
- Ask God to comfort those who are grieving the loss of loved ones and remind them of the hope we have in Christ.
- Declare our hope and expectation in Christ, choosing to remain faithful until the day He comes.

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