

*Hello! This is Dorothy -*

Have you lost a loved one? Have you felt great sorrow because that one has gone? I do not know whether that loved one knew the Lord and went to be with Him, but even so, there is that great wondering about what it is all about. The Word of God assures us that if that person really trusted Him as their Saviour that we will meet again. In fact, **1 Corinthians 15: 51 to 58** is a place in the Bible that you should turn to and you should read to have comfort in seeing that God gives an order of how this is all going to happen. He also gives a similar order in **1 Thessalonians 4:15 to 18**. For it says there -

**15 For this we say unto you by the Word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming. . . - and that word is the parousia - . . . the coming of the Lord shall not precede. . . - that means shall not go before - those who are asleep.**

**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.** These are amazing Scriptures!

It was only after I received Jesus as my personal Saviour that I had this tremendous burden to see my loved ones come to know Him. You see, it was because Christ had come in my life as the Soul Winner, that I had a burden that other people needed to know Him, too. In fact, it is a tremendous evidence if you have this burden for lost ones around you that He lives in your heart and life. It is His indwelling life and it is His love. Therefore, He is the Soul Winner and He wants to see them saved, so start not only praying for them but thanking God they are going to be reached. It is His burden; He is doing this work.

But what is this **coming**? . . . **we who are alive and remain unto the coming** - *the perousia*. What is it about? There is a great deal of difference in the coming *for* and the coming *with*. There is also a contrast in the meeting *in the air* to the Second Coming of our Messiah *to the earth* to set up His kingdom at the end of the Tribulation period. Therefore, it is very important that we read and see and know the difference in our hearts and expectations. *The Rapture* speaks of the very verse - . . . **comfort one another with these words**. But our Lord's *Second Coming* to the earth brings judgment upon all nations who come against His people, Israel. His people to whom He came did not receive Him at His First Coming, but they will when He comes at His Second Coming. But, before that time, it will be a very terrible hour upon the face of this earth and a very terrible time for His people,

Israel.

In **Matthew 24:3**, the disciples asked our Lord -

**3 . . . Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming. . . - Your perousia - . . . and the consummation of the age.** *When is it all going to happen?* This question set off what we call the Olivet Discourse, which is recorded not only in **chapter 24**, but also in **chapter 25**. Jesus says in **chapter 24, verse 27 - For the lightening cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming. . . the perousia - . . . of the Son of men be.** His disciples associated His Second Coming with the termination of that age or dispensation in which they lived. It was to be the beginning of a new period of time, preceded by an heraldic sign. They were looking for the sign announcing the coming of the King of kings and Lord of lords. Now God is going to give this sign not when we who know and love Him are here, but at the end of the Tribulation. The back-drop of what is going to happen is terrifying. For all the earth dwellers - could you imagine - God is going to literally turn out all the lights: the sun, the moon, the stars; the world is going to be in utter darkness. God sets the stage in this total blackout. And suddenly, we read, the sign, the Son of man, the Lord Jesus Christ will burst into view as He approaches the earth. And we read in the midst of a fiery cloud by which He led Israel in the wilderness, and how He led the Magi to the place where He tabernacled as a child. He is going to come

and He is going to come as the sign, and all the world is going to see and know it is the One who is God Himself; the One Who made the heavens and the earth; the One they have rebelled against; the One who they have fought and hated because they would not let Him come and live within their lives.

All I can say is for you today - receive Him; adore Him, Jesus. Make Him your Lord even now that you might go up with Him in the air.

*Amen.*