

Rev Ian Paisley
Former 1st Minister of
Northern Ireland



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*“Madam,
teeth will be provided!”*





Sunday Service @ 10.30am

The End Times

6 weeks in 1 Thessalonians





The Rapture?
(what IS a rapture?)

1 Thessalonians Ch 4, v14-17

For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 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, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

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.

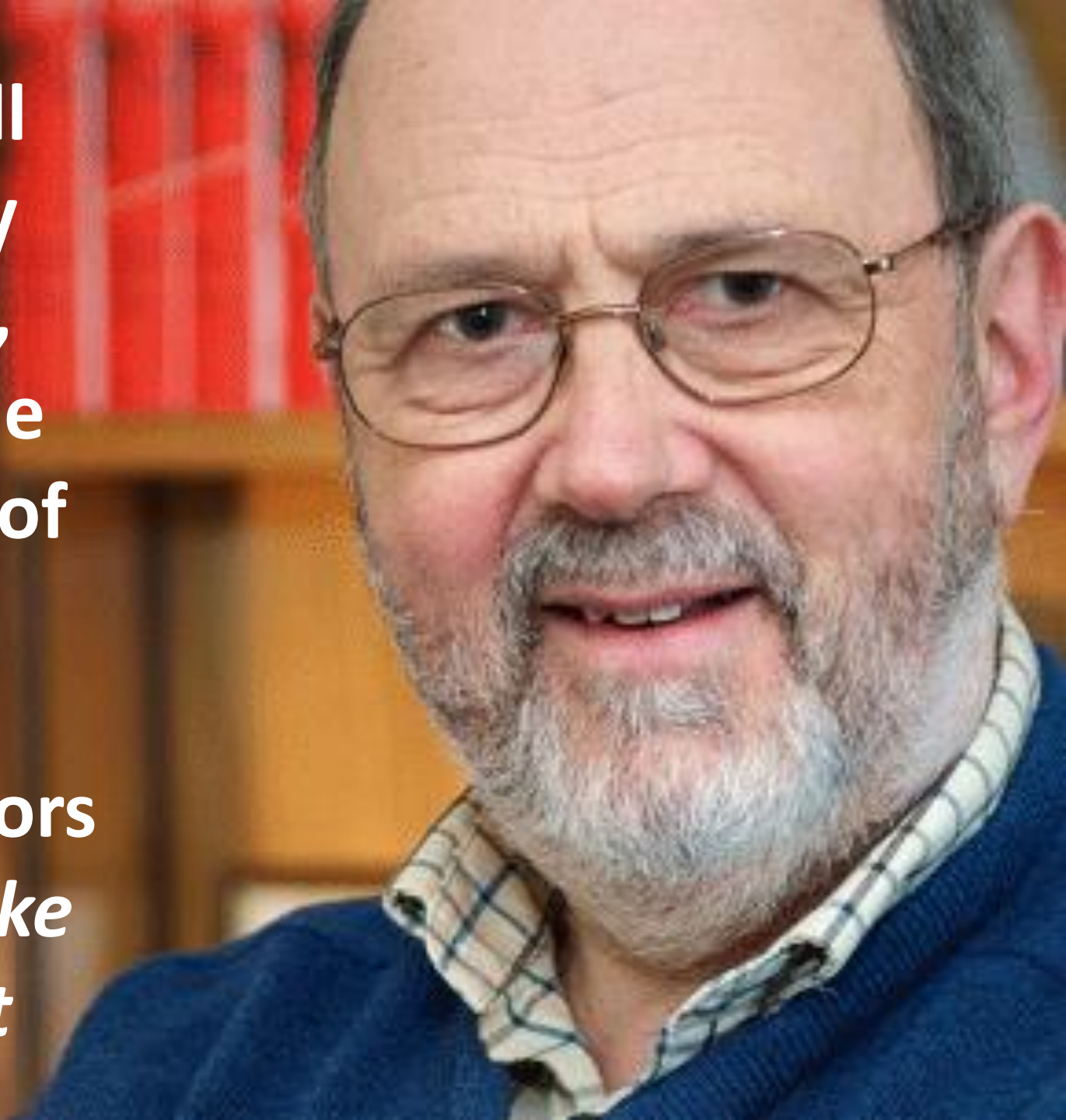


Clouds used as symbols for God's magnificence presence

- **Psalm 10** He lays the beams of his chambers on the waters; he makes the clouds his chariot; he rides on the wings of the wind
- **Isaiah 19.1** Behold, the Lord is riding on a swift cloud and comes to Egypt; and the idols of Egypt will tremble at his presence
- **Daniel 7** "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven"

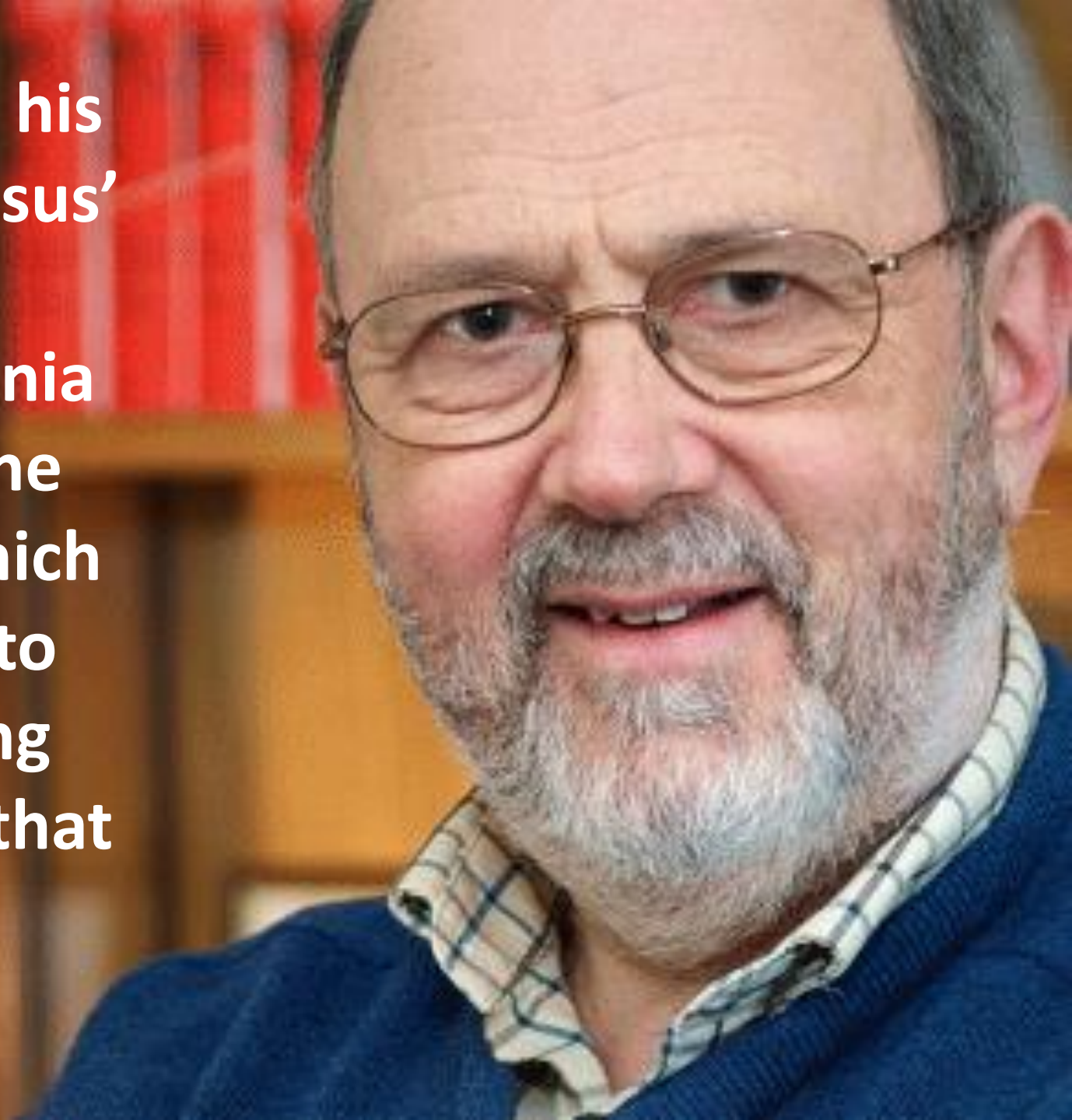
“Paul isn’t saying that all these things will literally happen like this. Rather, we simply don’t have the language for the return of Jesus – we run out of words so we can only resort to mixed metaphors ... *It will be something like this*”

N.T. Wright



“Little did Paul know how his colourful metaphors for Jesus’ second coming would be misunderstood two millennia later, most mistakenly in the Left Behind series ... in which believers are snatched up to heaven, leaving kids coming home from school to find that their parents have been taken”.

N.T. Wright





**What happens
to everyone else?**



**What do we take away
from all this**



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Hope & Holiness in a Hostile World
6 weeks in 1 Thessalonians