Chapter 24. Other Passages Quoted from St. Paul, Which Categorically Assert the Resurrection of the Flesh at the Final Judgment.

The character of these times learn, along with the Thessalonians. For we read: How you turned from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 And again: For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even you in the presence of our Lord God, Jesus Christ, at His coming? Likewise: Before God, even our Father, at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, with the whole company of His saints. 1 Thessalonians 3:13 He teaches them that they must not sorrow concerning them that are asleep, and at the same time explains to them the times of the resurrection, saying, For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus shall God bring with Him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of our Lord, shall not prevent them that are asleep. 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: 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 be ever with the Lord. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

Chapter 25. St. John, in the Apocalypse, Equally Explicit in Asserting the Same Great Doctrine.

“In the Revelation of John, again, the order of these times is spread out to view, which the souls of the martyrs are taught to wait for beneath the altar, while they earnestly pray to be avenged and judged: Revelation 6:9-10 (taught, I say, to wait), in order that the world may first drink to the dregs the plagues that await it out of the vials of the angels, Revelation xvi and that the city of fornication may receive from the ten kings its deserved doom, Revelation xviii and that the beast Antichrist with his false prophet may wage war on the Church of God;” 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 What archangel's voice, (I wonder), what trump of God is now heard, except it be, forsooth, in the entertainments of the heretics? For, allowing that the word of the gospel may be called the trump of God, since it was still calling men, yet they must at that time either be dead as to the body, that they may be able to rise again; and then how are they alive? Or else caught up into the clouds; and how then are they here? Most miserable, no doubt, as the apostle declared them, are they who in this life only shall be found to have hope”


Chapter 25. St. John, in the Apocalypse, Equally Explicit in Asserting the Same Great Doctrine.

“... and shall give their kingdom to the beast(Antichrist), and put the Church to flight.”

What the Early Church taught about end times and about the Church being persecuted by the Antichrist during the tribulation.

Irenaeus 2nd Century Against Heresies V, XXVI, verse 1. from Early Church Ante-Nicene Fathers says to the Church in his writings to clarify against heresies about the antichrist that the antichrist according to the prophecy of John to the Lords disciples (Rev17:-12-14) that the disciples are to be prepared to be persecuted by the antichrist according to the prophecy mentioned. In Irenaeus's writing he is quoted speaking about these verses saying "... and shall give their kingdom to the beast(Antichrist), and put the Church to flight.”
Watchfulness ; The coming of the Lord

"1. Watch for your life’s sake. Let not your lamps be quenched, nor your loins unloosed; but be ye ready, for ye know not the hour in which our Lord cometh. 2. But often shall ye come together, seeking the things which are befitting to your souls: for the whole time of your faith will not profit you, if ye be not made perfect in the last time. 3. For in the last days false prophets and corrupters shall be multiplied, and the sheep shall be turned into wolves, and love shall be turned into hate; 4. for when lawlessness increaseth, they shall hate and persecute and betray one another, and the world-deceiver as the Son of God, and shall do signs and wonders, and the earth shall be delivered into his hands, and he shall do iniquitous things which have never yet come to pass since the beginning.

5. Then shall the creation of men come into the fire of trial, and many shall be made to stumble and shall perish; but they that endure in their faith shall be saved from under the curse itself. 6. And then shall appear the signs of the truth; first, the sign of an out-spreading in heaven; then the sign of the sound of the trumpet; and the third, the resurrection of the dead; 7. yet not of all, but as it is said: The Lord shall come and all His saints with Him. 8. Then shall the world see the Lord coming upon the clouds of heaven."

Notice the Apostles taught the World Deceiver (Antichrist) would appear before the Resurrection mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

Note the Reference to the Resurrection verses are stated as 1 Thessalonians 4:17 and 1 Corinthians 15.
Cyril of Jerusalem was a distinguished theologian of the early Church (ca. 313–386)

On the Clause, And Shall Come in Glory to Judge the Quick and the Dead; Of Whose Kingdom There Shall Be No End.

Catechetical Lecture 15 or XV

“4. For he saith, Watch, for in such an hour as ye expect not the Son of Man cometh. But since it was needful for us to know the signs of the end, and since we are looking for Christ, therefore, that we may not die deceived and be led astray by that false Antichrist, “

“12. But this aforesaid Antichrist is to come when the times of the Roman empire shall have been fulfilled, and the end of the world is now drawing near. There shall rise up together ten kings of the Romans, reigning in different parts perhaps, but all about the same time; and after these an eleventh, the Antichrist, who by his magical craft shall seize upon the Roman power; and of the kings who reigned before him, three he shall humble, and the remaining seven he shall keep in subjection to himself. At first indeed he will put on a show of mildness (as though he were a learned and discreet person), and of sobriety and benevolence: and by the lying signs and wonders of his magical deceit having beguiled the Jews, as though he were the expected Christ, he shall afterwards be characterized by all kinds of crimes of inhumanity and lawlessness, so as to outdo all unrighteous and ungodly men who have gone before him; displaying against all men, but especially against us Christians, a spirit murderous and most cruel, merciless and crafty. And after perpetrating such things for three years and six months only, he shall be destroyed by the glorious second advent from heaven of the only-begotten Son of God, our Lord and Saviour Jesus, the true Christ, who shall slay Antichrist with the breath of His mouth, and shall deliver him over to the fire of hell.

13. Now these things we teach, not of our own invention, but having learned them out of the divine Scriptures used in the Church” [http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/ncpf207.ii.xix.html]

Note: the Antichrist will come “against us Christians” before the Resurrection occurs.

The First Epistle of Clement, 23 (written around 96 A.D. by Clement, a prominent leader of the church at Rome who knew some of the apostles personally and probably is the Clement referred to in:

Phl. 4:3 And I intreat thee also, true yoke fellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellow labourers, whose names are in the book of life.

This quote from in Ante-Nicene Fathers The Writings of the Fathers Down to A.D. 325 – the Epistle of Clement pages 236-237 shows that Clement followed the same view on theology of the Resurrection taught to him by the Apostle Paul in the eschatology of the event of the Resurrection being after tribulation and applied in 1 Thess 4:13-18. This is the same event as the Resurrection by Clements own terminology we have to conclude that the event being described is indeed the Resurrection and not something else and this will be confirmed in Clements description in the same pages quoted above. We cannot place the Resurrection at another time in eschatology.
even in the times of our fathers: but behold, we have grown old, and none of them has happened unto us;” Ye foolish ones! compare yourselves to a tree; take [for instance] the vine. First of all, it sheds its leaves, then it buds, next it puts forth leaves, and then it flowers; after that comes the sour grape, and then follows the ripened fruit. Ye perceive how in a little time the fruit of a tree comes to maturity. Of a truth, soon and suddenly shall His will be accomplished, as the Scripture also bears witness, saying, “Speedily will He come, and will not tarry;” and, “The Lord shall suddenly come to His temple, even the Holy One, for whom ye look.”

CHAP. XXIV. — GOD CONTINUALLY SHOWS US IN NATURE THAT THERE WILL BE A RESURRECTION.

Let us consider, beloved, how the Lord continually proves to us that there shall be a future resurrection, of which He has rendered the Lord Jesus Christ the first-fruits by raising Him from the dead. Let us contemplate, beloved, the resurrection which is at all times taking place. Day and night declare to us a resurrection. The night sinks to sleep, and the day arises; the day [again] departs, and the night comes on. Let us behold the fruits of the earth, how the sowing of grain takes place. The sower goes forth, and casts it into the ground, and the seed being thus scattered, though dry and naked when it fell upon the earth, is gradually dissolved. Then out of its dissolution the mighty power of the providence of the Lord raises it up again, and from one seed many arise and bring forth fruit.

CHAP. XXVI. — WE SHALL RISE AGAIN, THEN, AS THE SCRIPTURE ALSO TESTIFIES.

Do we then deem it any great and wonderful thing for the Maker of all things to raise up again those that have piously served Him in the assurance of a good faith, when even by a bird He shows us the mightiness of His power to fulfill His promise? For [the Scripture] saith in a certain place, “Thou shalt raise me up, and I shall confess unto Thee”; and again, “I laid me down, and slept”; “I awaked, because Thou art with me”; and again, Job says, “Thou shalt raise up this flesh of mine, which has suffered all these things.”

CHAP. XXVII. — IN THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION, LET US CLEAVE TO THE OMNIPOTENT AND OMNISCIENT GOD.

Having then this hope, let our souls be bound to Him who is faithful in His promises, and just in His judgments. He who has commanded us not to lie, shall much more Himself not lie; for nothing is impossible with God, except to lie. Let His faith therefore be stirred up again within us, and let us consider that all things are nigh unto Him. By the word of His might He established all things, and by His word He can overthrow them. “Who shall say unto Him, What hast thou done? or, Who shall resist

Note the Author Clement brings the terms talking about the description of the Resurrection about being raised up, the terminology of sleeping and being awakened from the sleep and in Chapter XXVII Clement says this is the hope of the Resurrection at the Second Coming of Christ.

Now the Scriptures to confirm the terminology and terminology.

1 Th 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

Apostle Paul begins to stress the importance of this hope of the resurrection to the believers in same terminology that Clement is using.

1 Th 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him

1 Th 4:15 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 them which are asleep.
1Th 4:16 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:**

This is clearly representing the Resurrection in the context of the scripture trying to teach anything contrary to this adding other events is Eisigesis and it is heresy.

1Th 4:17 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.

“Together with them“ With who? Together with those Resurrected

This is the comfort to believers is they will be raised from the dead the same hope mentioned in v.13

1Th 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

[Diagram]

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