

R 10

to this earth in physical form. That is certainly taught in Acts 1:11 specifically, but whether you would get a hint of a chronological order here in this verse, that the Lord descends from heaven with a shout; that is, the Lord leaves heaven and comes to this earth; He descends. He to this earth.

the archangel and the trump of God, and then after He has this earth, the dead in Christ rise first and then we which are alive and remain are caught up together with Him in the clouds, but it can't mean that because we meet the Lord up in the air, and therefore either, if it is descending to earth, this particular word would have to mean a complete process in the midst of which we come, a general statement into which which is a little bit, or if " " simply means to go along the road and doesn't necessarily mean to come down to the earth, it can mean that the Lord moves away from the heaven where He is now, the place where His body is at present. He moves away from there in the direction of this earth, but it doesn't mean just how far He is coming, this particular word, but I think that we would be most likely, in view of the word and also in view of the fact that in v. 17 when the Church meets Him He is not on the earth.

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R 11

~~Yes, -- But if the Lord came while he was living he would be one of the "we".~~

We have noticed, then, that the big thing that Paul is trying to do is to comfort the people, that they needn't fear that they will be ahead of the ones which are asleep. Now that seems rather strange to us today. Somebody is apt to say today, "Well, now, so-and-so died and he is with the Lord. We are in the imperfections of this earthly state; he is with the Lord. While we sorrow for people, we are not apt to, most of us, sorrow for them as losing something of religious value. We're more apt to think of them as from that viewpoint being better off than we are here upon this earth. I remember a story they told