

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2 - **Now on the topic of times and seasons**, brothers and sisters, you have no need for anything to be written to you. 2 For you know quite well that the day of the Lord will come in the same way as a thief in the night.

- The Thessalonians had just been introduced to the coming (Parousia) of the Lord in **Chap. 4:13-18**, when the saints will be caught up (raptured) to meet the Lord in the air
- Although it's not specifically said, the next logical question is "when?"
- So even before the question could be asked, Paul gives the believers in Thessalonica the answer
- When will the rapture occur?
- **V. 1** – Nothing needs to be written to them concerning the times and seasons when this event will occur
- **V.2** - The rapture will take place when the Day of the Lord begins

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2 - Now on the topic of times and seasons, brothers and sisters, you have no need for anything to be written to you. 2 For you know quite well that **the day of the Lord** will come in the same way as a thief in the night.

- What is the **Day of the Lord**?
- The Day of the Lord is a biblical expression to refer to God's judgement
- It's a time when God's wrath will be poured out on the ungodly
- Before God's wrath gets poured out, believers will be raptured (removed)

- The Day of the Lord was a common theme in the Old Testament
- The prophets Joel, Isaiah, Obadiah, Zephaniah, and Amos all wrote about it
- Most of the passages have a near-far fulfillment in prophecy
- Where a portion of the passage seems to be fulfilled soon after, but a complete fulfillment will happen in the future when Jesus returns
- The book of Joel is almost entirely about the Day of the Lord

Joel and Isaiah on the Day of the Lord

- A locust plague is invading Israel, which Joel uses to prefigure the invasion of the Assyrians and Babylonians
- Joel also uses it to foreshadow the Day of the Lord

Joel 2:1-11

Isaiah 2:10-22

- In that day, the ungodly will not repent
- **V. 11** – Only the Lord will be exalted
- **V. 12-18** – The world's greatest achievements will be destroyed
- **V. 10; 19** – People will hide from the Lord and His glory when He returns

Joel and Isaiah on the Day of the Lord

Matthew 24:29-31 - “Immediately after the suffering of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven will be shaken. 30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, **and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man arriving on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.** 31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet blast, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Isaiah 13:6-13

- Notice the Day of the Lord’s wrath happens at the same time as the signs in the sun, moon, and stars are given for the Lord’s return and rapture of the saints
- The rapture of believers and the Day of the Lord’s wrath happen at the same time

The Rapture and Day of the Lord as back to back events

- There is a pattern in scripture of God rescuing His people just before He executes judgement on the wicked
- **Luke 17:22-27**
- **V. 22** - The days are coming when you will desire to see the full manifestation of Jesus' power in a fully established kingdom
- **V. 26- 27a.** – Jesus likens unbelievers at the time of the flood to unbelievers at the time of his second coming
- They were going on with everyday affairs, oblivious to God's coming wrath
- Notice it's not pointing out sinful things (**1 Thessalonians 5:3** - While people are saying, There is peace and security, then sudden destruction will come upon them)
- **V. 27b.** – The same day Noah entered the ark, the flood began
- Noah and his family entered the ark, the door was shut, and God's wrath was poured out

The Rapture and Day of the Lord as back to back events

- To make sure he is not misunderstood, Jesus emphasizes the point even more when He describes the days of Lot
- **Luke 17:28-35**
- **V. 28** – Just like in the days of Noah, people were unaware and unprepared for God’s coming judgement
- **V. 29** – “but on the day...” Lot is delivered, God’s wrath is poured out
- **V. 30** – “so will it be on the day...”
- **V. 31** – “On that day,...”
- **V. 32-35**

The Rapture and Day of the Lord as back to back events

2 Thessalonians 1:5-10 – This is **evidence of God's righteous judgment**, to make you worthy of the kingdom of God, for which in fact you are suffering. 6 For it is right for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to you who are being afflicted to give rest together with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels. 8 With flaming fire he will mete out punishment on those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will undergo the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his strength, 10 when he comes to be glorified among his saints and admired on that day among all who have believed...

- There is no delay between the rapture of believers and God's judgement on unbelievers
- It all happens in one, big event at Jesus's coming
- **Revelation 6:9-8:6**

1 Thessalonians 5:1-5 – Now on the topic of times and seasons, brothers and sisters, you have no need for anything to be written to you. 2 For you know quite well that the day of the Lord will come in the same way as a **thief** in the night. 3 Now when they are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction comes on them, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will surely not escape. 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in the darkness for the day to overtake you like a **thief** would. 5 For you all are sons of the light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of the darkness.

- **V. 3** – Like in the days of Noah and Lot, the wrath of God will come upon the ungodly suddenly and unexpectedly
- It will be like a woman in labor that cannot postpone or escape the labor pains
- The ungodly will be unprepared, like when a thief breaks into your house in the middle of the night
- **V. 4** – But you (believers)...

Matthew 24:36-44 – “But as for that day and hour no one knows it—not even the angels in heaven—except the Father alone. 37 For just like the days of Noah were, so the coming of the Son of Man will be. 38 For in those days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark. 39 And they knew nothing until the flood came and took them all away. It will be the same at the coming of the Son of Man...

42 “Therefore stay alert because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the **thief** was coming, he would have been alert and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 Therefore you also must be ready because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

- We are not like the ungodly
- We are alive and awake, and we are called to be ready for Christ’s coming

2 Peter 3:10 – But **the day of the Lord** will come like a **thief**; when it comes, the heavens will disappear with a horrific noise, and the celestial bodies will melt away in a blaze, and the earth and every deed done on it will be laid bare.

Revelation 3:3 – Therefore, **remember what you received and heard, and obey it, and repent**. If you do not **wake up**, I will come like **a thief**, and you will never know at what hour I will come against you.

1 Thessalonians 5:5-8 – For you all are sons of the light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of the darkness. 6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep **awake** and be **sober**. 7 For those who **sleep**, sleep at night, and those who get **drunk**, are drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

- **V. 5** – Since we are sons of the day, we are **NOT** sons of darkness
- The people of the night are going to experience the wrath of God
- We do not want to experience that, and we won't, because we sons of the day

- Be **awake (not sleep)** and be **sober (not drunk)**
- Sleep and drunkenness are ways to lose touch with the reality in which you live
- Our reality is we are not going to face God's wrath, so we need to act like it and stay spiritually awake and sober

Matthew 24:42-43 – Therefore, **stay awake**, for you do not know on what **day your Lord is coming**. 43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have **stayed awake** and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 Therefore you also must be ready,

Luke 12:43-46 - Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing **when he comes**. 44 Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. 45 But if that servant says to himself, My master is delayed in coming, and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get **drunk**, 46 the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the **unfaithful**.

- Being spiritually asleep and drunk are ways to fail being found **faithful** when the Lord returns
- How do we stay spiritually awake and sober so we can be found faithful?

1 Peter 5:8-9 – Be **sober-minded**; be **watchful**. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

- Peter is not talking about the second coming
- Here, being spiritually sober and awake are ways to defend attacks from our adversary in the reality that we daily live

1 Thessalonians 5:8 - But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

- Since we belong to the day, here's armor to protect us in battle against our adversary
- Breastplate to protect the heart
- Helmet to protect the head
- These are protections against death
- How do we stay spiritually awake and sober so we can be found faithful when Jesus comes?

1 Thessalonians 5:8 - But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

- 1.) Put on the breastplate of **faith** and **love**

2 Peter 1:5-7 - For this very reason, make every effort to **add to your faith** excellence, to excellence, knowledge; 6 to knowledge, self-control; to self-control, perseverance; to perseverance, godliness; 7 to godliness, brotherly affection; to brotherly affection, unselfish **love**.

- 2.) Put on the helmet of the **hope of salvation**

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 - **For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation** through our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 - For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

- We stay spiritually awake and sober so that we are ready when Christ comes by maturing in Christ and understanding that no matter what we face in this life, it's not God's wrath
- On the day of the Lord, whether we are alive at the time or dead, we will be rescued by God and will forever be with Him
- So let us live like people who know those truths