

THE DAY OF THE LORD – FAITH FOR THE FUTURE

I Thessalonians 4:13-18**I Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Paul describes the Second Coming.

13But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. 14For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. 15For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. 18Therefore comfort one another with these words. **I Thessalonians 4:13-18 NASB**

- He leads us into a brief discussion of Jesus returning to us and for us:

*Note **v18** – We are to comfort one another...COMFORT – NOT criticize, NOT chastise, NOT judge, or belittle...but **COMFORT!**

Part of our pleasing God and living in His will is to act on His Word. Regardless of your eschatology, Jesus is coming back, and we are supposed to bless, strengthen, and encourage one another with this truth.

- So how does this return of Jesus happen?
 - Jesus Himself descends from Heaven with a shout. **(V16)**
 - This is the Parousia. His appearance, His coming, the coming of His presence.
 - The dead in Christ will rise first.
 - Interestingly, in **2 Kings 6:17**

Then Elisha prayed and said, “O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” And the LORD opened the servant’s eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. **2 Kings 6:17 NASB**

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1Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. 2For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. 3While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. 4But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; 5for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; 6so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. 7For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. 8But since we are of *the* day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. 9For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. 11Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing. I

Thessalonians 5:1-11 NASB

- This is an age-old issue...what about the second coming of Jesus? (**I Thessalonians 5:1-2**)
 - See **Acts 1:4-8** (same word as used in **I Thessalonians 5:1**)
 - What were Jesus’ instructions?
 - Wait for the promise of the Father...the release of the fullness of the Holy Spirit...receive His power and become His messengers.
 - We are to be aware of the hope of His coming and occupied with His pleasure, His will, and our sanctification. (See **I Thessalonians 4:1-5**)
- Paul had instructed them about the day of the Lord when he was with them. (**I Thessalonians 5:2**)
 - **JUDGEMENT (DARKNESS/NIGHT)**
 - **Amos 5:18**
 - **Zephaniah 1:14-16**
 - **Joel 2:30-31**
 - **2 Corinthians 4:3-4**
 - **DELIVERANCE (LIGHT/DAY)**
 - **Joel 2:32**
 - **1 Corinthians 1:8**
 - **2 Corinthians 1:14**

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- **2 Peter 3:10-14**
- **Ephesians 4:30**
- **John 6:39-40**

- The Day of the Lord comes like a thief...suddenly. (**I Thessalonians 5:3**)
 - Suddenly does not mean instantaneously as much as unexpected, unforeseen, unwelcomed, and inescapable.
 - **Matthew 24:42-44**
 - **Mark 13:31-33**
 - **2 Peter 3:10-11**
 - **Revelation 3:3**
 - **Revelation 16:15**

- Believers don't live in darkness...we are 'children of the day'...we should not be unprepared.
 - **Acts 26:22-23 & John 12:35-36 (I Thessalonians 5:4-9)**
 - **Ephesians 5:8-11**
 - **1 John 2:7-8**
 - **Colossians 1:10-14 & Romans 13:12-14**
 - We are to be alert and sober (**I Thessalonians 5:5-9**)
 - We are to be watchful and growing in 'self-control'. (**Galatians 5:23**)
 - His second coming will surprise us intellectually, (no one knows the hour). But, if we are found walking in His Spirit and in the pleasure of His will, we will not be alarmed or ashamed but truly glad in our hearts at the surprise.

- The armor of faith, hope, and love. (**I Thessalonians 5:8**)
 - **Ephesians 6:13-18**
 - **I Corinthians 13:13**
 - **II Corinthians 6:7**
 - **II Corinthians 10:4**

- We are not destined for the wrath of God, but for obtaining Salvation. (**I Thessalonians 5:9-11**)
 - We (dead or alive in the physical realm) are alive together with Him, to live together forever with Him.

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- We are both reprieved and redeemed. (**Romans 6:23**)
- He is our redeemer and rescuer. (**I Thessalonians 1:9-10**)
- He did our death so that we might live His life.
- **Romans 8:31-39**