

3/29/20SN, 2/23/12

Believers And The Day of The Lord

1Thess. 5:1-3

Paul has communicated to the Thessalonians that their loved ones who have died physically are with the Lord and that they will be at no disadvantage when He comes for His church at the Rapture.

* For they will be returning with Christ and the saints living at that time will be caught up “harpazo” to meet the Lord in the air with them.

Remember this entire is dealing with the Lord’s return with three different emphasis. 1Thess. 4:13-5:11

1. What happens to the dead believer when Christ comes for His church? 1Thess. 4:13-18

2. When will the Day of the Lord come? 1Thess. 5:1-3

3. How shall we live in view of His return. 1Thess. 5:4-11

Paul declared three things regarding “The Day of The Lord”. 1Thess. 5:1-3

- I.** The time regarding the Day of the Lord. **vs. 1**
- II.** The truth known regarding the Day of The Lord. **vs. 2**
- III.** The tragic character of the Day of the Lord. **vs. 3**

I. The time regarding the Day of The Lord. vs. 1

- A.** The apostle Paul declared that the Thessalonians did not have to concern themselves with the Day of the Lord. **vs. 1a-b**
* “But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren.”
 - 1.** Paul has just answered the legitimate question about the time and order of the departed believers, in view of the Lord coming for His church.
 - a.** The departed believers would be coming back with Jesus.
 - b.** Then the physical bodies of the departed saint would be raised first from their graves and simultaneously with the live saints be caught up to meet the Lord and departed saints with Him in the air.
 - 2.** Paul must have been asked what was the time and order of the coming of Jesus for His church in relation to the Day of the Lord’s return to the earth.
 - a.** The first question was valid and they needed information to not be ignorant.
 - b.** The second question was not valid because they knew all the information they needed, as he will state clearly in the next verse. **vs. 2**
 - 3.** Paul was referring to the events of the Day of the Lord before His Second Coming, as

you know the day of the Lord is a long period of time with many events.

- a. The word times “chronos” means running time, indicating quantity, we get our word chronology from it.
 - 1) The running chronological time of the Day of the Lord that begins simultaneously with the rapture.
 - 2) The time will run through seven year of tribulation, till the consummation of the heavens that will dissolved by fire, the elements burning with fervent heat. 2Pet. 3:12
 - 3) Then comes the new heaven, the new earth and the new Jerusalem. 2Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1-2
- b. The word seasons “kairus”, means a particular or definite space of time, indicating quality or kind, such as summer, winter, etc.
 - 1) The word is used in various ways.
 - a) For fig season. Mk. 11:13
 - b) By the demon possessed man at Gadara, “Have you come here to torment us before our time.” Mk. 8:29
 - 2) This period indicates the seven years divided in two 3 1/2 year periods.
 - 3) The first half is called tribulation, the last half is call Great-Tribulation.

- 4) The two words “times and seasons” are synonymous with this particular period of The Day of The Lord.
 - 5) The time of God’s wrath and judgment on the earth.
 - c. The two words are plural.
 - 1) Indicating the critical character that distinguishes this particular time.
 - 2) A time of God’s wrath. 1Thess. 1:10; 5:9
 - d. The address is once again indicated to the brethren, “adelphos”.
 - * He spoke to them concerning brotherly love. 1Thess. 4:9
- B.** The apostle Paul declared to the Thessalonians that it was not necessary for him to write to them about greater details. vs. 1c
- * “you have no need that I should write to you.”
1. Paul was indicating that the Day of the Lord” was in sharp contrast to the catching up of the saints.
 - * The rapture is for those living and looking for Jesus, while the Day of the Lord is for those who have rejected Jesus!
 2. Paul said the rapture is a one time event.
 - * The Day of the Lord is a period of time with many events for those left behind.
 3. Paul said the rapture is for the church.
 - * The Day of the Lord is for the ungodly world and Israel.

4. Paul said the rapture is receiving those Jesus loves out of this world.
 - * The Day of the Lord is the pouring out of God's wrath on the world.
5. Paul said don't worry about the specific date, it is not for you to know.
 - * Jesus told His disciples the same thing, after the resurrection, "Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority." Acts 1:6-7
2. The Day of The Lord deals with the period of time when God will deal with Israel once again to prepare her for her Messiah. Acts 1:6-7; Mal. 4:5-6; Jer. 30:7; Acts 15:14-17; Rom. 11:25
 - * Israel is the wife who has been divorced, the church is the virgin bride to be wed!

Illustration

Those who are always setting dates for the coming of the Second Coming, have as much chance of as trying to predict the day of their death in the future!

Application

1. The number of people who have set dates for the coming of Jesus are not a few.
 - a. 1988 was predicted.

- b. 1994 was also predicted.
 - c. May 21, 2011 was predicted.
 - d. Oct. 21 2011 was predicted.
 - * Jesus gave the sign of His coming, "For as the **lightning** comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be." Matt. 24:27
2. The setting of a date is completely forbidden in the Scripture, but we know He is coming.
 - a. Jesus said that of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but His Father only, speaking to the Jews referring to the Day of the Lord. Matt. 24:36
 - b. Jesus said to the Jews, "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour ." Matt. 24:42
 - c. Luke speaks to the Gentiles refers to the rapture, "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man." Lk. 21:36
 - * "For yet a little while, *And* He who is coming **will come** and **will** not tarry." Heb. 10:37
3. The results of setting dates for the coming of Jesus have no good outcome.
 - a. They contradicts the Scriptural command.
 - b. The authority of the Scriptures are diminished in the eyes of the world.
 - c. The person and the Christian community is mocked and ridiculed and people are disappointed, stumbled and destroyed.

The time regarding the day of the Lord was unnecessary!

II. The truth known regarding the day of the Lord. vs. 2

* “For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.”

A. The apostle Paul declared that they knew all they needed about that day.

1. Paul clearly told them that they had the correct information they needed.
 - a. Paul had only been in Thessalonica for three weeks and preached the gospel about the First Coming of Jesus.
 - 1) Indicating Jesus was the Messiah, fulfilling the Scriptures. Acts 17:2-3
 - 2) Indicating that Jesus was God Incarnate. Jn. 1:1, 14
 - 3) Revealing He became sin for man. 2Cor 5:21
 - 4) Fulfilling it by His death on the cross. 1Pet. 2:24
 - 5) In order to offer repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Acts 5:30; 13:38
 - 6) For the purpose for waiting for Jesus from heaven to escape the wrath to come. 1Thess. 1:10; 5:9
 - 7) To be raptured in the air. 1Thess. 4:15-17

- b. Paul during these three week had also taught them about the Second Coming of Jesus to the earth, such as”
 - 1) To pour out His wrath and save many through the tribulation period.
 - 2) To protect Israel and prepare her to receive her Messiah and destroy the armies of the world opposing Him.
 - 3) To set up His Kingdom on the earth.
- c. Paul in fact gives some of the particulars that he taught them. 2Thess. 2:3-12
 - a. Two chief facts about the beginning of the Day of the Lord, “Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition.” vs. 3
 - b. The arrogant blaspheme of the Anti-Christ in the rebuilt temple, “who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.” vs. 4
 - c. The rebuke for believing the lie that the Day of the Lord had started, when they knew better, “Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?” vs. 5

- d. The removal of the church would give way to the appearance of the Anti-christ to be destroyed by God, “And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.” vs. 6-8
- e. His source is Satan and deception of many rejecting the gospel, “The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.” vs. 9-10
- f. God would give people over to the lie, “And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” vs. 11-12

- 2. Paul affirmed the information imparted to them in the past by the language he used to address the Thessalonians.
 - a. The phrase you yourselves know, “oidate” is the indicative perfect active.
 - 1) They presently possessed the needed general information about the day of the Lord.
 - 2) This again had been communicated on their first visit to Thessalonica.
 - b. The word perfectly “akribos”, means accurately and exactly.
 - 1) The word is used by Luke of the accurate and credible information regarding the gospel and life of Jesus written to Theophilus. Lk. 1:3
 - 2) The word is used of the believers walk in accord with Scripture, translated circumspectly. Eph. 5:15
 - c. Paul stated that they knew all they needed in regards to the Day of the Lord.
 - 1) They did not need more information.
 - 2) They did not need updated information.
 - 3) They did not need to correct any information.
- B. The apostle Paul declared they knew that the day of the Lord would come as a thief in the night.

1. “The day of the Lord”, indicating the wrath of God upon a sinful world.
 - a. The phrase is synonymous with other names.
 - 1) It is also known as “The Day of Yahweh”.
 - 2) “That Day”.
 - 3) “The Great Day”.
 - 4) The day appears more than 75 times in the Old Testament
 - b. The “day of the Lord”, is described a time of Divine judgment and wrath by using specific words in the Old.
 - 1) A time of affliction.
 - 2) A time of distress.
 - 3) A time of darkness.
 - 4) A time of indignation.
 - 5) A time of dissolution.
 - 6) A time of punishment.

* Is. 2:12; 13:6.9; Ezk. 30:3; Joel 1:15; 2:1; Amos 5:18-20; Obe. 15; Zeph. 1:14-15; Mal. 4:5; Matt. 24:15-28; 2Pet. 3:10, 13
2. The New Testament is in accord with Old Testament, The Day of The Lord identifying it as tribulation and Great Tribulation, as never shall be by the words of Jesus.
 - a. “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.” Matt. 24:21

- b. “For *in* those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be.” Mk. 13:19
 - c. John describes it in great detail in the book of Revelation. Rev. 6-19
 - b. John identifies it as the wrath of the Lamb, “the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?” Rev. 6:16-17
3. The Day of The Lord would come as a thief in the night
 - a. The absence of the definite article in the Greek lays stress upon the character of the day.
 - 1) It belongs to the Lord.
 - 2) It is His day.
 - 3) It is when He will pour His wrath on a God-rejecting world.
 - 4) It is when he will vindicate His justice and establish His Kingdom.
 - b. The illustration of that day coming “as a thief”, reminded them of what they already knew.
 - 1) A simile is a comparison of two things prefaced by the word “as” or “like”.
 - 2) The simile communicated a picture is of unexpectedness, with the idea of suddenness and caught unaware!

- 3) The result being, anxiety, fear, due to suffering, loss and ruin.
 - 4) The word “comes”. is in the present tense, not the future, due to the fact that it is a prophetic and doctrinal statement, there is no doubt.
 - 5) The church of Sardis was warned about Jesus coming to them as a thief. Rev. 3:3
- c. Jesus used the expression to warn of His return to judge the earth. Matt. 24:43; Lk. 12:39; 21:34-36; Rev. 3:3
- 1) Jesus said, Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. Lk. 21:24
 - 2) The sixth bowl judgment warning states, “Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.” Rev. 16:15

Illustration

John said, “Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.” Rev. 1:7

Application

1. The promise to the church is that she will not be here for the Day of the Lord, the specific hour that will come upon earth dwellers.
* “Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.” Rev. 3:10
2. The specific hour of the book of Revelation is synonymous with the 70th Week of Daniel that will be fulfilled by the last seven years tribulation on earth.
* The first 69 Weeks have been fulfilled, what would cause a person to believe the last week will not be fulfilled? Dan. 9:27
3. The believer is to study and know the word of God.
 - a. “Be diligent to present yourself **approved** to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2Tim. 2:15
 - b. Peter says, “knowing this first, that no **prophecy** of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for **prophecy** never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.” 2Pe 1:20-21

The truth known regarding the day of the Lord was complete!

III. The tragic character of the day of the Lord. vs. 3

- A.** The apostle Paul declared the day will be characterized by deceit. vs. 3a-b
 * “For when they say, “Peace and safety!”
- 1.** Paul is speaking prophetically about the particular words of those living during the seven years of Tribulation.
 - a.** The church has been raptured.
 - b.** The attack by Russia with her confederacy of nations against Israel has been defeated by God.
 - c.** The Anti-christ has brought all things under control.
 - d.** The words have to refer to the international stage, not a local one.
 - 2.** Paul indicated the particular time when those living will have sense of peace in the world.
 - a.** The word peace ”eirene”, in our context refers to inward tranquility.
 - 1)** The circumstances in the world will have a sense of tranquility.
 - 2)** The circumstances of individuals seem to be a of enjoyments and absence of anxiety.
 - b.** The word safety “asphaleia”, refers to outward security.
 - 1)** The world affair seem to be in control.
 - 2)** The world crisis have been resolved.
 - c.** The two words are only used together this time in the New Testament.

- 3.** Paul is indirectly speaking about the Antichrist who will appear as a man of peace and world solutions.
 - a.** He will appear in the beginning of the seven years of tribulation and great tribulation period, as he confirms a seven year covenant with Israel. Dan. 9:27
 * This will begin the 70th week of Daniel, the final seven years of God’s prophetic time clock.
 - b.** He will appear as a man of peace coming on a white horse having a bow with no arrows, conquering and crowned with a kingly crown. Rev. 6:2
 - 1)** He will conquer through diplomacy.
 - 2)** He will be received in the place or instead of Christ, even as Jesus declared to the Jews. Jn. 5:43
 - c.** The O.T. records the false prophecies of the false prophets. Jer. 6:14; 8:11; Ezk. 13:10; Mic. 3:5
 - 1)** Jesus warned of false prophets. Matt. 24:4-5; Mk. 13:21-23
 - 2)** Jesus said they would be living as any other day unconcerned as the days of Noah and Lot. Matt. 24:32-39; Lk. 17:26-30
 - 3)** The New Testament writers also warn of a departure from the faith in the last days leading up to “the falling away before the Lord’s return.

1Thess. 2:3; 1Tim. 4:1-5; 2Tim. 3:1-9; 2Pet. 2; Jude 1:1-25

- B.** The apostle Paul declared the day will be characterized by doom. vs. 3c-d
- * “then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman.”
1. Paul re-emphasizes that the doom that comes upon them is unexpected. vs. 3c
 - a. The word sudden re-enforces the that the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night.
 - 1) The word sudden “aiphnidios” means unforeseen, caught totally unaware.
 - 2) The word is found only one other time, translated “unexpectedly” NKJV. Lk. 21:34
 - b. Their feelings, sense of peace and safety will make the sudden doom more frightening, being unprepared and being caught off guard.
 2. Paul reminded them that the determined end is destruction. vs. 3c
 - a. The word destruction “olethros”, means ruin, with the idea of all that gives worth to existence.
 - 1) The word does not mean annihilation.
 - 2) Ultimately eternal separation from God.
 - b. The phrase comes upon them “epistatai”, means to stand upon or over, to stand by.

- 1) Affirming the certainty and surprise of the ruin.
 - 2) Confirming their awareness of the coming judgment pressing upon them, to the point of overwhelming them.
3. Paul provided another vivid picture of the certain doom to come upon them. vs. 3d
- a. The illustration is of a pregnant woman in labor.
 - b. This is another simile, a comparison introduced by the words “as” or “like”.
 - b. The intended point that it emphasizes is that of sudden unawareness in terms of time and the inability to stop it from happening.
 - 1) The event can not be averted nor avoided!
 - 2) This is a common illustration in the Old Testament. Is. 13:6-8; 26:16-19; Jer. 4:31; Jos. 13:13; Mic. 4:9
 - 3) Through the 7 seals, bowls and trumpet judgments. Rev. 6:18
 - 4) By God’s return to set up the Kingdom at the battle of Armageddon. Rev. 19
- C.** The apostle Paul declared the day will be characterized by damnation. vs. 3e
- * “And they shall not escape.”
1. Paul is indicating those who accepted the mark of the beast, they shall drink of God’s wrath in full strength. Rev. 14:9-13

- a. There is no turning back.
 - b. There is no removing it.
 - c. There is no repenting.
 - d. There is only the mark that damns them for all eternity.
 - * Those beheaded for their faith will be saved!
2. Paul is indicating those who are at Armageddon to fight against Jesus will be destroyed. Rev. 19:11-18, 21
- a. It is a posture of rebellion against God.
 - b. It is a purposeful intent to stop Jesus from setting up His Kingdom.
 - * The Bible says, that it is a fearful thing to fall under the hands of the Living God. Heb. 10:31
3. Paul makes his statement emphatic, a double negative.
- a. There will be no way out.
 - b. There will be no talking one's way out.
 - c. There will be no buying one's way out.
 - d. There will only be ruin of all of life and eternal separation from God.
 - * "And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the

throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"
Rev. 6:15-17

Illustration

Like the little boy that kept stealing candy from the corner store, it was just a matter of time before he was caught, it was inevitable!

Application

1. The Anti-christ will be the greatest deceiver the world has ever seen.
- a. He will be an intellectual genius, "a horn with eyes, understanding dark sentences or sinister schemes". Dan. 7:20, 8:23
 - b. He will be an orator speaking "great things or pompous words." Dan. 7:20
 - c. He will be a political wizard "coming in peaceably and seize the kingdom by intrigue". Dan. 11:21
 - d. He will be a commercial giant controlling money, solving losses by the number system. Dan. 8:25; 11:43; Rev. 13:17
 - e. He will be a military genius, "destroy the mighty" they will say "who is able to make war with him?" Dan. 8:24; Rev. 13:4
 - f. He will be a governmental head as he leads the ten nation confederacy and they give their allegiance to him. Dan. 7:7; Rev. 13:1-2; 17:17

- g. He will be a religious movement as he declares himself to be God and demand all to worship him. Matt. 24:15; 2Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:3; 14-15
- 2. The agent of the Anti-christ will be the false prophet who will appear with him. Rev. 13:11-18
 - * Just as Jesus had a forerunner, John the Baptist, so the Antichrist will have the P.R. man.
 - a. He is the second beast coming out of the earth with two horns “like” a lamb but speaks like a lion. vs. 11
 - * He is identified as the first beast and imitates the appearance of a lamb, falsehood, as the Antichrist imitates Christ!
 - b. He is equal in authority as the first beast and promotes the worship of the Antichrist, who survives an assassination attempt. vs. 12
 - c. He performs miracles causing fire to come down from heaven. vs. 13
 - d. He deceives the earth dwellers by certain signs and is able to coerce people to make an image of the beast. vs. 14
 - e. He will be granted power to give life to the image and to kill whoever does not worship the image. vs. 15
 - f. He institutes the mark of the beast for commercial buying and selling. But it will be a sign of association and ownership. vs. 16-18
- 3. The channel will be the false church, who will be one with the Anti-christ. Rev. 17
 - a. She is identified as a harlot and the Great Mother of harlots. Rev. 17:1-2, 4-5

- 1) Babylon being the counterfeit of the true church, marked by spiritual unfaithfulness. Gen. 11
- 2) A mother not only as the source but one who reproduces herself.
- 3) A woman is always used as a type for religion in Scripture. Matt. 13:33; Rev. 2:20
- b. She is one with the beast and the ten nation confederacy. Rev. 17:3-6
 - 1) She sits on the beast, who rules the ten nations. vs. 3
 - 2) She is wealthy, brash and the source of all spiritual fornication and abominations on the earth, the Mother of Harlots. vs. 4-5
 - 3) She is equally responsible for the death of the saints and the martyrs of Jesus. vs. 6
- c. She, the beast and the ten nation confederacy are interpreted and identified clearly as being of one mind to make war with the Lamb. vs. 7-14
 - 1) She is the instrument by which the Anti-Christ rises to world prominence in the ten nation confederacy. vs. 7
 - 2) She sits on seven mountains, the seven Hills of Rome. vs. 9
- d. She will be destroyed by the Antichrist in the middle of the 7 years, he cannot stand completion, fulfilling the will and purposes of God. vs. 15-18
 - 1) This is when he will officiate the “against Christ” personality.

- 2) The abomination of desolation is 1290 days.
Dan. 12:11-12; Matt. 24:15

The tragic character of the day of the Lord was unavoidable!

Conclusion

Paul declared three things about the day of the Lord:

- I.** The time regarding the Day of the Lord was unnecessary!
- II.** The truth known regarding the day of the Lord was complete!
- III.** The tragic character of the day of the Lord was unavoidable!