

“The Day of the Lord”

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

“The day of the Lord” is the subject of Bible prophecy. Prophecy is simply “pre-written history.”

THREE VIEWS OF HISTORY:

1. **The cyclical view**— History is an endless vicious cycle of spiraling events reoccurring over and over. During his backsliden condition Solomon referred to this in Ecclesiastes 1:9—*“The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.”* Peter referred to those who hold to this view— *“There shall come in the last days scoffers... saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all thing continue as they were from the beginning of creation”* (2 Pet. 3:3-4).
2. **The linear view**— The naturalistic / atheist view. History proceeds along a straight line without any meaning or purpose. History is random and not going anywhere.
3. **The Biblical view**— In contrast to the other two views, the Biblical view says history is NOT a hopeless cycle of events or a random series unrelated of events. **History is the outworking and unfolding of the plan of God.** [“His-story”]. History is leading mankind towards an ultimate goal—*“The day of the Lord.”*

“BUT” (vs. 1, 4) is a disjunctive conjunction that connects two parts of Paul’s discourse, but disjoins the sense. Paul makes a distinction between the rapture (evacuation) of the saints (4:16-18) and *“the day of the Lord”* that will come afterwards (5:1-11).

I. The COMING of “the day of the Lord” (vs. 1-2).

A. The MEANING of *“the day of the Lord.”*

1. *“Day”* sometimes refers to a 24-hour day or it could refer to a longer period of time (Gen. 2:3-4; Ezek. 4:6; 2 Pet. 3:8-10).

➡ It is also referred to as:

- "THAT DAY" (v. 4 cf. Isa. 2:11-21; 11:10-12; 17:7; 23:21-23; 24:21; 25:9; 27:1; 28:5; 34:1-8; 52:6; Jer. 25:33; 30:7-8; Ezek. 38:19; Hosea 2:18; Zeph. 1:14-18; Zech. 9:16; 12:3-11; 13:1-4; 14:4-21; Matt. 7:22; 24:36; 26:29; 2 Thess. 1:10; 2:3; 2 Tim. 1:12; 4:8);
- "THE GREAT DAY" (Zeph. 1:14; Jude 6; Rev. 6:17; 16:14);
- "THE DAY OF GOD" (2 Pet. 3:12);
- "THE LORD'S DAY" (Rev. 1:10);
- "THE LAST DAY" (John 6:39-40; 11:24; 12:48).

2. "*The day of the Lord*" will **begin** after the rapture and **extend** from the tribulation period, through the millennium (Christ's 1,000 year reign on earth), **to** the Great White Throne Judgment (Isa. 13:6-16; Joel 1:15; 2:1-11; Amos 5:18-20; Zech. 14:1; Mal. 4:5; cf. Rev. 6 - 20).

B. The MOMENT of "*the day of the Lord*."

- ➡ The Thessalonians were concerned when would it happen? They were afraid they might miss the rapture and find themselves in "*the day of the Lord*."
1. It's not your business—It doesn't concern you (v. 1).
 - ➡ "*The times and the seasons*" (v. 1) refer to how Israel fits into God's plan for the nations (Dan. 2:21; Acts 1:6, 7). Knowing "*the times and the seasons*" is reserved for God alone, therefore Paul had no need to write about them.
 2. It will come UNEXPECTEDLY—"*as a thief in the night*" (v. 2). You don't know when a thief will come. All you can do is make preparations for when he does. You don't know when "*the day of the Lord*" will happen—You just need to be ready when it does happen.

II. The CHARACTER of "*the day of the Lord*" (v. 3).

- A. It's DESTRUCTION—"Peace and safety" will not characterize the end of the Tribulation.
 1. Israel will make a peace-pact with the antichrist for the first 3½ years of the tribulation (Rev. 6:2-4 cf. Dan. 8:25 9:27; 11:24). But it won't last—a calm before the storm. Midway

through the tribulation the antichrist will break that peace treaty and all hell will break loose on earth.

2. Not annihilation, but an eternal destruction (read 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). It is not the destruction of a person's existence, but the destruction of a person's purpose for existence.
- B. It's DESCRIPTION (Isa. 13:6-16; Joel 1:15; 2:1-11). Revelation

- those who will be **raptured**, and those who will be left behind.
- A. Distinction in CHARACTER (vs. 4-5).
1. Children of light / the day. Light refers to righteousness and holiness. Jesus said, *“Ye are the light of the world.”*
 - ➔ Ephesians 5:8—*For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord...* We not merely *in* the light—We are the *“light in the Lord.”*
 2. Children of darkness / night. Darkness speaks of sin and evil (John 3:19).
 - 2 Corinthians 6:14—*Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*
 - God’s commission to Paul was to turn people *“from darkness to light”* (Acts 26:18).
 - a) Verse 4—We will not suffer the judgment of God that will fall on those in darkness, because we belong to a complete different environment of light.
 - b) Just as light cannot exist in an environment of darkness—A person who is the light in Christ cannot dwell or exist in an environment where God’s judgment will fall, because God’s judgment will fall on darkness, not on the light:
 - Joel 2:1-2— *...the day of the Lord cometh... A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness...*
 - Amos 5:18— *...the day of the LORD is darkness, and not light.*
 - Zephaniah 1:15— *That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,*
- B. Distinction in CONDUCT (vs. 6-8).
- ➔ *“Therefore”* links conduct with character. Let your conduct be consistent with your character as light.

C. Distinction in DESTINATION (vs. 9-11).

- ➡ "THE HOPE OF SALVATION" is being saved from the tribulation (cf. vs. 9-10). "Wrath" (v. 9) refers to "*the great day of his wrath*" (Rev. 6:17; 16:1).

SUMMATION: VERSE 4: "*The day of the Lord*" WILL overtake this sin darkened world, BUT will NOT "*overtake*" the Christian in the church age.

A "thief" comes unexpected, unwelcome and undesired. However, as "*children of light/day,*" we don't dread the coming of "*the day of the Lord.*" We welcome it since it means we'll already be long gone!

This is a warning to be ready. The only way get ready for "*the day of the Lord*" is be ready for the rapture, so you'll be taken out before "*the day of the Lord*" arrives.

People often fail to heed warnings:

- Noah warned of the coming flood.
- Lot warned his family of the coming destruction of Sodom.
- The prophets warned Israel of the captivity.
- John the Baptist warned to "*flee from the wrath to come.*"
- Preachers have warned people of hell and the coming of "*the day of the Lord.*"

Yet, people still fail to heed the warnings.

Will you heed the warning?

Will you seek to warn and reach others before that day comes?

Wake Up! Lift up heads. Redemption draweth nigh!

Your comments are welcomed. Please [CLICK HERE](#). Thank you.