

**Ministry of The Holy Spirit**  
**The Return of the Lord Jesus Christ: King to the Earth**  
**1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Last time...a mystery of God being further revealed – the return of the Lord Jesus Christ

1. as the Bridegroom and Redeemer
2. to the clouds
3. for His Bride
4. to keep His promise to His disciples
5. a shout like a trumpet (gathering)
6. no man knows when

A very sudden and surprising event known as “The Rapture”

This time...the return of the Lord Jesus Christ aka “The 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming”

1. as the Conquering King and Judge
2. to the earth
3. with His Bride
4. to destroy His enemies and to set up His kingdom (1000 year reign)
5. a roar and a trumpet (war and alarm)
6. man will know when; nations gathered to wage war against Him

We will be in 1 Thes 5

v1-3 the day of the Lord...sudden destruction:

The return of Jesus Christ as the Bridegroom results in a joyful Family Reunion  
in the clouds and a Divine escort to heaven  
aka The Rapture

The return of Jesus Christ as the King results in sudden destruction on earth.  
aka The Day of the Lord  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming  
70<sup>th</sup> Week of Daniel  
Tribulation/Great Tribulation

During his 3 weeks in Thessalonica, Paul taught them the Scriptures speaking of  
the Day of the Lord

And he taught them well; they had a thorough, “accurate,” and “exact”  
understanding the times and seasons, not needing any further instruction  
about it in this letter

What is “the Day of the Lord”?

The mysteries of God revealed to man in time in His written Word

Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets

To study the Scriptures, we interrogate the Scriptures:

Who, What, When, Where, Why, How?

Then we search the Scriptures for the answers in order to rightly divide the Word of Truth; searching the very words of God, not words of man

**Joel 2:1-2a** What: a trumpet – alarm of impending danger (vs gathering)  
tremble  
a day of darkness and gloominess, clouds and thick darkness  
Who: all the inhabitants of the land

**Joel 2:11-13** Who: the LORD (very strong) and His army (very great)  
the Lord: gracious and merciful, slow to anger,  
great kindness, delights in mercy  
What: great and very terrible, cannot be comprehended  
preceded by a call to repentance by the Lord

**Joel 3:1-2** When: after the return of Israel to the land (Ezk 37)  
Who: the nations  
Israel, the Lord's heritage  
Where: the valley of Jehoshaphat (Kidron Valley)  
What: The nations gathered  
The Lord to plead with (judge, punish) the nations who have mistreated Israel

**Joel 3:9-17** Who: the Gentiles  
The Lord, the hope and strength of His people Israel  
What: prepare for war  
assemble together to be judged by the Lord  
the sun and the moon and the stars shall be darkened  
a roar (Lion of Tribe of Judah, vs a shout)  
the heavens and the earth will shake  
Jerusalem will be cleansed and sanctified  
Why: their wickedness is great  
Where: in the Valley of Jehoshaphat, the valley of decision/threshing (judgment)

Amos 5:18-20 What: Woe  
Darkness and not light, very dark with no brightness  
Who: desire/long for the day of the Lord

- Is 2:10-12** Who: upon every one that is proud/arrogant and lofty/lifted up  
What: shall be brought low
- Is 13:6-11** What: Howl/Wail  
destruction from the Almighty  
all hands will be faint  
every heart will melt  
afraid, (birth)pangs and sorrow  
amazed (consternation, astonishment)  
faces as flames (like the gleaming of a polished sword)  
cruel (terrible, unmerciful) in wrath and fierce anger...  
rage and fury  
the sun, moon, and stars will be dark  
Why: to lay the land/earth desolate  
to destroy the sinners  
to punish the world (wicked inhabitants of) for their evil/sin  
to cease the arrogance of the proud and to bring low the  
haughtiness of the powerful
- Is 34:1-4** Who: the nations, the people, the earth, the world  
What: the indignation of the Lord is upon all nations  
the fury of the Lord is upon all their armies  
utter destruction and slaughter
- Is 34:8** What: the Lord's vengeance
- Is 34:16** What: Seek out the book of the Lord and read
- Is 61:1-2** What: the day of vengeance of our God
- Zeph 1:14-18** When: near in time and speedily  
Who: the mighty man will cry bitterly  
What: wrath, trouble, distress, wasteness/devastation/destruction,  
desolation/ruin, darkness, gloominess, clouds, thick  
darkness, trumpet and alarm  
distress upon men, their blood poured out and their flesh as  
dung  
no amount of riches will deliver them  
the whole land will be devoured with the fire of the Lord's  
jealousy  
the Lord will make a speedy riddance of the earth dwellers  
Who: defended cities  
Why: they have sinned against the Lord (and not repented)

Gen 18:16-33 The Lord comes down to earth to judge the wicked, whose sin is great and very grievous

The Lord will not destroy the righteous with the wicked  
(Judgment when it is all that remains to do)

Rev 6-19 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Daniel, starting with a counterfeit Peace Treaty with Israel, a deception of Ezk 37:26  
Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore

Rev 20 ending with GWT judgment after Mil Reign, 1000 years (7<sup>th</sup> Day) of perfect peace (Is 9:6-7) followed by rebellion  
2 Peter 3:8-10

1007 years 7 years of wrath, 1000 years of peace, fervent heat/end of universe

In summary, the Day of the Lord:

- darkness...sun, moon, and stars
- the Lord's judgment of and vengeance upon sinners/unbelievers
- utter destruction of nations and armies gathered in Jerusalem
- Divine rage and fury that cannot be comprehended
- preceded by a call to repentance by the Living God that is gracious and merciful

What are the times and seasons (before the Day of the Lord)?

- Israel in the land...1948 (2 signs of judgment in Is 11:10-12)
- Jerusalem belong to Israel...1967
- a Jewish Temple in Jerusalem...but not put there by the Lord
- Russia/Iran/Turkey invade Israel...only to be devastated by the God of Israel Himself (Ezk 38-39, between Ezk 37 and Ezk 40-48)
- Days of Lot and Days of Noah, days of judgment (Luke 17:26-30)
- The righteous delivered from (before) the wrath of God

When "they"...the wicked, etc, in darkness, the objects of the Lord's wrath...  
say "Peace and Safety"...prosperity and security apart from Jesus...  
then sudden destruction, and unexpected ruin

And the proud, arrogant, haughty, powerful, and wicked will have pangs like childbirth

- once it starts, it cannot be stopped
- pain grows in frequency and intensity
- no escaping it

v4-5 But, ye, brethren:

Reading our Bibles carefully, taking note of the personal pronouns

v1-2 “ye”, “yourselves” = the brethren, the family of God  
the believers

- the Church, the Body of Christ seized to meet the Lord in the clouds before the Day of the Lord
- the fruit of Israel’s faithful witness of Jesus Christ during the Day of the Lord

v3 “they”, “them”, “they” = children of the devil, the children of disobedience, the children of wrath (Eph 2:1-3)  
the unbelievers, the enemies of Jesus Christ, destroyed on the earth by the Lord during the Day of the Lord

v4-5 “ye”, “you”, “we” = the brethren, the children of God, the children of light, the children of the day  
the believers

<u>Light</u>	vs	<u>darkness (absence of light)</u>
Life		death
Truth		lies
Purity		evil, sin, depravity

As children of light (1 John 1:5, John 1:4)  
and children of the day (Mal 4:2, Rev 22:16),  
we are not

- in darkness (Luke 11:35)
- of darkness
- of the night

And as such, the Day of the Lord will not overtake/seize us

- is not for us
- we are “hands off”, saved from the Day of the Lord and sudden destruction

v6-7 let us not...let us:

“us” = the believers

vs

“they” = the unbelievers

Let us not sleep

Different than the 1<sup>st</sup> death of Ch 4:15-16

sleep = “to lie down to rest”

If I lay down, I fall asleep

Same is true spiritually...when we stop growing and stop following Jesus,  
we fall into a spiritual stupor

As long as we are on earth, we have no vacation from the Lord’s work...  
no days off...our rest comes later

We have no need of a wake-up call if we are busy about the Lord’s work

Let us

- watch, be alert and vigilant
- be sober, clear-minded, single-minded, right-minded (mind of Christ)  
“to abstain from intoxication, to be discreet”

Alcohol not only deadens the senses, blurs the vision, and clouds good  
judgment, it is a depressant that will put you to sleep

They sleep and get intoxicated:

- oblivious
- sensibilities dulled
- “darkened” in their understanding
- spiritually undiscerning
- eat, drink, marry, buy, sell, plant, build...completely unaware of the  
sudden destruction looming

v8 But let us:

“us” = believers

Unlike the unbelievers in v6, let us

- be sober...repeated!
- put on
  - the breastplate (to protect our heart ) of faith (pleasing to God)  
and love (fulfillment of God’s Word)
  - a helmet (to protect our mind), the hope/expectation/certainty  
of salvation (from death and the wrath of God)

v9-10 For:

v8 because God has not given us His wrath but His salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
we are the “Who” for Jesus’ return as the Bridegroom  
(Rapture),  
we are not the “Who” for Jesus’ return as the King and Judge  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Coming, Day of the Lord)

This is true “Peace and Safety”...”in Christ”!

Ps 4:8b           for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety

Ps 85:8-10       I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will  
speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them  
not turn again to folly. Surely his salvation *is* nigh them  
that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land. Mercy and  
truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed.

John 3:36       He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he  
that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of  
God abideth on him

Rom 5:1         Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God  
through our Lord Jesus Christ

On this Palm Sunday, we remember

The Lord purchased our salvation by His blood  
He bore the wrath of God for our sins  
He redeemed us from the curse of the Law, being made a curse for us,  
that the blessings of Abraham would come on us  
He died (paid the ransom) for our sins, to deliver us from this present evil  
world  
He rose again on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day to defeat our enemy, death

We heard the Lord’s call unto repentance, believed it, responded by  
accepting His invitation to come out of darkness and into His  
glorious Light

We are made new creatures in Christ (“Jesus-kind”) by grace thru faith  
We were sealed with the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption  
(Eph 4:30)...and neither man nor Satan can break that seal!

us, we:

- the Bride of Christ with our Bridegroom
- the Redeemed with our Redeemer
- the Body with the Head

Can “When/What/Where/Why/Who/How?” of Ch 4:13-18 be stated more clearly?

v11     comfort yourselves:  
          Sound familiar, Church?  
          1 Thes 4:18

Return of Jesus as Bridegroom:  
          Comfort yourselves about the promised Family Reunion in the clouds  
          when we will be “seized” by our Bridegroom

Return of Jesus as King and Judge:  
          Comfort yourselves you that we are with Him vs against Him,  
          that we will not be “seized” by the Judge

### **Application/Lessons**

On this Palm Sunday (Luke 19:28-44),

- the start of the most momentous and most important week in the history of mankind and the earth, when v9-10 was accomplished by Jesus Christ
- The Passover Lamb of God (John 1:29) walked thru the darkness to emerge victorious over the darkness

When Paul wrote this

- the Jewish Temple was standing
- Jerusalem belonged to the Jews
- The Roman Empire ruled with an iron fist
- The Jews were not scattered

About 16 years after Paul wrote this the Romans

- leveled Jerusalem
- burned down the Temple
- scattered the Jews

But now, right before our eyes

- Israel exists again as a nation (1948)
- Israel regained Jerusalem (1967)
- the Jews have returned to the land (for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time!)
- the Temple could be erected in months
- we see the “beginning of sorrows” (Matt 24:1-8)
  - deception
  - wars and rumors of wars
  - racial tensions
  - pestilences



Therefore

Believer: Rom 13:11-14

Unbeliever: Joel 2:12-13

Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye *even* to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he *is* gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

Before sudden destruction by a Creator Who so loves you that He gave His only Begotten Son so that you might have life and not perish by believing in Jesus Christ...the Bridegroom AND the Judge

You WILL meet Jesus Christ!  
Which one is your choice.