



# I THESSALONIANS

a future for now

## 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 – Are You Ready For The End Of The World?

May 5, 2024

...and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.* 1 Thessalonians 1:10 (ESV)

For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 1 Thessalonians 5:9 (ESV)

- The purpose of this passage is comfort, not to create a timeline for the end of the world.

Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:18 (ESV)

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (ESV)

### How will the world end?

For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 1 Thessalonians 5:2 (ESV)

#### What is the day of the Lord?

Wail, for the day of the LORD is near; as destruction from the Almighty it will come! Isaiah 13:6 (ESV)

Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it.

Isaiah 13:9 (ESV)

That day is the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance, to avenge himself on his foes. The sword shall devour and be sated and drink its fill of their blood... Jeremiah 46:10 (ESV)

For the day of the LORD is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head.

Obadiah 15 (ESV)

...For my decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out upon them my indignation, all my burning anger; for in the fire of my jealousy all the earth shall be consumed. Zephaniah 3:8 (ESV)

Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why would you have the day of the Lord? It is darkness, and not light,.. Amos 5:18 (ESV)

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.  
2 Peter 3:10 (ESV)

## **What do I need to know about Jesus' return in judgment?**

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. 1 Thessalonians 5:1 (ESV)

As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" Matthew 24:3 (ESV)

- If we had a date that was too far away, we would ignore it. If we had a date that was near, we would panic.
- Christians won't experience this day. God destined us for salvation, not for wrath.

### **1. The day of the Lord is unpredictable.**

For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 1 Thessalonians 5:2 (ESV)

But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, Matthew 24:36–38 (ESV)

He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority." Acts 1:7 (ESV)

Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming... Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Matthew 24:42–44 (ESV)

### **What signs will precede the day of the Lord?**

The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. Joel 2:31 (ESV)

For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light.  
Isaiah 13:10 (ESV)

And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, Luke 21:25 (ESV)

Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. 2 Thessalonians 2:3–4 (ESV)

## **2. The day of the Lord is unavoidable.**

While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 1 Thessalonians 5:3 (ESV)

For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.  
Matthew 24:24 (ESV)

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.  
2 Peter 3:10 (ESV)

## **Why do Christians not need to worry about the day of the Lord?**

### **1. We are part of the kingdom of light, not darkness.**

But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. 1 Thessalonians 5:4–5 (ESV)

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, Colossians 1:13 (ESV)

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5 (ESV)

### **Live as a son of the light, not a son of the darkness.**

So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night.

But since we belong to the day, let us be sober,...

1 Thessalonians 5:6–8a (ESV)

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

John 8:12 (ESV)

...to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

Acts 26:18 (ESV)

...having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 1 Thessalonians 5:8b (ESV)

## **2. We are destined for salvation through Jesus, not wrath.**

For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. 1 Thessalonians 5:9–10 (ESV)

...who died for us 1 Thessalonians 5:10a (ESV)

...so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.

1 Thessalonians 5:10b (ESV)

## **Comfort one another with this truth.**

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (ESV)

### **Life Group Questions**

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1. What is the difference between 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11?
2. **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3.** What do we know about the timing of Jesus’ return in final judgment?
3. While no signs precede Jesus’ return for the salvation of Christians, what signs precede Jesus’ return in final judgment? Why won’t people recognize them? **See also Joel 2:31, Isaiah 13:10, Luke 21:35, Acts 2:20, 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, and Matthew 24:24.**
4. **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:4-8a.** Why is it important to know our new status and live out our status in daily life? **See also Colossians 1:13, 1 John 1:5, Acts 26:18, and Ephesians 5:8-20.**
5. **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10.** Why is it important to know God’s destiny for us before we were created (**See also Ephesians 1:4**)? Why must we not forget the comprehensiveness of Jesus’ death for our sins?
6. **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11.** What about the Day of the Lord and the destruction of the earth is a comfort for Christians?