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*LEADERSHIP DURING DIFFICULT DAYS*  
**THE DAY OF THE LORD**  
1THESSALONIANS

*1 Thessalonians 5:1-11* Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 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. 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. 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, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 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. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

In our previous passage, the Apostle Paul had need to write and instruct the believers at the church at Thessalonica. Someone perhaps had enter the assembly and began causing confusion as to the deceased saints being resurrected. There was confusion between their reunion at the "*parousia*," the coming of the Lord, His coming in the cloud and "the Day of the Lord," the outpouring of His wrath upon all the ungodly.

The "Coming of the Lord" focuses on hope for the believers, while the "Day of the Lord" addresses His wrath upon the unbelievers. This teaching produced great consternation among the assembly. So Paul previously wrote, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 as an exhortation to comfort one another within the body at the church of Thessalonica. He addressed the specific timing and order of their reunion. First, Christ comes in the clouds with their believing loved-ones who have died in Christ. Then a shout from the archangel, followed by the trumpet of God. Next the dead bodies will be raised (a glorified body fit for eternity) and we who are alive and remaining will meet the Lord in the air. Conclusion, we will forever be with the Lord!

Uncertainty produces confusion-lack of clarity and hope. Knowledge produces order stability and assurance. As mentioned before each chapter of 1 Thessalonica refers to the coming of the Lord (1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:23). This knowledge produces hope and godly living.

"But the greatest purpose of the prophetic Word is the pursuit of holiness by His people. This is everywhere evident in one prophetic passage after another. Check all the passages dealing with the return of the Lord and you will find that, almost without exception, our Lord's return is used as a basis for an exhortation to godliness. This includes themes like living as aliens in His service, living for heavenly treasure, and finding comfort in the midst of suffering and persecution through the assurance of Christ's return."<sup>1</sup>

Chapter 5 begins with "*now concerning*" which introduces a new, fuller instruction concerning the "day of the Lord."

### **What Is The Day Of The Lord?**

Summation of OT references where God describes the Day of the Lord as... "coming, cruel, with fury and burning anger, to make the land a desolation; and He will exterminate its sinners from it" (Isa. 13:9), "a day of vengeance, so as to avenge Himself on His foes...a slaughter for the Lord GOD of hosts" (Jer. 46:10), "a day of clouds, a time of doom for the nations" (Eze 30:3), "near, and it will come as destruction from the Almighty" (Joel 1:15), "surely it is near" (Joel 2:1), "great and very awesome, and who can endure it?" (Joel 2:11), "the great and awesome day" (Joel 2:31), "near in the

<sup>1</sup> <https://bible.org/users/j-hampton-keathley-iii>, J. Hampton Keathley III.

valley of decision" (Joel 3:14), "It will be darkness and not light" (Amos 5:18), "even gloom with no brightness in it" (Amos 5:20), "(a day when) your dealings will return on your own head" (Obadiah 1:15), "near and coming very quickly in it the warrior cries out bitterly, a day of wrath is that day, a day of trouble and distress, a day of destruction and desolation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness" (Zeph 1:14,15), "the day of the LORD'S wrath and all the earth will be devoured in the fire of His jealousy, for He will make a complete end, Indeed a terrifying one, of all the inhabitants of the earth" (Zeph 1:18), "the day of the LORD'S anger" (Zeph 2:2), "His coming...is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap" (Mal 3:2), "the great and terrible day" (Mal 4:5).

understand what it meant to the prophet of the Old Testament who prophesied it. It is an awful day!

The New Testament calls that day His day. It calls it the day of wrath. It calls it the day of wrath and revelation. It calls it the great day of God Almighty. Peter calls it, 1 Peter 2:12, the day of visitation. But always, now listen carefully, it is the time when God unleashes His final fury on the sinners of the Earth and sweeps them away.<sup>2</sup>

The future "Day of the Lord" is an eschatological divine judgment day when God unleashes His wrath upon godless sinners and the sinful world. And He is rightfully and completely just to do so given the gravity and seriousness of sin.

Friends this is Judgment Day! the day when God directs His ultimate and full fury in judgment. If you are not in Christ, a true Christian, then you WILL face God's Judgment Day. God is the sovereign creator and owns everything. God, He Created everything. He is the Creator of everyone! He owns, rules and has absolute authority over his Creation.

He is Holy. Perfectly Holy! and He requires Holiness of us as well.

Man is a sinner! Therein lies the problem! Man has a sin problem.

God provided a Savior—Jesus Christ who satisfies the demands of God's justice and His perfect life satisfies the demands of God's holiness, thereby enabling Him to forgive and save those who places their faith and trust in Him.

That is what our ministry is all about...How can a sinful man, be reconciled to a perfectly Holy God.

Our Ministry is telling sinful man how God **will not** charge your sin against you through Jesus Christ. (2 Cor. 5:19).

THE ESCHATOLOGICAL SECTION FUTURE EVENTS IN CONTRAST	
<u>1 Thess 4:13-18</u>	<u>1 Thess 5:1-12</u>
Salvation-Saints	Judgment-Sinners
"we do not want you to be uninformed"	"we have no need of anything to be written to you"
New Teaching	Review Teaching
"We"	"They"
Comfort One Another	Edify One Another
Be Assured	Be Sober

The New Testament summation is understood from the Old Testament Prophets. Four times in the New Testament, the day of the Lord is mentioned. Four times the phrase "day of the Lord" is used, Acts 2:20, our passage, 2 Thessalonians 2:2 and 2 Peter 3:10. But whatever the New Testament writers understood about the day of the Lord they got from the Old Testament prophet. So, if we're going to understand what the day of the Lord is, we have to

**LEGISLATIVE BIBLE STUDY**  
Blatt Rm. 317—Wednesday, 8:30am  
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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.gty.org/resources/sermons/52-19/the-day-of-the-lord-part-1>