



David Chadwick | February 23, 2025

Message Title: “The Day of the Lord”

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Context

- Timothy visits the Thessalonians on Paul’s behalf
- The Thessalonians asked about what happened to loved ones who died
- Paul’s answer: the Rapture (**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**)
- The Rapture is a “mystery” (**1 Corinthians 15:52**): something previously not revealed and is now revealed
- Then they asked Paul to address another topic: **The Day of the Lord**
- The Rapture and the Day of the Lord are two different subjects

What is the “Day of the Lord” in the Old Testament? It’s a time of judgment and rescue when God will punish the wicked and rescue the righteous. A few examples:

Isaiah 2:12

12 For the Lord of hosts has a day against all that is proud and lofty, against all that is lifted up—and it shall be brought low;

Isaiah 13:6

6 Wail, for the day of the Lord is near; as destruction from the Almighty it will come!

Isaiah 13:9

9 *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.*

Amos 5:18

18 *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 5:20

20 *Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?*

Malachi 4:5

5 *“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.*

Zephaniah 1:13

13 *Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.”*

Zephaniah 1:15

15 *A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,*

Joel 2:30-31

30-31 *“And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord comes.”*

Again, the **Day of the Lord** is a time (not a 24-hour day but a longer period) when God's final wrath and judgment are poured out on a sinful, Jesus-rejecting world. It will have natural and supernatural phenomena.

The sequencing of the end times—where history is headed:

1. The Rapture/harpazo/snatching of the church to our Father's house: the next event on the prophetic calendar (see last week's message)
2. Chaos around the world (caused by the **Ezekiel 38** war?); who can solve all the problems?
3. The antichrist steps on the scene as a man/leader of peace:

Revelation 6:1-2

1 Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, "Come!" 2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.

4. A seven-year peace accord with Israel occurs (Daniel's seven-year tribulation period is this time period)
5. There's seeming "peace and security"
6. A rebuilt temple in Jerusalem occurs
7. The beginning of the **Day of the Lord** begins with the seal judgments
8. After 3 ½ years, the antichrist enters the temple and declares himself to be God
9. The seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments increase in greater frequency and intensity like a woman giving birth (Braxton Hicks contractions now)
10. The antichrist leads a war with other nations against Jerusalem called Armageddon. Why? Satan is trying to prevent the 1st and 2nd Comings of Jesus
11. God intervenes for Israel
12. Jesus's 2nd Coming (**Revelation 19**) occurs with the angels and the church with great victory and his Millennial reign is set up here on earth

Back to **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

1 Thessalonians 5:1

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you.

- Notice the obvious shift of subjects from the Rapture to something else: "Now..." shows the Rapture and the Day of the Lord are different

- Another question the Thessalonians wanted to know about was when the Rapture and Day of the Lord would happen
- Jesus's disciples asked this on two occasions (**Matthew 24:36; Acts 1:7**)
- Paul tells them that he doesn't need to write to them about this subject
- Evidently, he had taught them about it in during his time in Thessalonica

1 Thessalonians 5:2

2 *For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.*

- They should be "fully aware" (they were previously taught this by Paul) that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night
- It will be sudden and unexpected after the antichrist steps on the world's stage
- Noah preached 120 years of warnings while building the ark
- No one listened to his constant preaching of warning
- The rains began suddenly and unexpectedly and the world was judged

1 Thessalonians 5:3

3 *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.*

- The Day of the Lord will come during a time while people are saying "peace and security"
- The antichrist will usher in a time worldwide with this seeming "peace and security"
- The Tribulation begins (seal judgments are first)
- But when he announces himself to be God at the rebuilt temple, "sudden destruction" will come upon them
- It will be like a woman giving birth: the rapid increase in frequency and intensity of pain (not Braxton Hicks but the real deal)
- God's judgments will come like the Flood in Noah's day
- These are the rapid-fire successions of the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments

- Especially during the Great Tribulation (the final 3 ½ years of the antichrist's reign)
- And “they”, the godless, will not escape judgment

Verses 4-11 are the practical application of how all followers of Jesus should live (pre-Rapture) as we wait for these events to happen:

1 Thessalonians 5:4

4 *But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.*

- Christians/“brothers” are not in darkness about these things
- We are not surprised like a thief in the night when “that day” occurs

1 Thessalonians 5:5

5 *For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.*

- Christians are not children of the darkness and night but of the light and day: of wisdom/God's truth
- The dark/light analogy in the Bible:
- **1 Peter 2:9**
9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
- Christians are not living in the night or in darkness

1 Thessalonians 5:6

6 *So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.*

- We are not to be drowsy about end times (sleep-walking through life)
- But keep awake and be sober
- Drugs and alcohol dull the senses

1 Thessalonians 5:7-8

7 *For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. 8 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.*

- Those who sleep do so at night
- Those who get drunk do so at night
- They are children of the darkness
- Christians belong to the day, to the light, to Jesus
- Therefore:
 1. Be sober and ready at all times
 2. Put on the breastplate (the bullet-proof vest; over the heart) of faith and love
 3. Put on the helmet of hope for salvation (over your thought life)

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10

9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **10** who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.

- Christians are not destined for God's wrath on the Day of the Lord
- The wrath of God was poured out on Jesus for Christians
- The Rapture keeps us from experiencing God's wrath (which is worse than any human persecution)
- **Please receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior who died for you**
- And whether we are awake now (living) or asleep (already died) we live with Jesus forever
- The benefits of being a Christian are immense
- You are now warned

1 Thessalonians 5:11

11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

- Therefore (please know what this word is "there for")
- Encourage one another
- Build up one another
- As you are doing!
- Use your words to build up, not tear down until that day

Final truths:

1. The Rapture is real
2. If you love Jesus, you won't face the awesome Day of the Lord
3. But be children of light, not darkness
4. Be alert! Sober! Expectant! Ready! Today could be the day for the Rapture
5. How would your life change if you knew the Rapture would happen today? You will either be with him or left behind?
6. Shouldn't you live totally for Jesus anyway? You can start today!
7. One specific way to be ready: Use your words to encourage and build others up...in your home, in your workplace, in MOHC