

The Thessalonians Church

All Scripture is KJV: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY

The Book of 1 and 2 Thessalonians will challenge you to what you have been told before

What does the 2 books of Thessalonians tell us? – it teaches on

1. Jesus return, and his timing for his return? – (2 Thessalonians 2:4)
2. How Jesus will return, and in what way or manner?, Who are the elect, and how can we know who the elect are?, To whom is this book written, and for what purpose?
3. How Thessalonians fits in with other scriptures on the return of Christ?

1 Thessalonians 4 King James Version (KJV)

- ✚ So from 1 Thessalonians 13-18 Paul speaks about the coming of the Lord in the clouds, which is the second coming of the Lord.
- ✚ This is the greatest passage of all passages in the bible in which no theologian will disagree that it is talking about the rapture of the saints. They all agree on this as the rapture passage.

❖ Now,.....we get to 1 Thessalonians 5.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1. But now as we come to 1 Thessalonians 5 Paul deals with the timing aspect of the Rapture.
2. Notice that in 1 Thessalonians 4, Paul never mentioned anything about the timing of the rapture. Only the coming of the Lord.
3. But now as we get into chapter 5, it is all about the timing.

1 Thessalonians 5 King James Version (KJV)

1 **But of the times and the seasons**, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

1. First of all when chapter 5 opens it opens with the word But. This is a direct reference back to what he had just finished saying in the previous chapter 4.
2. The word “**But**” is an expressive word connecting the passages with the current words in chapter 5.
3. So this is not talking about a new idea or thought about something new.....no it is still talking about the previous chapter 4's events. So by the time we get to chapter 5 Paul is going to explain what he never explained to them in Chapter 4 about the time of Jesus' return.

4. So when he says “**But of the times and the seasons**” , you may ask yourself what time and seasons is he talking about?
5. Well the times and the seasons of the coming of the Lord in the air and the trumpet sounding of what he had just said in chapter 4.
6. So if he just been talking about the coming of the Lord in chapter 4 then he is talking about the times and seasons of the Lords coming.
7. Because he is still on the same subject.....he is still referring to the return of Jesus.

✚ Notice also his address is to the “brethren” which means he was talking to the saved in Christ in the Thessalonian church.

✚ And he was saying to them that “brethren” of “that time and season” **ye have no need that I write unto you.**

✚ Why.....because they as believers knew in “what time and season” Jesus would return, because of what had been said by the Holy Prophets of God.

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

1. Now let’s stop and talk about the day of the Lord?
2. What does the “day of the Lord” mean?
3. Now the “day of the Lord” will only make sense if this is talking about the Lord coming in the clouds and rapturing the saints.

❖ The “day of the Lord” only makes sense if the rapture and the second coming of the Lord takes place at the same time.

4. If those two things had a different timing then it would absolutely make no sense for God to say of the “times and season” brethren.
5. It would make no sense for God to say, Jesus is going to come; but of the times and season brethren, is not related to his second coming.

✚ In chapter 4 there is no mention of the timing of the Lords return, because it’s all a discussion about their loved ones who had died, and would be coming with Jesus at his return. But no timing was mentioned there at all in chapter 4.

✚ But now in Chapter 5, it’s all about that timing of the Lords return.

✚ And so in verse 3 he reminds them of that timing

3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

1. So now in verse 3 he reminds them of that timing “**For when**”. (*talking about time*)
2. This word for “For when” is all to do with that timing.
3. He is saying that “**For when**” you hear these words “**Peace and safety**” which will be spoken by those who are not saved? this will be the time of the Lords return.
4. Why? You ask?
5. Because as verse 3 says, **then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.**

6. Notice that these words spoken here by Paul were already spoken elsewhere by other scriptures in the OT.

4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

1. Clearly this passage of scripture is speaking to two sets of people.
 2. Those that are in Christ and those who are not. (*the unsaved*)
 3. Notice as he says that for those who are in Christ **that that day should overtake you as a thief.**
 4. Why, because, he says, you brethren are not in darkness. Because clearly the others who is speaking about are in darkness. (unsaved), will be overtaken.
 5. So he is contrasting two people groups, as those who are in darkness and those who are not.
 6. To those who are not in darkness, notice what he says to them. He says to them, **that that day should overtake you as a thief.**
 7. **Notice:** He did not say to them that they would **NOT BE HERE**, no.....he said that.....that day **should overtake you** as a thief?
 8. **Meaning you will be here till after the tribulation folks.**
 9. That means that for the day of the Lord it will not come to the believer as a day in which a thief comes, because we will be aware of it when it comes. But for the unbeliever that day will come as a thief upon them
 10. Because as the goodman (owner) of the house we will be watching, and we will see when "that thief", who is the antichrist will set himself up in the temple of God, and we will know that our redemption draws near. That day shall not overtake us, because we will be ready and watching and will know when it is coming. (Matthew 24:43).
- ✚ What I want to point out here is that the time of the Rapture is the same timing of the day of the Lord. It is the same event.
 - ✚ Show me in the scripture any other passage about this not being the case.
 - ❖ Now the day of the Lord (v2) is a major event, and the bible talks a lot about the day of the Lord, both in the OT as well as in the NT.
 - ✚ Let us look at some of those scriptures.

Let us first see what the OT has to say about the day of the Lord.

Isaiah 13:6-13. ⁶ **Howl ye;** for the **day of the LORD is at hand;** it **shall come as a destruction** from the Almighty. ⁷ Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt: ⁸ And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; **they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth:** they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames.

1. Again these are the exact same words that 1 Thessalonians 5 used in verses 3 and verse 4.
2. It's going to be a time of excruciating pain as a women is giving in childbirth.
3. It's going to be a time when sudden destruction is going to come upon them.

⁹ Behold, **the day of the LORD cometh**, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and he shall destroy **the sinners thereof out of it.**

¹⁰ For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

¹¹ **And I will punish the world for their evil**, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. ¹² I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.

¹³ Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.

✚ So let me point out a few things about this passage.

1. It is a day of wrath,
2. God's wrath is being poured out.
3. There is going to be destruction.
4. The sun is shall be darkened.
5. The moon shall not cause her light to shine.
6. And there is a great earthquake.

✚ These are all things that characterise the day of the Lord.

✚ People will be very scared, and people's hearts will fail them.

❖ Now let's look at Isaiah chapter 2:10-12

Isaiah 2: ¹⁰ Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty. ¹¹ The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.

¹² **For the day of the LORD** of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low:

Go to verse 19.....-21

¹⁹ And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, **when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.** ²⁰ In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats; ²¹ To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth **to shake terribly the earth.**

✚ So here we can see some of the same things that are happening where people are afraid, of God's wrath, and the earthquake, and the shaking of the earth.

✚ People are going to try and hide themselves in and under the rocks of the earth, in caves, to try and get away from the face of the almighty on the day of the Lord.

✚ Now go to the book of Joel.....one of the minor prophets.

Joel 2:28-32: ²⁸ And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: ²⁹ And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

³⁰ And I will shew **wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.** ³¹ **The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come.**

³² **And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered:** for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

1. So here again we have a description that culminates in the day of the Lord.
2. The sun shall be turned into darkness.
3. The moon into blood.
4. Blood and fire and pillars of smoke.
5. Before the great and terrible day of the LORD come.
6. And it also talks about those that will be delivered. Those that call upon the name of the Lord will be delivered. Will be saved.

❖ Now go to the book of. Zephaniah.

1. Every time you look up the day of the Lord in scripture whether in the OT or NT it is very consistent in the way it describes the day of the Lord. It is always the same things happening together.
2. Where the Lord is pouring out his wrath, where the Lord is punishing the earth.
3. Where people are scared and hiding, and there are earthquakes, the sun and the moon are being darkened and the stars withdrawing their shining.
4. These are always key features that are being mentioned over and over again.
5. And those that are being saved are of the positive outcome as they call upon the name of the Lord.

Zephaniah 1: ¹⁴ The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, **even the voice of the day of the LORD:** the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. 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,** ¹⁶ **A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers.**

6. There are many more scriptures in the OT that we can look at, but the same descriptions of the day of the Lord come up over and over again with references to the day of the Lord, and the key feature is the sun and the moon being darkened always.

❖ Now let's go to the NT to get the equivalent in Revelation 6. And let's see this event of the day of the Lord taking place in the book of revelation.

1. The book of Revelation is the most important book with regard to bible prophecy, because it is the book which Jesus gave unto his servant John so that he could give it to all the church to see what was going to take place in the end.
 2. The book of Revelation is just that. It's a book of revealing given by Jesus to John for us to know what is going to take place.
 3. And it was never meant to be a book, so cryptic that we would never be able to understand it.
 4. No. to the contrary it is a book for all the "saved" Christians to understand to know what is going to happen. That's why Jesus gave it to us.
- ❖ Revelation 6 describes in great detail the events of the day of the Lord which is described clearly for us here and which was spoken about all through the OT.

Revelation 6: ¹² And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, **there was a great earthquake;** and **the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;** ¹³ **And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.** ¹⁴ And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; **and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.**

1. That goes very well with what we read in Isaiah 13 remember.

¹⁵ And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, **hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;** *(Isaiah 2)* ¹⁶ **And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:**

¹⁷ **For the great day of his wrath is come;** and who shall be able to stand?

2. Over and over again, we saw in all the other OT scriptures that he was going to come and pour out his wrath upon the earth.
 3. So it is very clear.
- ❖ So now go to Matthew 24 to see the day of the Lord.
- ✓ It's very easy to identify the day of the Lord, because there are so many aspects and descriptions of what the day of the Lord entails.

Matthew 24: ²⁹ **Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:**

1. Verse 29, is a key verse of the passage which describes when the day of the Lord will come.
2. Remember as we read in the OT it spoke about the powers of heaven that will be shaken. (Isaiah 2:19,21). Well here we read about it again.

³⁰ And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

3. So here in this passage of Matthew 24 we have the sun being darkened.
4. The moon not giving her light
5. The Stars falling from heaven
6. The powers of heaven shaken.
7. The tribes of the earth (people) mourning.

✚ This is what we saw in revelation 6:15-17, where we saw the sun and moon being darkened, and then.....we see **the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man..... hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb **For the great day of his wrath is come;** and who shall be able to stand?**

✚ All throughout the OT we see people weeping and wailing and scared about God's wrath, so this passage fits in perfectly with all the OT passages as well as Revelation 6.

1. Jesus often referred to himself in other scriptures as the **Son of Man**. (Acts 7:56, John 1:51, John 3:14, John 5:27, John 6:53, and many more.....
2. So when the **Son of Man comes in the clouds** there is going to be this weeping and wailing from all those who are not saved, and God is going to pour out his judgement upon them all.
3. This is what is called the day of the Lord.

³¹ And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

1. This is what Paul told the church of the Thessalonians about the coming of the Lord.
2. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, **and with the trump of God:** and the dead in Christ shall rise first:
3. ¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be **caught up together** with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

This is also what revelation 7:9 reveals about the saved appearing in heaven.

4. ⁹ **After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne,** and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

³² Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:

1. This is exactly the same illustration that revelation 6:13 used.....when it said.....¹³ **And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.**
2. This is when Jesus is going to shake the earth, as in the OT passages, and here in the NT, he is going to shake the heavens and the stars are going to fall as figs.
3. This is what the day of the Lord is going to be like. This is an event that is going to take place at the second coming of the Lord, and it's going to be a marker for all those who are saved to see, that this is the great day of the Lord.

³³ So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

1. When the sun and moon are darkened, and the stars fall from heaven it will mean to the saved, that Jesus is coming.
2. It will mean that the day of the Lord has come.
3. So the bible says that we have to **"see these things"** first before we will be raptured.

³⁴ Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. ³⁵ Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

³⁶ But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

1. This passage of scripture is often used to describe what is commonly known as the "doctrine of immanence"
2. Where they will say, but of that day and hour knoweth no man. And they deduce from that the untrue doctrine that "Jesus can come at any moment"
3. Well that of course is not true. There are things that need to happen first like the son of perdition sitting in the temple of God and proclaiming to everyone that he is God. (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)
4. Also then the Lord will return **only** when the day of the Lord as indicated in the OT and NT designated as the Sun being darkened and the moon withdrawing its light etc...
5. Then this is characterised as the "day of the Lord".
6. So anything before the sun and moon being darkened is not the day of the Lord.
7. So anything before the tribulation is not the day of the Lord, because the sun and the moon have not been darkened yet. That means the day of the Lord is after the tribulation as Matthew 24:29 says it is.
8. So many will be deceived when they think that Jesus can come before this.

Now back to 1 Thessalonians 5:5-11

⁵ Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

⁶ Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

⁷ For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. I just want to say a few things about this verse.
2. This is a clear indication that God has not appointed the saved to go through the time that he is pouring out his wrath upon the earth.
3. But also note that the tribulation is not God's wrath.
4. God's wrath is only poured out after the tribulation and after the 7th seal has been opened which is in the beginning of Revelation 8.
5. So understand please. The tribulation and God pouring out His wrath are two different events entirely.
6. This verse teaches that if we have salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, then we are not appointed to wrath.
7. But that does not mean we won't go through the tribulation.

10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. 11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

1. And it's not until Revelation Chapter 8 that we see God pouring out his wrath upon the earth and the wicked which is after the tribulation, and after the rapture.....
2. This means that judgment has only now come upon the earth. This then proves again that the Tribulation is not God pouring out his wrath upon his people.
3. This also proves that the rapture is after the tribulation, and that God only starts pouring out his wrath after the tribulation once the 144,000 have been sealed and it also proves that the trumpets come after the seals and not before.
4. And the trumpets come only after the saints or believers have been raptured and are in heaven.

✚ Luke 17 is the culmination of the disciples asking Jesus about when will the kingdom of God come.....look what Jesus said.....

Luke 17: ²² And he said unto the disciples, The days will come, when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see it. ²³ And they shall say to you, See here; or, see there: go not after them, nor follow them. (Jesus said this in 2 Thess 2:3-5 as Paul recorded it).

24 For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day.

²⁵ But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation. ²⁶ **And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.** ²⁷ **They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.** (the same day judgement came)

²⁸ Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; ²⁹ But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. (the same day judgement came)

³⁰ Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. (judgement day)

³¹ In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away; and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. ³² Remember Lot's wife. ³³ Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.

³⁴ I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. ³⁵ Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. ³⁶ Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. ³⁷ And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together. (Matt 24:27-28)

✚ The same day when these events took place, Jesus said it would be the same day when he would pour out his wrath upon the wicked. In other words in the same day as the saints are raptured then in (about the space of a half hour in heaven) Jesus will then begin to pour out his wrath upon the wicked on the earth. (Rev 8:1).

1. The timing of the events and the events themselves described in Revelation 6, 7 and 8 are the exactly the same as in Matthew 24.

And when we look at this after the tribulation period, there is still a chance that people can be saved before God pours out his wrath and even those who survive the wrath of God who did not take the Mark of the beast still can believe on God.

✚ So it is possible for someone to still get saved and raptured even after the tribulation for a short period but, those after the rapture who did not believe on Jesus will go through the wrath of God; and if they don't take the mark of the beast they can still get saved before and during the millennium. These saints will not be part of the 1st resurrection but will be part of the 2nd resurrection after the 1000 year millennium. (Joel 2:30)

✚ But once the Rapture takes place then it is too late to get saved in the 1st resurrection. But there will be those who will later get saved who did not take the Mark of the beast and who turned to Jesus after the rapture and those that were born afterwards in the millennium who turned to Jesus who survived the wrath of God.

CLOSE IN PRAYER.....