

I Thessalonians: Lesson #50: The Day of the Lord

Notes for Parents to Study with Their Children

For Wednesday, Nov. 5th

Read I Thess. 4:13 –5:10 (a simplified explanation of the text is supplied at the end of these notes).

Note: We are skipping verse 3:11 - 4:12 for this lesson and will cover them next time in lesson #51.

Memory Verse: I Thess. 5:2 “For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.”

When Jesus Returns

- When Jesus was still on the earth, one of the things He promised was to return to take His people to Heaven. John 14:2-3 “In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again** and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”
- Paul writes to the Thessalonian Christians about this very thing. Jesus will come down from heaven. Accompanying Jesus will be all His mighty angels (II Thess. 1:7) and in charge of them all will be the archangel, the highest of all the angels. As He comes a trumpet will sound and a voice will shout out a command. Just at that moment all those who died in Christ will be resurrected from the dead. They will come back to life in new and greater bodies.
- Then all the Christians who are still alive will have their bodies changed (see I Cor. 15:51-52).
- Then all the resurrected dead and all those who were alive and had their bodies changed will be pulled up into the clouds to meet Jesus in the air. We realize that Jesus is not coming back to be on the earth again. He is just coming to take His people to His Father’s house. Just imagine getting to go up into the air and be with Jesus. From that day on we will always be with the Lord.
- We are always sad to have someone die who is important to us. But how wonderful to know that if they were faithful Christians, we will one day be all together in heaven. They should make us all feel better.

The Day of the Lord

- The return of Jesus is sometimes called the Day of the Lord in the Scripture. When Jesus returns, it will be a happy day for people that have followed Him and a terrible day for people who did not obey Him.
- On that day, most people will think that everything is fine – they won’t be expecting Jesus to come back. Jesus told His followers, “But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” (Matt. 24:43-44)

- Paul talks about the same idea. “For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.” (I Thess. 5:2). If a thief was coming to break into your house, he wouldn’t tell you when he was coming. Jesus, of course, is not a thief, but His coming is like that. He will come when we don’t expect it.
- Christians don’t walk in the darkness; they walk in the light of God’s goodness and are always ready for Jesus to return. People who walk in the darkness of the Devil’s ways are not ready for Jesus to return. It’s going to be a terrible day for them because they have disobeyed God and Jesus will come back to judge them.
- By living for Jesus every day, going to church on the Lord’s day, living in a way God would be pleased with, doing good works, and praying for our sins to be forgiven, Christians can stay ready for that day. It will be a happy day for us to meet Jesus in the air and be taken to our heavenly mansion.

Simplified Explanation of the Text

4:13 Now, brethren, I would not want you to be ignorant about those who fallen asleep in death so that you don’t have to be sad like other people who have no hope.

14 I say this because if we believe died and resurrected, in the same way we can believe that those who are asleep in Jesus, God will bring with Him.

15 For we will tell you what the Lord’s Words are about this: When the Lord returns, whoever among us are still left and alive, will not go with Jesus ahead of those who have died.

16 As the Lord Himself comes down from heaven there will be the sound of a command being shouted out in the voice of the archangel accompanied by the sound of a trumpet. And the first thing that will happen will be that those who have died in Christ will come to life again.

17 Then those of us who are still here and alive along with the resurrected dead, will all be taken up suddenly into the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

18 So then comfort each other with these words.

5:1 But, brethren, if your are wanting to know about the precise time when that day will occur or the events that will be happening during that season, there is no need to write anything to you about that.

2 You already know exactly what is true about that, that the day of the Lord comes like a thief in the night.

3 For when its being said that there is “Peace and safety”, right at that time destruction will come upon them unexpectedly, like a woman expecting a child is suddenly struck with labor pains.

4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness of night and there is no reason you have to grabbed unexpectedly by the thief.

5 All of you are children of light and children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.

6 So let’s not ignore things as if we were asleep, but let’s wake up and be alert and be sober.

7-8 You know how most people who sleep, sleep at night; and most people who get drunk, do their drinking at night. But since we are of the day, let's be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet, the hope of salvation.

9 For God has not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation.

10 Jesus died for us so that when He returns, whether we are alive and awake or we have fallen asleep in death, we will still live with Him.