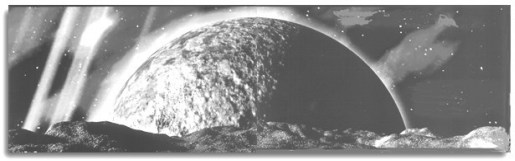
"BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!"

I Thessalonians 5:1-3
2-11-2026



**** You must escape the wrath of God before it's too late!***

Why? 2 Reasons:

I. THE WRATH OF GOD WILL FALL AT A TIME WHEN:
THE WORLD WILL NOT _____ IT (v. 1-3a)

A. IT'S AN _____ TIME (v. 1)
(It's a day not marked on the calendar)

B. IT'S AN _____ TIME (v. 2)
(It's a day that comes unannounced)

C. IT'S A "_____" TIME (v. 3a)
(It's a day that comes during a time of false security for the heathen world)

1."Peace"

2."Safety"

II. THE WRATH OF GOD WILL FALL AT A TIME WHEN:
THE WORLD WILL NOT _____ IT (v. 3b)

A. UNBELIEVERS WILL ENTER IT _____

B. UNBELIEVERS WILL FIND _____

"BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!"

I Thessalonians 5:1-3

2-4-2026

**** You must escape the wrath of God before it's too late!***

Why? 2 Reasons:

I. THE WRATH OF GOD WILL FALL AT A TIME WHEN: <u>THE WORLD WILL NOT EXPECT IT</u> (v. 1-3a)

A. IT'S AN <u>UNKNOWN</u> TIME (v. 1)
(It's a day not marked on the calendar)

B. IT'S AN <u>UNEXPECTED TIME</u> (v. 2)
(It's a day that comes unannounced)

C. IT'S A <u>"SECURE"</u> TIME (v. 3a)
(It's a day that comes during a time of false security for the heathen world)

1."Peace"

2."Safety"

II. THE WRATH OF GOD WILL FALL AT A TIME WHEN: <u>THE WORLD WILL NOT ESCAPE IT</u> (v. 3b)

A. UNBELIEVERS WILL ENTER IT <u>QUICKLY</u>

B. UNBELIEVERS WILL FIND <u>NO WAY OUT</u>

"BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!"

I Thessalonians 5:1-3

2-4-2026

INTRODUCTION:

Paul after describing what happens to the "dead in Christ" at His coming, now exhorts those living "in Christ" to be ready for His coming.

READ V. 1-3

Give examples of things we do "too late," things we "put off."

V. 2

"The day of the Lord" = a day belonging to the Lord (Jehovah).

(As opposed to "the time of the Gentiles" or the time of Satan [Rev. 12:12])

The word "Day" can mean a literal 24-hour period (EX Gen. 2:3), or a longer time period (Gen. 2:4)

"The day of the Lord" is a reference to the Great Tribulation
which begins after the Church is delivered (raptured) (I Cor. 1:7-9)

The Day of the Lord - SEE Is. 2:12, 18-22
- v. 12 - a day to destroy the proud
- v. 19 - a day of desperation
- v. 20 - a day of throwing away idols
- v. 21 - a day when God shakes the earth

SEEIs. 13:6-13
- v. 7 - a day of fainting hands and melting hearts
- v. 8 - a day of shocking pain
- v. 10 - a day of signs in the sky
- v. 11 - a day of humbling the proud

Ezekiel 7:19 - a day of no deliverance

SEEJoel 1:15 - a day of destruction

Joel 2:1-6, 11 - a day of torment

Amos 5:18-19 - a day of no escape

Amos 5:20 - a day of darkness

Obad. 15 - a day of judgment on the heathen (cp. Ez. 30:3)

SEE Zeph. 1:14-18 -
v. 14 - a day that comes quickly
v. 15 - a day of wrath etc.
v. 17 - a day of no hope
v. 18 - a day when money will do you no good

*** You must escape the wrath of God before it's too late!**

Why? 2 Reasons:

I. THE WRATH OF GOD WILL FALL AT A TIME WHEN: <u>THE WORLD WILL NOT EXPECT IT</u> (v. 1-3a)

A. IT'S AN <u>UNKNOWN</u> TIME (v. 1)
(It's a day not marked on the calendar)

V. 1

Nearly 20 centuries have come and gone since our Lord gave the promise of His return, and He has no returned yet. This does not mean that God does not keep His promises. No.

It simply means that <u>God does not follow our calendar</u> (EX: I Pet. 3:8). (Wiersbe, p. 98)

No one can "set any fixed date" on his calendar for the second coming. Cults have tried.

"Times and Seasons" - a phrase Jesus used when asked when He would set up His kingdom (Acts 1:7 - And He said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power."

If God had told us what time (the year and day) His Son was coming back, the saints throughout the Church age would have been missing one of the greatest incentives for godly (pure) living (I Jn. 3:3).

If Christ came at the end of the Tribulation, we would know the time of His coming because once the Trib. begins you can count the days before it ends.

B. IT'S AN UNEXPECTED TIME (v. 2)
(It's a day that comes unannounced)

V. 2

Verse 2 is a paradoxical statement: Paul is saying this - "You know perfectly well that we don't know" (the hour of Christ's return)."

"You know accurately, that we don't know accurately."

We do not know the time of Christ's coming, but we do know the certainty of it.

"So cometh" = present tense (rather than future) to give vividness (or show the abiding reality) of His coming in power and glory.

Jesus comes as a "thief." Every reference to his coming as a thief refers not to the rapture, but to His judgment (Lk. 12:39, 21:34; II Pet. 3:10; Rev. 3:3, 16:15.).

A thief comes when men are asleep, not when they are alert, awake and watching.

Because the world will be asleep, (during "the night") this proves that those who are awake will not be here. Only the sleepers will be here. We will be gone, delivered before the Flood comes (EX: Mt. 24:37-39) and before the fire falls (Lk. 17:28-30).

C. IT'S A "SECURE" TIME (v. 3a)
(It's a day that comes during a time of false security)

1. "Peace"

V. 3

"They" = unbelievers; in contrast to "Ye brethren" in verse 4.

"Peace and safety" = no feeling of harm. They will be self-deceived into thinking that peace is everywhere and that everything is safe and secure.

God will allow a strong delusion, and they will believe the life of the Anti-christ. (Thes. 2:10-12)

2. "Safety"

The feeling of safety is the result of a feeling of peace. It points to the idea of being unshaken, unmoved or secure from danger.

The word was a law term referring to a "bond" or "security" (MM)

People who are in the tribulation will "feel that everything is safe and secure and see no outward evidence to dispute the feeling" (Hiebert, p. 212).

What will give such a feeling of safety?

1) They will have a strong leader they will trust - the Anti-Christ (Rev. 13:4)

2) They will feel secure from God's interfering with their lifestyles. The world will not fear God or His wrath. The moral conscience of the world (namely, believers) will be gone (raptured).

Because their consciences have been dulled because of the repeated warnings of coming judgment and because they deliberately rejected the love of the truth, they will believe the Devil's lie and feel secure (II Thes. 2:10-12).

There is <u>no</u> security outside of God!

II. THE WRATH OF GOD WILL FALL AT A TIME WHEN: THE WORLD WILL NOT ESCAPE IT (v. 3b)

A. UNBELIEVERS WILL ENTER IT QUICKLY

"Sudden" = emphatic. The world will be caught totally unprepared.

"Destruction" = disaster, ruin. The word is used in the LXX (esp. in the prophets) specifically describing end-time destruction

"Cometh upon" = to stand upon. Destruction like a giant will overwhelm the world

"Cometh upon them" - used of misfortunes which suddenly come crashing down on someone

Destruction is the opposite of deliverance (salvation) which awaits believers (v. 7-10)

Which do you choose?
You must choose now!

Once the day of the Lord begins, it will be too late!

B. UNBELIEVERS WILL FIND NO WAY OUT

"As travail upon a woman with child" = lit. like the birth pain of the one having [a child] in her womb." - a Greek idiom - describing a pregnant woman.

When do the birth pains begin? At the beginning of the Tribulation.

(SEE Mt. 24:3-8, which is parallel to Rev. 6, which begins the tribulation).

**V. 8 - "These are the beginning of sorrows" - lit. birth pains

SEE Is. 13:6-13

Why is the Tribulation likened unto birth pains?

1) It leads to the birth of the Kingdom (when Christ returns to the earth (Mt. 24:30)

2) It describes something that begins suddenly and continues steadily

3) It shows that no one will get out of it until it's over

"Escape" = lit. - "to run (flee) out"

There is no escape; no way out for those will here for the Day of the Lord.

SEE Lk. 21:34-36.

"Not" = double negative ( ) - there is absolutely no way out. By no means will they escape.

No one will escape. There will be an eerie feeling of helplessness. If you enter the day of the Lord you have entered the point of no return!

CONCLUSION: