The Coming of the Lord - A Purifying Hope

I Thessalonians 5:1-11

Introduction:

Paul has just taught about the Rapture of the Church chapter 4. We covered that section the last time. We pointed out at that time that the church is not in the O.T. The church is a “mystery,” meaning something that was hidden, and is now revealed. Where was it hidden? Eph. 3:9 tells us: “It was hidden in God.” The Rapture is also a Mystery, hidden in the same place.

No events have to occur before the rapture. Therefore, the Rapture could have occurred any time since the ascension of Jesus in Acts 1. The Rapture of the Church and the Second Coming of Christ are two separate events.

The subject of Chapter 5 is the “Day of the Lord” (v. 2). The “Day of the Lord” is found 19 times in the Old Test.

* Isaiah 2:12; 13:6, 9
* Ezekiel 13:5; 30:3
* Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14
* Amos 5:18 [twice], 20
* Obadiah 1:5
* Zephaniah 1:7, 14 [twice]
* Zechariah 14:1
* Malachi 4:5

It is mentioned 4 times in the New Testament

* + Acts 2:20
  + 1 Thessalonians 5:2
  + 2 Thessalonians 2:2
  + 2 Peter 3:10

The “Day of the Lord” is a time of:

* Judgment - the 7 year Tribulation, and a time of,
* Blessing - The 1,000 Millennium

The Tribulation, the judgment part of the Day of the Lord, will begin when the Antichrist (or the world leader) makes a peace-treaty with the nation, Israel.

Daniel 9:27

“Then he shall confirm ﻿﻿a {peace} ﻿﻿covenant with ﻿﻿many {Israel} for one week;” {seven-year period} That period will end will end when Christ returns to deliver His people.

This will be followed by the 1,000 year reign of Christ on the earth.

SEVEN FEATURES OF THE COMING OF THE DAY OF THE LORD

Secretly “like a thief in the night” (v. 2)

Unexpectedly - “while people are saying ‘there is peace and safety” (v. 3)

Suddenly - “sudden” (v. 3)

Destructively “destruction” (v. 3)

Inevitably - “as labor pains come upon a woman” (v. 3)

Irreversibly “as labor pains come upon a woman” (v. 3)

Inescapably - “they will not escape” (v. 3)

It will help our understanding of chapter 5 if we watch our pronouns. Paul is referring to two groups –“you, yourselves, we, us” and “they and them.” You should color-code them accordingly.

I. Some Differences – 5:1-8

A. Regarding Beliefs – 5:1-6

1. Saints Follow Scripture – 5:1-2

1. Previous Revelation – 5:1

“But concerning ﻿﻿the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.”

“Brothers” continues to shows Paul’s love for them. Paul had already taught them from the O.T. and from the revelation that God had given to him about these future events.

The “times” and “seasons” are the ages and events that will precede the Day of the Lord. The ages (general time) can be known, but the events (particular events) cannot be known. We know that we are in the age of the Church; but we do not know when these future events will unfold.

1. Pure Revelation – 5:2

“For you yourselves know perfectly that ﻿﻿the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.”

They know “perfectly” ἀκριβῶς, means accurately or well. The “Day of the Lord” {not the Rapture} will come as a thief in the night.

2. Sinners Follow Satan – 5:3

a. The Nature of their Deception – 5:3a

“For when they say, “Peace and safety!”

The world ruler (also called by some, the antichrist) will bring in a peaceful time and fool many.”

1. The Nature of their Destruction – 5:3b

“then ﻿﻿sudden destruction comes upon them, ﻿﻿as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.”

3. Saints are not to Fall into Sleep – 5:4-6

a. Their Circumstance – 5:4

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“But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.”

b. Their Character – 5:5

“You are all ﻿﻿sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.”

c. Their Conduct – 5:6 ﻿﻿

“Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do,* but ﻿﻿let us watch and be ﻿﻿sober.”

B. Regarding behavior – 5:7-8

1. The Lost People – 5:7
2. Delusion – 5:7a

“For ﻿﻿those who sleep, sleep at night”

1. Destruction – 5:7b

“and those who get drunk are drunk at night.”

2. The Lord’s People – 5:8

a. Their Field – 5:8a

“But let us who are of the day be sober,”

b. Their Shield – 5:8b

“putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and *as* a helmet the hope of salvation.”

II. Some Deductions – 5:9-11

1. The Great Escape from Woe – 5:9-10

1. What we shall Escape – 5:9

“For ﻿﻿God did not appoint us to wrath, ﻿﻿but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,”

2. Why we shall Escape – 5:10 ﻿

“who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.”

1. The Great Escape from Worry – 5:11

“Therefore ﻿﻿comfort each other and ﻿﻿edify one another, just as you also are doing.”

Conclusion: