

# First Thessalonians

VERSE-BY-VERSE

Letter	Date of Writing	Place of Writing
1st Thessalonians	54 A.D.	Corinth

We left off last time on a note of comfort *so shall we ever be with the Lord (4:18)*, and Paul will repeat those words of comfort in 5:11. The comfort he gave the church was in chapter 4:13-18. It was good news of the Christian's blessed hope, that is, Christians dead or alive will be caught up together to be with the Lord. Death cannot keep us from forever being with the Lord.

In chapter 5, verses 1-11, He supplements his words regarding the Rapture of the church. The point: Jesus Christ is going to save all Christians (dead or alive) from the wrath of the Tribulation; he calls it **the day of the Lord**. Paul clarifies that in 5:9 where he says, **For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Paul is addressing a concern of those in the church of Thessalonica. First, they thought they had missed the Rapture, and second they believed the Tribulation may have already begun. They knew it as *the Time of Jacob's Trouble*. Paul puts their fears to rest.

## Chapter 5

### Verse 1-10-

Verses 1-10 deal with the timing of the Rapture. Paul begins with **But** (or now), when is all of this going to happen?

#### But of the times and seasons.

- **Times** is the Greek word *chronos*. We get our word chronometer (a timepiece or a watch). It is not a specific time, but an unlimited duration unless it is defined as a specific time.
- **Seasons** is the Greek word *kairos*, it refers to a definite portion of the *chronos*.
- Paraphrase: *"About the general time of the end, even the exact time, there is no need for me to write to you."*
  - Why? Because, *"God hath not appointed us to wrath."* (1:10; 5:9). Therefore, there is no need to know anymore than what he taught them in chapter 4.

#### You know perfectly.

- Those in the church who were Jews would have known about the day of the Lord from Old Testament passages like Isaiah 2:10-22.

#### Day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

There are two primary views on when the Day of the Lord begins.

1. One view believes it begins at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ (at the end of the Tribulation).
2. Others believe it begins at the beginning of the Tribulation and continues through the New Heaven and New Earth.

Both views have merit. I lean toward view #2. As noted above, Paul states in verse 9, **For God hath not appointed us to wrath.** The antecedent of wrath (or the logical reading of the passage) is the **day of the Lord**. Day of the Lord = wrath.

Verses 4-8 show why the church will not go through the wrath of the Tribulation: As **children of light** we need not fear the **darkness** of the coming Day of the Lord. Several Old Testament passage refer to the darkness of the Tribulation:

Zephaniah 1:14-18

# 1 Thessalonians 5:1- | Session 13

Joel 2:1-2

Joel 2:10-11

Therefore this day of darkness will come upon the *children of the night*, that is unbelievers. But because the believer is *of the day*, the Day of the Lord will not come upon him.

**Children of the light** and the **day** never have to worry about being caught off guard. And because we are of the day, we don't sleep, we stay awake (staying alert), not worried about the Tribulation destruction, but rather waiting for the Rapture, and while we do we stay **sober** and alert by **putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and, a helmet**, that is, **the hope of salvation**. The word salvation is future and refers to the redemption of the body which will occur at the Rapture. Therefore, this is our salvation we have been appointed to as believers, not the wrath of the Day of the Lord.

Old Testament Names for Tribulation	New Testament Names for Tribulation
Time of Jacob's Trouble Jeremiah 30:7	The Day of the Lord 1 Thessalonians 5:2
A week (70th week of Daniel) Daniel 9:27	The Wrath of God Revelation 15:1, 7; 14:10, 19; 16:1
The LORD's Strange Work Isaiah 28:21	The Hour of Trial Revelation 3:10
The LORD's Strange Act Isaiah 28:21	The Great Day of the Wrath of the Lamb of God Revelation 6:16-17
The Day of Israel's Calamity Deuteronomy 32:35; Obadiah 12-14	The Wrath to Come 1 Thessalonians 1:10
The Tribulation Deuteronomy 4:30	The Wrath 1 Thessalonians 5:9; Revelation 11:18
The Indignation Isaiah 26:20; Daniel 11:36	The Great Tribulation Matthew 24:29
The Overflowing Scourge Isaiah 28:15, 18	The Hour of Judgment Revelation 14:7
The Day of Vengeance Isaiah 34:8; 35:4; 61:2	
The Year of Recompense Isaiah 34:8	
The Time of Trouble Daniel 12:1; Zephaniah 1:15	
The Day of Wrath, Distress, Wasteness, Desolation, Darkness, Gloominess, Clouds, Trumpet, and Alarm	

Verse 11-

As Paul wrote in 4:18, he repeats here, **Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as ye do.**