

The Christian Arsenal

www.christianarsenal.com

WHAT WILL CHRISTMAS DAY BE LIKE? Getting Ready for Christmas

Dr. Ken Culver

Part 4 of 4

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

The purpose of this message today is to get you ready for Christmas – Phase 2 – the 2nd Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“¹But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ²For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. ³For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. ⁴But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. ⁵You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. ⁶Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. ⁸But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. ¹¹Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.” **1 Thess. 5:1-11 (NKJV)**

FOUR TRUTHS IN THIS PASSAGE THAT TELL US WE NEED TO BE READY

1. WE CAN EXPECT A SURPRISING DAY (v. 1,2)

Paul is saying two things: The certainty of Christ's coming
The uncertainty of Christ's coming

“Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:6-8 (NKJV)

“But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward

The Christian Arsenal

www.christianarsenal.com

us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.” 2 Peter 3:8-10 (NKJV)

The raging waters of God's wrath are pounding against the dam of His mercy.

2. WE CAN ESCAPE A SUDDEN DESTRUCTION (v. 3,4)

THE DAY OF THE LORD

Scriptures that talk about the Day of the Lord

“Blow the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; for the day of the LORD is coming, for it is at hand: A day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong, the like of whom has never been; nor will there ever be any such after them, even for many successive generations.” Joel 2:1,2 (NKJV)

“Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob’s trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.” Jeremiah 30:7 (NKJV)

“At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book.” Daniel 12:1 (NKJV)

“For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.” Matthew 24:21 (NKJV)

“And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves 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 who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?” Revelation 6:15-17 (NKJV)

THIS DAY WILL BE A:

1. Solemn Day
The antichrist that will rule at this time will make Hitler seem like a Boy Scout.
2. Sudden Day

The Christian Arsenal

www.christianarsenal.com

“For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.” I Thess. 5:3 (NKJV)

“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.” Matthew 24:36-39 (NKJV)

3. Sure Day

I Thess. 5:3b *“...as labor pains upon a pregnant woman...”*

3. WE MUST ENDURE A SURROUNDING DARKNESS (v. 4-8)

The world is already in a moral darkness.

The world is already in a spiritual darkness.

The world is already in a social darkness.

The world is already in a political darkness.

THREE THINGS WE NEED TO DO AS A CHILD OF GOD

1. We should be aware and wise up (v. 5)

2. We should be awake and get up (v. 6,7)

This is not a theory to be discussed but a truth to be lived.

3. We should be alert and dress up (v. 8)

Two things we need to be wearing:

1. Get your heart right – *“breastplate of faith and love”*

We need to put our hearts where God put our sin and that is on the Lord Jesus.

2. Get your head right - *“put on the helmet of the hope of*

salvation”

The 2nd Coming of Jesus is called the Blessed Hope (Titus

2:13)

4. WE WILL EXPERIENCE A SURE DELIVERANCE (v. 9-11)

Three Reasons We Can Expect a Sure Deliverance:

1. Explanation (v. 9) *“For God has not appointed us to wrath”*

I Thess 1:9-10

TWO CLASSIC EXAMPLES OF DELIVERANCE –

“And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them

The Christian Arsenal

www.christianarsenal.com

all. Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.” Luke 17:26-30 (NKJV)

1. Noah – The flood didn’t come until Noah was safely in the ark.
2. Lot – Before God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah He told Lot

to leave

“Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.” Ezekiel 16:49 (NKJV)

2. **Expectation** (v. 10)

“Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.” I Thess. 4:17

“Little children, it is the last hour;” I John 2:18

3. **Edification** (v. 11)

Do we say “Even so Come Great Tribulation” – NO!

We say “Even so Come Lord Jesus!”

Just as God said, “Noah get in the ark” and “Lot get out of the city,” He is going to say, “Church come up hither.”