



1



2

1 Thessalonians 5

"1 Now as to **the times and the epochs**, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. 2 For you yourselves know full well that the **day of the Lord** will come just **like a thief in the night**. 3 While they are saying, **"Peace and safety!"** then destruction will come upon them suddenly like **birth pangs** upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief; 5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; 6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be **alert and sober**. 7 For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of **faith and love**, and as a helmet, the **hope** of salvation. 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining **salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ**, 10 **who died for us**, that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him. 11 Therefore **encourage one another, and build up one another**, just as you also are doing."

3

1 Thessalonians 5

"1 Now as to **the times and the epochs** (season), brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. 2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just **like a thief in the night**.

The 2nd coming of Christ is a critical part of the Gospel's hope -

3 **While they** are saying, **"Peace and safety!"** then destruction will come upon them suddenly like **birth pangs** upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. ... 7 For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night.

- that often is ignored or has attracted reasons other than -

4 **But you, brethren**, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief; 5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; 6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be **alert and sober**. ... 8 But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of **faith and love**, and as a helmet, the **hope** of salvation. 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him.

- a motive for holy living in this life -

11 Therefore **encourage one another, and build up one another**, just as you also are doing."

- and a subject for disciple making.

4

1 Thessalonians 5

"1 Now as to the **times and the epochs** (season), brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. 2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just **like a thief in the night**.

Christ is coming again, but when?

"the most embarrassing verses in the Bible"
The Essential C.S. Lewis p.385

Matthew 24

"33 even so you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door. 34 Truly I say to you, **this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.**"

Matthew 16:28

"Truly I say to you, there are some of those **who are standing here who shall not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.**"

5

Matthew 24:3

"3 And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age?"

4 And Jesus answered and said to them, **"See to it that no one misleads you."**



Biblical texts on end time events & Christ's return.

Daniel 2, 7, 9
John 14:1-3
1 Corinthians 15
1 Thessalonians 4-5
2 Thessalonians 2
1 Peter 4
2 Peter 3
Luke 17:22-37
Revelation 6-22
Matthew 24-25 (Mark 13)

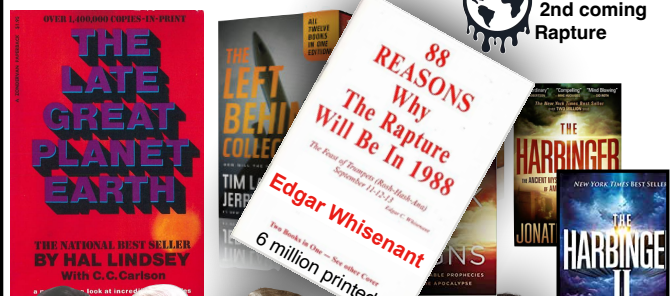
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Matthew 24-25 (Luke 21:7-36)				
Beginning of birth pangs	Great Tribulation	2nd Coming of Christ		Final Judgment
24:1-14	24:15-28	24:29-31	24:32-25:30	25:31-46
✓ False Christs will come ✓ Wars & rumors of wars ✓ Famine & earthquakes ✓ Believers hated by all ✓ Conflict within the ch. ✓ False prophets ✓ Many are misled ✓ Increased lawlessness ✓ Love will grow cold ✓ World evangelism	✓ Desecration ✓ Tribulation ✓ False signs	✓ Cosmic signs ✓ Christ is seen ✓ Trumpet sounds ✓ Elect gathered	Parables ✓ Fig Tree ✓ Servants ✓ Virgins ✓ Talents	 ✓ Sheep ✓ Goats
1 Thess.5:1-11	2 Thess. 2:1-12	1Thess. 4:13-18 2 Pet.3:3-13		Rom.2:5-16 Cor.3:11-15
Rev. 6-7 (seals)	Rev. 8-18 (trumpets, bowls)	Rev.19	The Millennium	Rev.20-22

7

Some popular books in the 20th cent. on End Times Prophecy

Apocalypse Armageddon 2nd coming Rapture




8

Predicted dates of Christ's return					
70	1533 (Oct.19)	1763 (Feb.28)	1880	1954 (Dec.21)	1995
247	1534 (April 5)	1780 (May 19)	1881	1957 (Apr.23)	1996 (Dec.13)
365	1544	1789	1890	1958	1997 '8
380	1555	1790	1891	1959 (Apr.22)	1998 '15
500	1556 (July 22)	1792	1895	1960	1999 '36
793 (April 6)	1583 (April 28)	1794	1896	1962 (Feb.4)	2000 '59
800	1584	1795 (Nov.19)	1899	1966	2001 '17
806	1588	1801	1900	1967 (Aug.20)	2002 '6
848	1600	1805	1901	1969 (Aug.9)1972	2003 '6
870 (March 25)	1603	1814 (Dec.25)	1908 (April 23)	1973	2004
922	1623 1624	1820 (Oct.14)	1910 (May 18)	1974	2005 '3
995	(Feb.1)	1832	1911	1975	2006 (Feb.12)
1000	1648 1654	1836	1914 (Oct.1)	1976	2007 '4
1033	1656	1843 (April 28)	1915	1977	2008 (Mar. 21)
1184	1657	1844 (Mar.21)	1918	1978	2009
1186 (Sept.23)	1658	1845	1919 (Dec.17)	1980 (April.1)	2010
1260	1660	1846	1925 (Feb.13)	1981 (June 28)	2011 (Dec.31)
1284	1666 1673	1847 (April 7)	1928	1982 (Mar.10)	2012 (Dec.21)
1290	1688	1849	1934	1983	2017
1306	1689	1851	1935	1984 (Oct.2)	2020 (Sept.27)
1335	1694	1863	1936	1985 (Mar.25)	2022 (Jan.1)
1367	1697	1866	1938	1986	2035
1370	1700	1862	1941	1987 (Apr.29)	2037
1420 (Feb.14)	1708	1867	1943	1988 (Sep.15)	2040
1496	1716	1868	1945 (Sept.21)	1989 (Sept.30)	
1504	1719 (April5)	1869	1947	1990 (April 23)	
1524 (Feb.20)	1734	1870 (June 28)	1950	1991 (Mar.31)	
1525	1736 (Oct.13)	1872	1952	1992 (April 26)	
1528 (May 27)	1757	1874	1953 (Jan.9)	1993 (Nov.14)	
1532	1761 (April 5)	1878	1953	1994 (Sept.29)	

9

1 Thessalonians 5

“**3 While they** are saying, “**Peace and safety!**” then destruction will come upon them suddenly like **birth pangs** upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. ... **7 For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night.**”

- It will come in spite of the fact that its “delay” may seem to many **that the whole thing is a hoax.**

2 Peter 3

“**3** Knowing this first of all, that **scorners** will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires, **4 saying, ‘Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.’**”

Ecclesiastes 1:2

“Vanity of vanities! **All is vanity.**”

- Those in the dark (scorners) are grabbing for abundant life here and now, **not in a resurrection “afterlife”.**

10

2 Peter 3

“**10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief**, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. **11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness**, **12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God**, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! **13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth**, in which righteousness dwells.”

The 2nd Coming of Christ will:

1. be a **surprise** to many,
2. bring **destruction** to this world,
3. be followed by **a new heaven and earth.**

11

1 Corinthians 15

“**22 For as in Adam all die**, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. **23 But every man in his own order: Christ the first-fruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming.** **24 Then cometh the end**, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. **25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.** The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.” ... “**51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.**”

The 2nd Coming of Christ will trigger the resurrection of the deceased believers and the rapture of living believers.

12

The RAPTURE?

Matthew 24

"30 and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the *Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky* with power and great glory. 31 And He will send forth His angels with a *great trumpet* and **they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.**"

1 Thessalonians 4

"16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead **in Christ** shall rise first. 17 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. 18 Therefore **comfort** one another with these words."

John 14

"1 'Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3 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."

13

1 Thessalonians 5

"6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be **alert and sober**. ... 8 But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of **faith and love**, and as a helmet, the **hope** of salvation."

The **2nd Coming** of Christ will **surprise** those outside the faith who seek to find false security from this world, but his coming should **inspire** believers who do not expect heaven on earth as they bear a cross to a resurrection promise.

In light of this we might ask ourselves some questions.

1. Do we look for peace in the circumstances of this world, when only Christ can satisfy the deepest longings of our heart?
2. Do we resist the "Way of the Cross" in this life, when it is a witness to our true resurrection hope? (1Pet.2:20-21, 4:12-13)
3. Do we go to great lengths to avoid a one world government if such a structure is a door to the 2nd coming of Christ (Rev.13:7-17, Dan.7:13-14,27)?

14

Too much attention goes to explaining obscure signs and not enough given to behavioral implications.

Two things we can say for sure:

**WE ARE CLOSER TO THE END NOW
THAN WE HAVE EVER BEEN
AND WE SEE DIMLY.**

Augustine of Hippo

"He who loves the coming of the Lord is not he who affirms it is far off, nor is it he who says it is near. It is he who, whether it be far or near, **awaits it with sincere faith, steadfast hope and fervent love.**"

15

1 Thessalonians 5:6

"so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be **alert and sober**."

- Scoffers will not see a need to prep for Christ's coming in that **they seek peace and safety in this world, here and now.**
- Just before the Day of the Lord there will be a great **worldwide tribulation (collapse) of worldly hopes.**
- Disciples of Jesus know about this world's tribulation and are **prepared by modeling faith, hope, and love of a better rest.**
- This is why we need to share and model the Word and Way of the Cross as we wait for our blessed hope.



To the extent that we demand & find "peace and safety" in this life

we will not bear witness to the (Way of the Cross) & its Resurrection hope.



16

Why is the 2nd coming of Christ a blessed hope?

1. Our sense of **fulfillment and meaning** rest in God's Kingdom, not in this empty and evil age.
2. We must **resist the temptation** to seek, from this world, fulfillment of our soul's deepest longings.
3. **Sin** can be defined as a life of attitudes and behaviors that seeks human fulfillment apart from trusting and obeying God as He is revealed in Christ and his Kingdom.
4. The essence of discipleship is to **respond to the tribulations** of this world as Jesus & Paul did.

17

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The **2nd Coming** of Christ:

- Will **surprise** the world in the failure of its false security.
- Should **not surprise** believers who will escape God's judgment via the Cross and Resurrection of Christ.

18

Two levels of JUDGMENT / faith & works

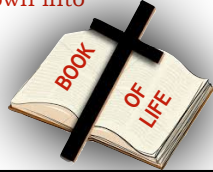
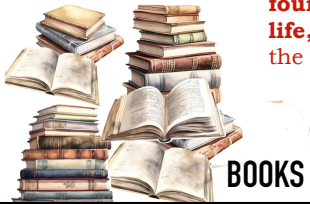
Revelation 20

"11 And I saw a great white throne,...12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and **the books** were opened:

and another book was opened, which is **the book of life**;

and the dead were judged from the things which were written in **the books**, according to their deeds. And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death,

15 and if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."



19

1 Thessalonians 5

"9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation **through our Lord Jesus Christ**, 10 **who died for us**, that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him. 11 Therefore **encourage one another, and build up one another**, just as you also are doing."

We are to **encourage one another** that the wrath of God that all humanity deserved was borne on the Cross of Christ and its benefits offered to all who **place their faith, hope, and love** "In him.

Our **worship** of Christ is expressed in our bearing witness to God's grace in **reflecting His Son's Spirit**.

20

I Thessalonians

Next week
5:12-28

A Disciple with
an activist
spirit.

21