

# I Thessalonians 5

**We've Only Just Begun**



We've Only  
Just Begun

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But first . . . .

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“I can't tell if what  
we are saying is  
from the Bible or  
from some person.”

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Now about the times and seasons, brothers, we do not need to write to you. For you are fully aware that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and security," destruction will come upon them suddenly, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

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But you, brothers, are not in the darkness so that this day should overtake you like a thief. For you are all sons of the light and sons of the day; we do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not sleep as the others do, but let us remain awake and sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night; and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and the helmet of our hope of salvation.

# We've Only Just Begun

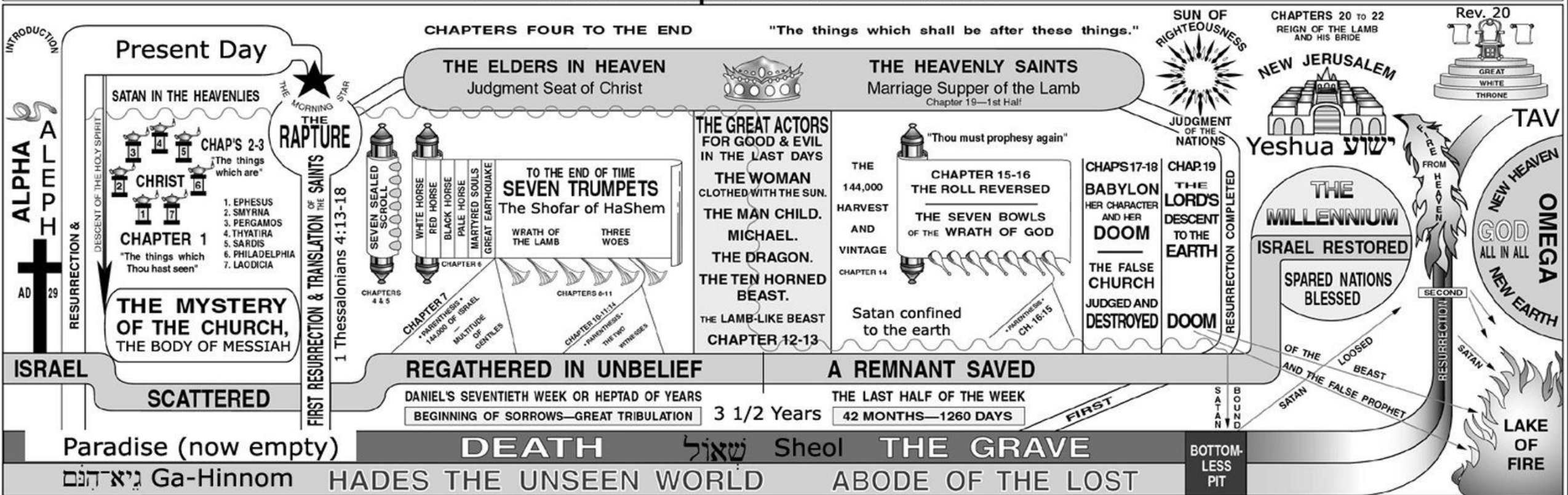
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For God has not appointed us to suffer wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him. Therefore, encourage and build one another up, just as you are already doing.

# Timeline of the End Times



# End Time Sequence of Events



# I Thess 4:13-17 vs. I Thess 5:1-11

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Per Zane:

I Thess. 4:13-17

“is not just the coming of the Lord, but more specifically the destiny of believers who have died before His return. These Christians did not miss the Rapture. Rather, Christ’s resurrection guarantees their resurrection as well, when He comes.”



# I Thess 4:13-17 vs. I Thess 5:1-11

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Zane, continued

I Thess. 5:1-11

“The emphases falls instead on the assured reality that Christians will escape the coming wrath.”

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Understanding key words and terminology:

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“Times and seasons”

Phrase used by Jesus to teach disciples about the end times.

Acts 1:7. Jesus used the phrase to teach the disciples about the end times.

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“the day of the Lord”

Used often in the Old Testament to refer to temporal events such as the invasion of a foreign army, the capture of a city, etc.

Based on OT revelation, the day of the Lord is a time of judgment, culminating in the second coming of Christ and followed by a time of special divine blessing to be fulfilled in the millennial kingdom

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“the day of the Lord”

As used in the New Testament

Acts 2:20 “. . . the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.”

II Peter 3:10 “But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.”

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“thief in the night”

Suggests unexpectedness. Believers will be caught *unaware*, but unbelievers will be more like a true thief, resulting in tribulations.

This would not be referring to the rapture because a “thief” is something we fear. Christians do not fear the rapture. The rapture is imminent and something we should be looking forward to.

Matthew 24:43-44

Luke 12:39-40

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Verses 4-8

Children of light: used in Jewish literature and in the New Testament of those who belong to the realm of God and His salvation.

Children of the day. “Unique to Paul, links the concepts of ‘light’ and ‘day’ together. Thus, because Jesus is the ‘light of the world’, Christians are ‘children of the light’; but Christians are also those who are called to live a godly life as people who ‘belong to the day’ and who are destined to inherit salvation on ‘the day of the Lord,’ when Christ (the light of the world) will return in power and great glory.”

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But we ask you, brothers, to acknowledge those who work diligently among you, who preside over you in the Lord and give you instruction. In love, hold them in highest regard because of their work. Live in peace with one another. And we urge you, brothers, to admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, and be patient with everyone.

Make sure that no one repays evil for evil. Always pursue what is good for one another and for all people. Rejoice at all times. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in every circumstance, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not extinguish the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt, but test all things. Hold fast to what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

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## J. Vernon's 22 Commandments

1. Comfort yourselves together
2. Edify one another
3. "Know" or understand those who teach the word. Respect them.
4. Esteem them highly in love
5. Be at peace among yourselves
6. Warn them that are unruly.
7. Comfort the fainthearted



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8. Support the weak—weak in faith; young believers
9. Be patient toward all men
10. See that none render evil to evil. Don't fight.
11. Do good . . . Even to those who do evil to us.
12. Rejoice evermore
13. Pray without ceasing
14. In everything give thanks
15. Quench not the Spirit

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16. Despise not prophesying---do not be indifferent to the Word of God
17. Prove all things (don't be gullible);
18. hold fast to that which is good
19. Abstain from all appearance of evil
20. Pray for those who give out the Gospel
21. Greet brothers with an ~~holy kiss~~ warm handshake
22. Read this epistle to others!