



## Part 7: The Coming Tribulation

### “Why Does It Matter?” (Part 2)

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

#### What is the Day of the Lord?

The day of the Lord marks the end of man’s day as God acts in judgment to take back control of the earth from both human and demonic rulers. It will be an unprecedented time of cataclysmic judgment on all unrepentant sinners. The day of the Lord includes everything that happens from the rapture forward through God’s timetable, especially the tribulation.

#### What is the Tribulation?

The tribulation is a future seven-year period when God will finish His discipline of Israel and finalize His judgment of the unbelieving world. The church, comprised of all who have trusted in the person and work of the Lord Jesus, will not be present during the tribulation because it will be removed from the earth in the rapture. The tribulation is one part of an overall period of end-times prophecy referred to as “The Day of the Lord” which stretches from the rapture of the church forward.

#### Why Does It Matter That I Understand the Events of the Tribulation and End-times Events?

1. Because the discernment needed for \_\_\_\_\_ events depends on our knowledge of \_\_\_\_\_  
– 1 Thess. 5:1; 5:21-22
2. Because in the future God clearly distinguishes a difference between those who \_\_\_\_\_  
and those who \_\_\_\_\_ – 1 Thess. 5:2-5
3. Because how we live today should depend on what we know about the \_\_\_\_\_ – 1 Thess. 5:6-10
  - 1.) We should practice spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ – 5:6-7
  - 2.) We should prioritize our \_\_\_\_\_ – 5:8
  - 3.) We should prepare for life in our \_\_\_\_\_ – 5:9-10
4. Because God \_\_\_\_\_ us with the knowledge of the future so we will \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ each other in the family of God – 1 Thess. 5:11; 4:18
5. Because God loves the world and doesn’t want anyone to face his coming judgment for sin – John 3:16;



## Resources

### At the Tower (beside the Welcome Center):

The Judgment Seat of Christ and The Great White Throne Judgment

### In Fellowship Café

What's Next? Israel – Gaza War – Connecting Today's Headlines to Tomorrow's

Prophetic Events

Israel on High Alert – How Conflict and Wars in the Middle East are Setting the Stage for the End Times

Israel and the Church – An Israeli Examines God's Unfolding Plans For His Chosen Peoples

Basic Bible Prophecy – Essential Facts Every Christian Should Know

Bible Prophecy – The Essentials: Answers to Your Most Common Questions

The 8 Great Debates About Bible Prophecy

The End-Times in Chronological Order – A Complete Overview to Understanding Bible Prophecy

Assault on the Image of God – Understanding and Responding to Attacks on the Bible, Human Life, and the Church

The Last Hour – An Israeli Insider Looks at The End Times

## Growth Groups Study Guide for the Week of April 28<sup>th</sup> – May 5<sup>th</sup>

### Reminders:

- This Thursday is the National Day of Prayer, and we encourage everyone to spend intentional time praying for our country, our leaders and revival among God's people. There is also an NDP Prayer Event at City Hall from 5:30 – 5:55 p.m. to pray for our community and our leaders. Our mayor, city council members and other city officials will be present. This is our opportunity to give and show our prayer support for them.
- Please be in prayer this week for the Fields of Faith Youth Outreach at the NHS Football Field on Saturday night that the Spirit of God will move in hearts and that many will respond to the gospel and be saved. Pray for spiritual awakening and revival in the youth culture of our community and our area at-large.
- Next Sunday evening is our next Praise & Prayer Service at 6:00 p.m. It's going to be a great night of worship, praising God, and sharing our needs with the Lord in prayer. Nothing unites our church body more than when we pray together. Childcare will be provided.

### Group Discussion:

Describe a time or event when you were totally taken off guard (wedding proposal, surprise party, etc.). What was so surprising about it?

### Digging Deeper

1. In 1 Thessalonians 5, Paul describes the Day of the Lord (specifically the Second Coming of Christ) in pretty graphic detail. Describe what he says about it in verses 2-3: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The world will be caught completely off guard when Jesus returns in spite of the many signs God has given us. We will discuss those many signs in greater detail next week. Why will the world be so surprised and shocked and what does it say about the people living on earth during the tribulation? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Author Ron Rhodes provides a list of the Key Components of the Tribulation. Read each one and their accompanying Scripture and discuss any insights or thoughts you have...
  - 1.) Jesus himself referred to a definite period of tribulation to come toward the end of the age - Matt. 24:29-35
  - 2.) The tribulation will be of such severity that no period of time in human history past or future will equal it – Matt. 24:21
  - 3.) The tribulation is also called the “time of Jacob’s trouble” because it is a time of judgment on Messiah-rejecting Israel – Jer. 30:7; Dan. 12:1-4
  - 4.) During the tribulation the Gentile (non-Jewish) nations of the world will be judged for their sin and rejection of Christ – Isaiah 26:21; Rev. 6:15-17
  - 5.) Old Testament Scripture specifically says the tribulation will last seven years – Dan. 9:24-27
  - 6.) The tribulation will be purposefully limited by God otherwise no people would survive it if it were to last longer – Matt. 24:22
  - 7.) The tribulation will be so bad that people will want to hide and even die instead of experiencing the judgments of God on the world – Rev. 6:16.
3. Read 1 Thess. 5:1-11. Look back through the 4 points from the Sunday morning message about why it matters that we study and understand the events of the coming tribulation and end-times events and as time allows discuss the importance of each point and any application we can make to our lives today.
4. As we think about the “why” of studying and knowing prophecy, the Word of God provides further direction. Read Revelation 1:3. What is the promise of this verse and what is the premise (the stipulation) that this promise is predicated on? \_\_\_\_\_

How does the above verse compare with Revelation 22:7? Why are we told to value and obey God’s prophetic revelation? (See also Rev. 22:12, 20) \_\_\_\_\_

### **Wrapping Up / Closing in Prayer**

As you wrap up in prayer, use the 4-Step Prayer Model Jesus gave us to pray through 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11. Regarding requests, spend time praying for the Fields of Faith Youth Outreach coming up this Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.