

In A Moment

INAM-12 "RAPTURE OR TRIBULATION"

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"THE DOCTRINE OF THE RAPTURE OF THE SAINTS"

1 THESS 4:17 "Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words."

1 THESS 5:9-10 "For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him."

It would be great if the Bible had been written in such a way that ALL subjects were covered in an orderly and systematic way. **BUT then "teachers" might not be needed.** This is the way it is when we study the subject of the "END TIMES." It becomes a matter of searching various passages to put things in order. These passages can be scattered through different Books, in both the Old and New Testaments. In our previous session we studied the issue of "the Dead in Christ (asleep)" versus those who "remain (are alive)" at the time of "the Rapture." The first will be "raised" the second will be "changed."

WE WILL ALL BE CHANGED 1 THESS 4:15-18

➤ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are [the] **alive**, who are [the] **remaining ones** until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God.

And the **dead in Christ** will **rise first**.

¹⁷ Then **we** [emphatic – you and I] who **are** [the] **alive**, who **are** [the] **remaining ones**, **will be caught up [raptured]** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

"caught-up" – Gk: "**Harpagmos**" – To be suddenly and forcefully taken away / removed – can have for both good and evil intentions

Latin: "**Rapturo**" – the root for our words **rapture** / raptor / "rape"

¹⁸ Therefore **encourage** [comfort / challenge] one another with these words.

This has been the emphasis of the greater part of our study thus far. But what then? **What happens after the Saints are removed from the earth?** Paul said in **1 THESS 1:10** that the Believers were, "**to wait for His Son from Heaven, the One who is our deliverer from the wrath to come.**" This "**wrath**" is revealed in what is called, "**THE TRIBULATION.**" This is where Paul leads the Saints to next.

THE DAY OF THE LORD 1 THESS 5:1-11

1 THESS 5:1-2 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the **DAY OF THE LORD** will come like a thief in the night.

Paul has called the Believers to remember what he taught when he was with them. This subject was of significant importance as he encourages, reminds, and corrects their understanding.

We have presented earlier the contrast between “THE DAY OF THE LORD” versus “THE DAY OF CHRIST.” In that context we were especially focusing upon “THE DAY OF THE 2ND COMING” But there is also another context.

➤ **THE DAY OF THE LORD... THE DAY OF WRATH... “THE TRIBULATION”**

Gathered under the expression “THE DAY OF THE LORD” is a large group of prophetic events predicted in both the Old and the New Testaments.

- **No reference to “The Rapture”** - There is no reference in the OT to saints being **raptured**, that is, “caught-up” from earth to heaven without dying. That is what Paul means in **1 CORINTHIANS 15:52** when he calls this event a **“mystery.”** The idea of an entire generation of believers escaping physical death was unknown in the Old Testament. It was **A Mystery.**
- **The “Day”** - Used in various ways and contexts:
 - **Day** as opposed to **night**...
 - The **24 hour period** by which time is measured
 - Sometimes the word **day** is used in the Bible as **a unique extended period of time: The “Day” of your youth; The “Day” of your sorrow...**
- **The Lord’s Wrath... The Lord’s Blessing**

In **1 THESSALONIANS 5**, THE DAY OF THE LORD is used in the sense of an extended period of time, but having the characteristics of a twenty-four-hour day. There will be a beginning (THE RAPTURE); an extended period of activity (THE TRIBULATION); a climatic event (THE 2ND COMING OF CHRIST); a glorious period of peace (THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM); and an awesome ending (THE GREAT WHITE THRONE).

 - “THE DAY OF THE LORD” in reference to a day of terror and judgment is found in 19 references in the OT: **ISAIAH 2:12; 13:6, 9; EZEKIEL 13:5; 30:3 • JOEL 1:15; 2:1, 11,31; 3:14 • AMOS 5:18 [TWICE], 20 • OBADIAH 1:5 • ZEPHANIAH 1:7, 14 [TWICE] • ZECHARIAH 14:1 • MALACHI 4:5**
 - **The terrifying character of this “Day” is easily revealed by 2 references:**

ISAIAH 13:9-11 *“Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it. For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light. I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant, and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless.”*

ZEPHANIAH 1:14-16 *“The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.”*
 - **However, there is also a glorious time of deliverance, peace, and blessing:**

ZEPH 3:14-17 *“Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.”*

JOEL 3:18 *And in that day [the day of the Lord] the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the streambeds in Judah shall flow with water; and a fountain shall come forth from the house of the LORD and water the Valley of Shittim”*
 - So, we see that “THE DAY OF THE LORD” begins with THE RAPTURE continues through THE TRIBULATION, THE 2ND COMING, and THE MILLENNIUM, and concludes with THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT.

- Tribulation - **“Thlipsis”** - *a crushing weight used to remove the hull and extract the kernel - an extended time of pressure designed to break or destroy*

According to God’s Word, **THE TRIBULATION** will be a period filled with unprecedented wars, incredible horrors, atmospheric upheavals, extensive and brutal persecutions, natural disasters, massive slaughter, and political turmoil in the “7” years immediately prior to Christ’s Second Coming.

Moses called it **“the day of their calamity”** (DEUT. 32:35).

Zephaniah said it was **“the day of the LORD’s anger”** (ZEPH. 2:2).

Paul referred to it as **“the wrath to come”** (1 THESS. 1:10).

John called it **“the hour of trial”** (REV. 3:10) and **“the hour of His judgment”** (14:7).

Daniel described it as **“a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation”** (DAN. 12:1).

Jesus said the Tribulation will be a time of terror and horror without precedent: **“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.”** (MATT 24:21)

BUT: WE will NOT be there...

1 THESS 5:9-10 **“For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.**

Jesus promise to those who believed in Him, who believed in the One whom the Father had sent, who believed the words that He had spoken was: **“They will NOT see Judgment!”**

JOHN 5:24 **“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”**

1 THESS 5:1-11 presents a clear picture of the “destiny” of the **Believers** versus the **Unbelievers**.

➤ **You... They...**

Just Follow the Pronouns...

1 THESS 5 **But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.**

² **For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.**

³ **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.**

⁴ **But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. ⁵ You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.**

⁶ **Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.**

⁸ **But 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.**

⁹ **For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.**

¹¹ **Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.**

Notice the shift in the pronouns and how their status relates to the **“wrath.”**

<u>The Believers:</u>	<u>The Unbelievers:</u>
<p>YOU know perfectly... -</p> <p>YOU are not in darkness... -</p> <p>YOU are ALL sons of the light and sons of the day... -</p> <p>Let US be putting on... -</p> <p>WE are NOT appointed to wrath... -</p> <p>WE are appointed to obtain salvation... -</p> <p>The Lord Jesus Christ died for US... -</p> <p>So that WE should live together with HIM... -</p>	<p>This Day will come upon THEM as a “thief in the night...” -</p> <p>THEY say, “Peace and Safety...” -</p> <p>Sudden destruction comes upon THEM as labor pains... -</p> <p>THEY shall not escape... -</p> <p>THEY are asleep... -</p> <p>THEY are drunk... -</p>

REMEMBER:

2 PETER 3:9 *The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

1 TIM 2:3-6 *“...This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all...”*

ROM 13:11-12 *“Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.”*

The End Times Chart

"THE PRE-TRIBULATIONAL ... PRE-MILLENNIAL VIEWPOINT"

