

...(God, please don't let The Rapture come, 'til I have had my morning coffee)...

Watching for the Lord's Coming

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

We have seen that in the study of history, if you want to grasp history from God's perspective you have to understand history from the standpoint of the history of Israel, history of the Jewish people.

Now to grasp Biblical history from the beginning to the end you have to understand how God functions in different segments of history. **These segments are known as *Dispensations*.**

I am always amused by those who so loudly oppose dispensations. There is nothing secret about them. Let's start with the word *dispense* for this is all that is going on. God is dispensing administration or the way a specific dispensation functions.

Question:

Do you agree, there is a difference between the time period (age) of Israel and the time period (age) of Gentiles prior to the coming of Israel?

Most of the time the answer is yes, of course.

Question:

And do you see a difference between the period of Israel and the period of the Church (Church Age)?

Yes, absolutely!

Well, I got news for you, you are a *dispensationalist!*

Dispensations are merely a divine outline of human history.

Basic Dispensations

A. Gentiles:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. Innocence | Genesis 1-3 |
| 2. Conscience | Genesis 4-8 |
| 3. Human Government | Genesis 9-12 |

Divine Institutions set up by God in these three segments of the Age of Gentiles:

1. Free Will or volition
2. Marriage between man and woman
3. Family
4. Nationalism or government

All four of these are constantly under siege by Satan

- B. **Age of Israel:** From Abraham to rejection and crucifixion of Jesus Christ.
- C. **Church Age:** from Acts 2 to Rapture
- D. **Tribulation:** Revelation 6-19; Matthew 24-25
- E. **Millennium:** God through JESUS CHRIST offers perfect environment once again, but the only way to enjoy it, is through or by Regeneration.

SALVATION HAS BEEN THE SAME
THROUGHOUT ALL HUMAN HISTORY
REGARDLESS OF DISPENSATION.

By Faith in the Messiah.

Genesis 1:3

Let There Be Light

Genesis 3:15

**And I will put enmity between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her seed;
He shall bruise you on the head,
And you shall bruise him on the heel."**

Genesis 4:1

**Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she
conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, "I have
gotten a manchild with *the help of the LORD.*"**

SPIRITUALITY HAS BEEN THE SAME
THROUGHOUT ALL HUMAN HISTORY!

By Faith in the Holy Spirit.

*Due to the fact of great confusion and false doctrines let us note
some of the differences between the Age of Israel and the Church Age.*

AGE OF ISRAEL

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SPECIALIZED PRIESTHOOD |
| 2 | SPECIALIZED INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT |
| 3 | REVELATION BY VISIONS, DREAMS; DIRECT COMMUNICATION, ETC. |
| 4 | SHADOW CHRISTOLOGY |
| 5 | WAY OF LIFE: ABRAHAMIC COVENANT |

CHURCH AGE

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | UNIVERSAL PRIESTHOOD |
| 2 | UNIVERSAL INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT |
| 3 | COMPLETED CANON OF SCRIPTURE |
| 4 | HISTORICAL CHRISTOLOGY |
| 5 | CHRISTIAN WAY OF LIFE IN HOLY SPIRIT |

Now in preparation of 1 Thessalonians 5: Let us note some
Unique Factors of the Church Age

or

HOW WE ARE SONS OF LIGHT, SONS OF DAY
(1 Thessalonians 5:5)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | In Union with Jesus Christ: At the point of Faith in JESUS CHRIST; God the Holy Spirit baptizes every believer into JESUS CHRIST—permanently, cannot be lost; part of our Eternal Security. |
| 2 | Every believer is Indwelt by JESUS CHRIST (John 14:20) |

- | | |
|---|--|
| 3 | Every believer is Indwelt by God the Holy Spirit—cannot be lost (John 14:16) |
| 4 | Every believer is his own priest—represents himself to God the Father (1 Pet. 2:5 and 9) |
| 5 | Complete Canon of Scripture -do not add to it or subtract from it- |

1 Thessalonians 5:1

Now (the Greek construction here introduces movement to a new aspect of the same subject.)

as to (this construction introduces the new line of thought in the same subject, therefore, translated *as to, in regards to;*)

the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you.

There are two Greek words in regards to periods of human history.

Times and epochs

or more correctly:

the times and the epochs.

Now, concerning the times (CHRONOS) times (is fine but with the definite article) **now with regards to the specific times (or) specific periods of time.** It is from this word that we get the English word Chronology.

And the epochs *KAIROS* season or appointed time.

As *The Complete Word Dictionary of the New Testament* states:
“There is really no English equivalent to the word *KAIROS*”

“Epochs which certain foreordained events take place.”

Therefore *CHRONOS* or **times** –the **times** refers to dispensations while *KAIROS* refers to a specific critical time.

(I do not know who formulated the following chart)

Chronos times

Karios epochs

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 looks at sequence of events (when) | 1 Looks at nature of events (what) |
| 2 Emphasis on order of events | 2 Emphasis on character of events |
| 3 Example: next year | 3 Example: bad year |
| 4 Indicates quantity of time | 4 Indicates quality of time |

Summary of **the Times and The Epochs**

1. Combined as they are here in 1 Thessalonians 5, tells us that the Bible teaches that extremely important events are in store for World History. Impacting far more than WWI and WWII.
2. **CHRONOLOGY** in the Bible. The Bible definitely teaches Chronology of historical events. We saw this all through the book of Daniel, not even including Daniel’s Seventieth Week.

First there was in the present life the **Babylonian Captivity**,
Followed by **Medo-Persian Empire**,
Followed by the **Greek Empire** and
Finally the **Roman Empire** But all these *EPOCHS* were in the same
DISPENSATION, OR TIMES.

3. When JESUS CHRIST spoke of the Tribulation in Matthew 24-25; The Church was future to that time, not even known. It was a mystery.

A NEW DISPENSATION was right around the corner, forewarned by the EPOCH EVENT of the renting of the inner curtain in the Temple as JESUS CHRIST died on the cross.

But the NEW DISPENSATION began with the EPOCH event of the universal Indwelling of the Holy Spirit in every believer in Jesus as the Christ.

Why the Church?

The Church Age is nowhere mentioned in Old Testament.
Not mentioned in chronologies of Old Testament.

So why the Church Age?

There is a very interesting passage in Acts 15:14

Acts 15:14

14 **“Simeon** (Simon Peter) **has related how God first concerned Himself about taking from among the Gentiles a people for His name.** (He will call them out from among the Gentiles by His Gospel.

So, why the Church...

God was calling out a people for His name.)

Also, there is something very interesting in Acts 15:15-18.

15 **With this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written,**

16 **‘AFTER THESE THINGS I will return,
AND I WILL REBUILD THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID WHICH HAS FALLEN,
AND I WILL REBUILD ITS RUINS,
AND I WILL RESTORE IT,**

17 **SO THAT THE REST OF MANKIND MAY SEEK THE LORD,
AND ALL THE GENTILES WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME,**

18 **SAYS THE LORD, WHO MAKES THESE THINGS KNOWN FROM LONG AGO**

What is interesting is to look at what is being quoted, Amos 9:11.

15 **“In that day I will raise up the fallen booth of David, and wall up its breaches; I will also raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days (THE DAY OF THE LORD) of old;**

But I thought the church was a mystery in the Old Testament.

Indeed It Is A Mystery

Because Amos Simply Said **“IN THAT DAY”**.

The **Church Age** precedes **“IN THAT DAY”**. (*DAY OF THE LORD*)

John 4:21 also gives further information on the Church Age.

21 **Jesus *said to her,** (Samaritan woman at the well)
“Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming (after His Death, Burial, Resurrection, Ascension, Session)
when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.

22 **“You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.** (JESUS CHRIST is a Jew)

23 **“But an hour is coming, and now is,** (He is close to being crucified) **when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people (such a breed of people) **the Father seeks to be His worshipers.** (Acts 15:14)...**a people for His name****

24 **“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit** (Filling of the Holy Spirit) **and truth.”** (According to His Word, and in His Son)

There is no prophecy to be fulfilled for the termination of the Church Age, but God does have a specific occurrence in His plan for ***The Rapture*** of the Church.

According to Fruchtenbaum: “according to Romans 11:25-27, this calling out of the Gentiles will continue until the full number of Gentiles that God has ordained for the Church has been reached”

This is not part of prophecy for no one knows this but the Godhead.

Then, after the removal of the Church, the Divine Chronology for His chosen people, Israel, picks up with the taking of Church out—off the earth—snatch them up, rescue them to Himself out from the wrath of The Tribulation. Once the Church is removed—***The Rapture***, then The Tribulation can begin. It’s time frame has been prophesied in Daniel as Daniel’s Seventy weeks, or one week or seven years.

Now we continue in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1. **Now** (moving on in our discussion),
as to (advancement but still related)
the times and the epochs, brethren, (again, Paul is addressing the believers in this assembly.)

Now we have a most interesting statement:

you have no need of anything to be written to you. (Actually this should be translated)

we do not need to write to you (they already understood these things.)

In the very short time Paul was with these believers he taught them a multitude of things. I am sure they met to study the WORD OF GOD, and the Word of Jesus many times a week. And remember they did not have writing pads and pens. In that time Paul had already taught them concerning dispensations and specific periods of history, so these believers are well oriented to past, present and future history.

I want to draw your attention to two extremely important concepts:

First: The New Commandment from JESUS CHRIST to Love One Another as JESUS CHRIST loves and understanding history from God's perspective.

Look back at 4:9 how similar these two verses are:

4:9 **Now, as to**

5:1 **Now, as to**

What is so remarkable is that in both of these vital subjects these believers do not need to be written to concerning them:

4:9 **now, as to Spritual Love for One Another you have not need for anyone to write to you**

5:1 **now as to times and epochs you have no need of anything to be written to you**

Paul has taught them and they listened and learned and believed.

Now we continue in 1 Thessalonians 5:2-11

We have already seen in 1 Thessalonians 4:13
that these believers were uninformed concerning
The Rapture.

But they were fully knowledgeable concerning.

DAY OF THE LORD

1 Thessalonians 5:2

2 **For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.** (The verse is introduced by a conjunction that explains the preceding clause)
you have no need of anything to be written to you... because you know full well about the Day of the Lord.

Know (Reveals that they have listened intently to Paul's teaching during the short time he was with them.)

full well (This adverb is used to focus on both the **quality** of their Knowledge—they know accurately and do not need someone to come in and correct their wrongful understanding. And **the degree** of their understanding: *you know very well, and do not need further knowledge.*)

You have been rightly and fully taught (Their full understanding is in contrast to their *ignorance, or being uninformed* about the death of loved one and *The Rapture.*) 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

In simple terms *THE DAY OF THE LORD* includes The Tribulation, 2nd Advent, and the Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ.

These events come suddenly but they cannot begin until after *The Rapture*. These believers in Thessalonica were being told they were in The Tribulation.

The day of the Lord (JESUS CHRIST) **will come just like a thief in the night** (What is interesting here is that the verb translated) **will come** (is not a future tense but a Present Middle Indicative.)

Why the Present Indicative?

This is what is called a *PROPHETIC PRESENT* meaning this day is so well known in Old Testament and New Testament that it is viewed with prophetic certainty and is put in the present tense to

show this certainty.

will come just like a thief in the night

(In verse 3 it will come suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child.)

We have seen in the Lord's teaching in Matthew 24:43 that Jesus uses the same illustration of the coming of the Son of Man. Then it is used in reference to the same occurrence of the coming of JESUS CHRIST in Revelation 16:15.

Question:

Why the expression: the day of the Lord?

It refers to the time when

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|-----|--|
| (1) | The Lord comes back to earth. |
| (2) | Inclusive of His judgement of all unbelievers (Jews and Gentiles). |
| (3) | Deliver all believers (Jew and Gentile) into His Millennial Kingdom. |
| (4) | His Marriage Supper. |
| (5) | His Millennial Rule in His Kingdom. |
| (6) | His Judgment of all unbelievers at the Great White Throne Judgment. |

Question:

Why is THE DAY OF THE LORD compared to the coming as a thief in the night? This must be understood

in context of what THE DAY OF THE LORD means to all unbelievers.

| | |
|-----|---|
| (1) | Suddenness of His Coming |
| (2) | Unexpectedness of His Coming |
| | Both 1 and 2 are like a thief who comes in the night to rob, unexpected and sudden, so that you have no time to react. |
| (3) | Unpreparedness by all unbelievers. |
| | We saw this in the words of our Lord in Matthew 24: where He actually spoke of His coming like a thief in the night catching the house unprepared and in Matthew 25 in the parable of the 10 virgins. |
| (4) | The horror of the night to all unbelievers. |

DAY OF THE LORD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

The expression is used some 18 times in the Old Testament.

What helps in grasping all that is involved in *THE DAY OF THE LORD* is that several other phrases are used in referring to or describing this *DAY*; such terms as...

“the last days”

“in that day”

“the day”

A close study of all these passages makes it clear that *THE DAY OF THE LORD* is certainly much longer than one day. In fact it covers several *TIMES OR DISPENSATIONS*. But all related to Israel, not the church.

Couch, in his *Dictionary of Premillennial Theology*, gives the following summary of THE DAY OF THE LORD describing the Seven Years of Tribulation.

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| “This day will come upon the world” | Isaiah 2:12-22 |
| “will fall upon the wicked” | Isaiah 13:6-16 |
| “will devastate many of the nations of the Middle East” | Ezekiel 30:1-9 |
| “will affect the vegetation of the earth” | Joel 1:15-20 |
| “will bring ruin to Edom (present day South Jordan)” | Obadiah 20 |
| “will be a time of darkness and distress” | Zephaniah 1:14-18 |
| “will come suddenly when the world will be saying ‘peace and safety’ ” | 1 Thessalonians 5:3 |

DAY OF THE LORD in the New Testament

The expression
DAY OF THE LORD

is used some 5 times in the New Testament.

Two of the five are in 1 and 2 Thessalonians.

Otherwise it is used in Acts 2:20, 1 Corinthians 5:5 and 2 Peter 3:10.

But As In The Old Testament
There Are Other Phrases Used
In Referring To or Describing This Day.

Day of Christ

Philippians 1:10 and 2:16

Day of Jesus Christ

Philippians 1:6

Day of our Lord Jesus

2 Corinthians 1:14

The Day of our Lord Jesus Christ

1 Corinthians 1:8

Two Phases of the Future DAY OF THE LORD (Walvoord)

Phase 1 Judgment

Tribulation

Darkness

Seven Years

Phase 2 Blessing

Millennium

Light

One thousand years

Since we are in 1 and 2 Thessalonians let us just summarize what we learn about THE DAY OF THE LORD in these two books.

^{1st} In 1 Thessalonians 5:2 it will come 'like a thief in the night'
This reference is taken from the standpoint of all unbelievers.
They will be unprepared for the suddenness of His Coming.

^{2nd} in 1 Thessalonians 5:3 It will come while the unbelieving world is saying 'peace and safety'

Question:

Why is this so important? The world, or namely the Antichrist, will be using this as his platform in a world that is in chaos because of *The Rapture*.

The world of unbelievers (*Tribulation begins with unbelievers only; all*

believers have been removed by The Rapture) And the Antichrist will be trying to gain control over a world in chaos.

3rd Sudden judgment of destruction will come on the world
1 Thessalonians 5:3.

The expression “**like labor pains upon a woman with child**” helps to understand how no one knows the hour...the pains increase in frequency and severity...until the giving of birth is completed.

4th We will learn from 2 Thessalonians 2: THE DAY OF THE LORD will begin after the Antichrist is revealed, which occurs immediately after the removal of the restraining ministry of the Holy Spirit.