

Study Text- I Thessalonians 4:13-18 & 5:1-6

Key Verses-5:2-4 *“For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.”*

The Spiritual Alertness to see the Time Approaching

He tells them how comfortable this day will be to the righteous, 1Th 5:4, 1Th 5:5. Here observe, 1. They are not in darkness; they are the children of the light, etc. This was the happy condition of the Thessalonians as it is of all true Christians. They were not in a state of sin and ignorance as the heathen world. They were favoured with the divine revelation of things that are unseen and eternal, particularly concerning the coming of Christ, and the consequences thereof. They were the children of the day, for the day-star had risen upon them; yea, the Sun of righteousness had arisen on them with healing under his wings. 2. Their great advantage on this account: that that day should not overtake them as a thief, 1Th 5:4. It was at least their own fault if they were surprised by that day. They had fair warning, and sufficient helps to provide against that day, and might hope to stand with comfort and confidence before the Son of man. This would be a time of refreshing to them from the presence of the Lord, who to those that look for him will appear without sin unto their salvation, and will come to them as a friend in the day, not as a thief in the night. —Matthew Henry

Biblical Signs of the End Time Generation--Past Generations of Judgment

Pr 30:11-14 *“There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother. There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness. There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up. There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men.”*

Examples of Past Generations of Judgment

1. *The Land of Canaan-* Gen 15:13-16

2. *Sodom and Gomorrah-* Gen 18:20-21; Gen 19:12-15; Ez 16:49

Gen 19:14 *“And Lot went out, and spoke unto his sons-in-law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons-in-law.”*

3. *Jerusalem-* Isaiah 3: 8-9

Marks of the Season of Christ’s Return- What Signs Do We Look For?

The Generation of Judgment:

Days of Noah- Matt. 24:37-39

Gen. 6:5-7 & 12-13

Compare to II Tim. 3:1-7

Gen 6:5-7 *“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.”*

Gen 6:8 *“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”*

Gen 6:12-13 *“And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.”*

2Ti 3:1-7 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2Ti 3:2 For men shall be:

1. lovers of their own selves,
2. covetous,
3. boasters,
4. proud,
5. blasphemers,
6. disobedient to parents,
7. unthankful,
8. unholy,
9. Without natural affection; *hard hearted* towards kindred: - without natural affection
10. trucebreakers,
11. false accusers,
12. incontinent; *powerless*, that is, *without self control*: - incontinent.
13. fierce; *savage*: - fierce.
14. despisers of those that are good; *hostile to virtue*: - depiser of those that are good.
15. Traitors,
16. heady; *falling forward*, that is, *headlong* (figuratively *precipitate*): - heady, rash
17. highminded; to envelop with *smoke*, that is, (figuratively) to *inflate* with self conceit: - high-minded, be lifted up with pride, be proud.
18. lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;
19. Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,
20. Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.
21. (*Oppose and resist the truth to a great measure*) Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

2Ti 3:9 “But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.”

II Peter 3:3-4 “Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lust, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For since the father fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.”

Luke 21:35 “For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the earth.”

The Second Coming of Christ to the Lost World: What will happen to those who are not ready?

He tells them how terrible Christ's coming would be to the ungodly, It will be sudden. It will overtake them, and fall upon them, in the midst of their carnal security and jollity (a state of jolliness), when they say in their hearts, Peace and safety, when they dream of felicity (a happy state) and please themselves with vain amusements of their fancies or their senses, and think not of it, - as travail cometh upon a woman with child, at the set time indeed, but not perhaps just then expected, nor greatly feared. It will be unavoidable too: They shall not escape; they shall in no wise escape. There will be no means possible for them to escape. -Matthew Henry

a. *Mark of the Beast:*

Dan 7; Rev 13:13-14 & 13:16-17; Rev 13:3

b. *Tribulation Period:*

Matt 24:17-22; Rev 6; Rev 8; Rev 9

c. Battle of Armageddon & Second Coming of Christ:

Rev 16:12-14; Rev 19:19-20

Rev 19:11-21 “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshiped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.