You Should Know Perfectly Well (I Thess. 5:1-11)

I Thessalonians 5:1-11

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 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. **But you, brethren, are not in** darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the <u>hope</u> of <u>salvation</u>. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live

together with Him. Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing." I Thessalonians 5:1-11 NKJV

I Thessalonians 5:1-11

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night." I Thessalonians 5:1-2 NKJV

Times and Seasons

- Then God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; "Genesis 1:14 NKJV
- The Feast Cycle:
 - The times and seasons refer to God's calendar.
 - The Solar and lunar cycle dictate days, months and years, in coordination with agricultural calendar.
 - Passover, Unleavened Bread, and Firstfruits (Spring)
 - ☑ Shavuot/Weeks (Late Spring or Summer)
 - ▼ Trumpets, Yom Kippur, and Tabernacle (Fall)
 - God's Prophetic Clock (the hands of the clock point to Christ):
 - Death, Burial, Resurrection

- ☑ The Holy Spirit on Pentecost
- *Second Coming, Judgement, Kingdom

The day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night:

- The day of the Lord: refers to the *return of Y'shua (His second coming).
 - Unlike Y'shua's first coming when He offered a solution for sin, His return will be the judgment of sin and vengeance against His enemies.
 - For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," Says the Lord of hosts, That will leave them neither root nor branch. But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves. You shall trample the wicked, For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet On the day that I do this," Says the Lord of hosts." Malachi 4:1-3 NKJV
 - and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the

 Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty

 angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those

 who do not know God, and on those who do not obey

 the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be

punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed." II

Thessalonians 1:7-10 NKJV

- Thief in the night: refers to the suddenness of Y'shua's return.
 - There is only one feast for which you must be sober and watching.
 - The Feast of Trumpets is the only Feast that begins on the first day of a biblical month. And the month begins at the sudden spotting of the new moon.
 - And as we can confirm in the Scriptures, Y'shua returns is at the sound of a trumpet, the last trumpet! We just read this in I Thessalonians 4:15-17...
- The Lord comes with the trumpet of God (when the seventh and final trumpet blows).
 - For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in

Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord." I Thessalonians 4:15-17 NKJV

The Last Trumpet

- but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel

 [seventh and final trumpet], when he is about to sound,

 *the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to

 His servants the prophets." Revelation 10:7 NKJV
- Then <u>the seventh angel sounded</u> [the trumpet]: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!""

 Revelation 11:15 NKJV
- We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet [the seventh trumpet]. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." I Corinthians 15:51-52 NKJV
- Immediately after the tribulation [and before God's wrath] of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from

heaven [as signs], and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet [the seventh trumpet], and they will gather together His elect [the rapture] from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." Matthew 24:29-31 NKJV

- But of that day and hour no one knows [He comes as a thief in the night for those who are not watching], not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. {42} Watch therefore [for the spotting of the new moon so you know it's the Feast of Trumpets], for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming." Matthew 24:36, 42 NKJV
 - It will happen like we've rehearsed for generations at the Feast of Trumpets.
 - It will be the last trumpet blast and at that moment, everyone who has died in Christ will be raised with their new incorruptible glorified bodies.
 - It will take place in an instant, so, stay steady and be unwavering until then; and know that your work for the Lord is valuable and necessary.

- And then the wrath of God comes... see I Thessalonians 5:9 (below)
- 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." I Thessalonians

 5:3 NKJV

Peace and Safety

- This is when the whole unbelieving world thinks things are looking good!
- Classically this is believed to connect with the prophecy in Daniel, which refers to the Antichrist, who has fooled the world into believing the world is at peace and they are safe.
 - (1) "Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of *abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."" Daniel 9:27 NKJV
- Y'shua describes the Antichrist at this time in Matthew 24, His famous end-times sermon.

- And Jesus answered and said to them: Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, I am the Christ, and will deceive many."

 Matthew 24:4-5 NKJV
- Therefore when you see the *abomination of desolation, (1)spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand)," Matthew 24:15 NKJV (*cont. below...)
- Then if anyone says to you, **Look, here is the Christ!** or There! do not believe it. **For false christs** and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect." Matthew 24:23-24 NKJV

Sudden Destruction of Labor Pains

- The suddenness of His final return, at the last trumpet (of the Feast of Trumpet), for which you are supposed to be watching (for the New Moon).
 - * Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go

back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. 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. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect s sake those days will be shortened." Matthew 24:15-22 NKJV

- Those sober and watching for signs, spotting of the new moon, so the Feast of Trumpets and can be declared, won't go back for things of their old life.
- The days are shortened by the return of the Lord (second coming) and the rapture of those who believed.
 - Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. Watch therefore [for the moon], for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the

Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect [at the sound of the last trumpet]." Matthew 24:40-44 NKJV

- And then...immediately after...
 - Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken." Matthew 24:29 NKJV
 - After the tribulation, and before God's wrath, the signs of the feast that foreshadowed the Lord's return:
 - Times and seasons: Then God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and **let them be for signs and seasons,** and for days and years;" Genesis 1:14 NKJV
 - The darkness is for those who don't know the signs.

 They are not sober and watching!
- But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 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**." I Thessalonians 5:4-8 NKJV

Not a thief in the night for Believers!

- The darkness is for those who don't know the signs. They are not sober and watching!
- ✓ You do know the times and seasons—the last trumpet!
- You will not be caught sleeping.

Sons of Light (day) vs. Sons of Darkness (night)

- Y'shua is the Light:
 - In Him was life, and the life was **the light of men**. And **the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness** did not comprehend it." John 1:4-5 NKJV
 - Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."" John 8:12 NKJV
 - With Y'shua you are walking as sons of light.
 - Satan is the darkness disguised as as angel of light.
 - For such are false apostles, deceitful workers,
 transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no
 wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into
 an angel of light." II Corinthians 11:13-14 NKJV
- Be sober and watching...

- For the spotting of the New Moon!
- **Faith, love the hope of salvation**
 - With God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." Romans 5:1-5 NKJV
 - We are justified by faith.
 - We gain continual access into God's grace by faith.
 - A life of grace gives us hope.
 - Our hope gives us so much surety that we can even rejoice in tribulation.
 - Hope will never disappoint us because God's love is poured out to us through the Holy Spirit.
- For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him." I Thessalonians 5:9-10 NKJV

- After the last trumpet...
 - ...then the wrath of God comes, because God did not appoint us to wrath, but to salvation through Christ
 - Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous:

 seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them

 the wrath of God is complete." Revelation 15:1 NKJV
 - Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, **Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth.**"" Revelation 16:1 NKJV
 - Revelation 15-18 explains all the details and outcome of the wrath of God.
 - After the tribulation, the wrath of God comes down, which God's people will not experience.
 - Believers will not be here for God's wrath; because they have already been caught up (raptured).
 - This is where there is so much confusion. As Paul says:
 - For **God did not appoint us to wrath**, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ," I
 Thessalonians 5:9 NKJV
 - This is the fuel for the pre-tribulation rapture belief system. If God did not appoint us to wrath, then we certainly must be gone toward the beginning of the

- book of revelation (before the first seal in opened in Revelation 6).
- And this misunderstanding is rooted in the lack of separation between the tribulation of the Seven Seals and Seven Trumpets (really six trumpets as the seventh is the return of Christ and the rapture) and God's wrath instituted against His enemies during the seven bowls of wrath.

Whether we wake or sleep, we should live together

- We covered this in extensive detail last time in I
 Thessalonians 4:13 in Caught up Together
 - But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren,
 concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow
 as others who have no hope." I Thessalonians 4:13 NKJV
- Therefore **comfort** each other and **edify** one another, just as you also are doing." I Thessalonians 5:11 NKJV
 - **Comfort one another:**
 - Mo need for anxiety: you know exactly what to look for!
 - **Edify one another:**
 - Spread the word so everyone is enlightened and informed!

NEXT TEACHING

Be Blameless (I Thessalonians 5:12-28)