

**THE RAPTURE**  
What and When? – Part 17



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**What is the Rapture?**



1. An important doctrine
2. Distinct from the Second Advent
3. Catching away of all living believers (1 Thess 4:17)
4. Reunion (1 Thess 4:14-16)
5. Resurrection (1 Cor 15:50-54)
6. Exemption from death (1 Cor 15:51, 54-56)
7. Instantaneous (1 Cor 15:52)
8. Mystery (1 Cor 15:51)
9. Imminent (1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)
10. Traditional doctrine now being recovered

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**When Will the Rapture Take Place Relative to the Tribulation Period?**

- Pre-tribulation rapture theory
- Mid-tribulation rapture theory
- Post-tribulation rapture theory
- Pre-wrath rapture theory
- Partial rapture theory



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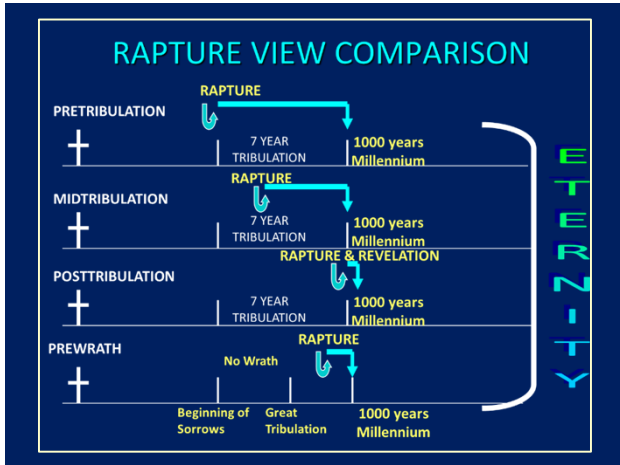
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### When is the Rapture?

7 Arguments Favoring the Pre-Tribulation View

1. Tribulation's purpose concerns Israel (Jer 30:7; Dan 9:24)
2. No biblical reference to the church on earth during the Tribulation period (Rev 4-22)
3. Church is promised an exemption from divine wrath (1 Thess 1:10; 5:9; Rom 5:9; Rev 3:10; 6:17)
4. Rapture is imminent (1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)
5. Rapture is a comfort (1 Thess 4:18)
6. Antichrist cannot come to power until the restrainer is removed (2 Thess 2:6-7)
7. Symbolic parallels (2 Peter 2:5-9)

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### Strengthening the Pre-Tribulation Case

1. John 14:1-4
2. Revelation 3:10
3. **First Thessalonians 4-5**
4. Second Thessalonians 2:3a
5. Matthew 24-25



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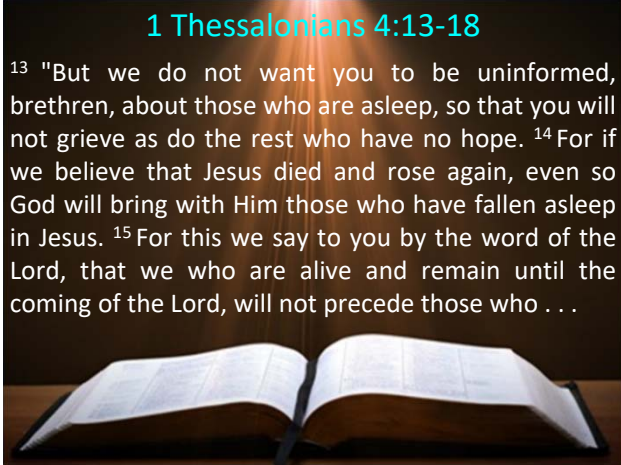
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**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

<sup>13</sup> "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. <sup>15</sup> 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 not precede those who . . .



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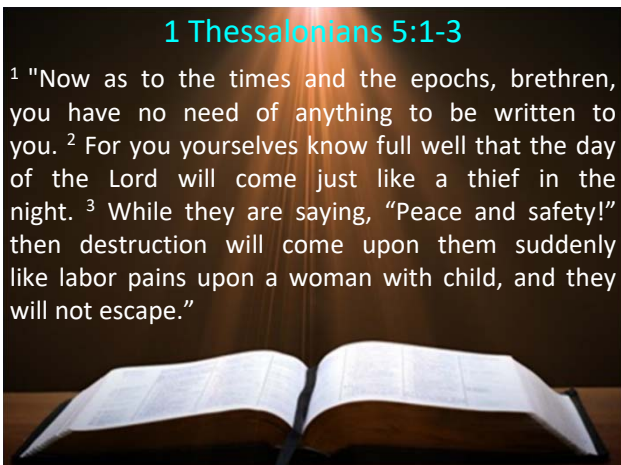
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**1 Thessalonians 5:1-3**

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**D. Edmond Hiebert**  
The Thessalonian Epistles. Chicago: Moody Press, 1971. Page 207

"The connective particle translated 'But' (*de*) is again transitional; it indicates that a new subject is being introduced. The majority of our modern versions render it 'but,' thus suggesting that a contrasting thought is being introduced. Then the contrast seems to be between the certainty of Christ's coming as set forth in the preceding section and the uncertainty as to its time. While some interpreters hold that this paragraph is simply a continuation of the discussion in 4:13-18, it seems clear that a new aspect of the *parousia* is now to be considered. Thus the particle (*de*) is best taken, not as adversative, but transitional and may well be rendered 'now.'"

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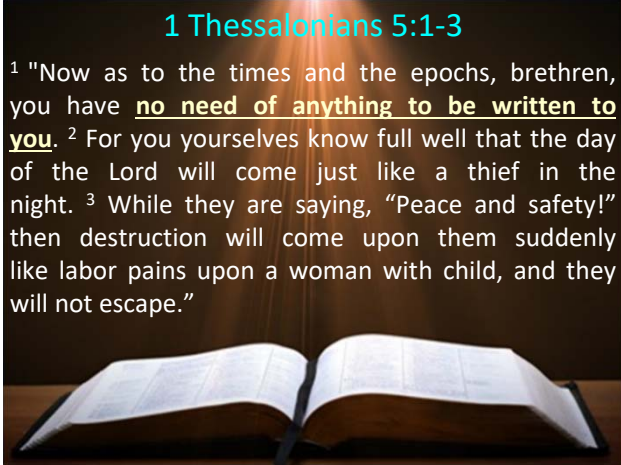
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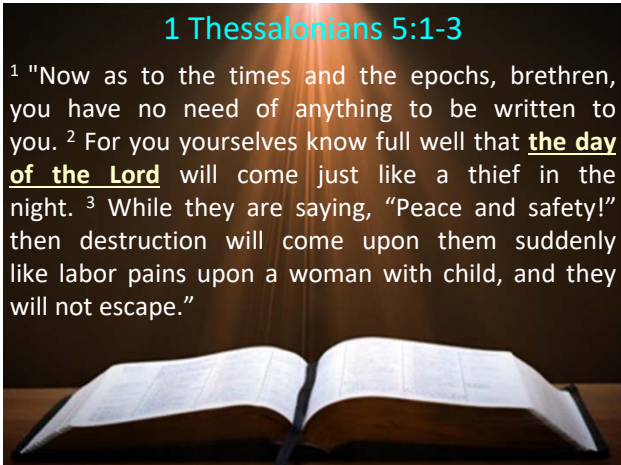
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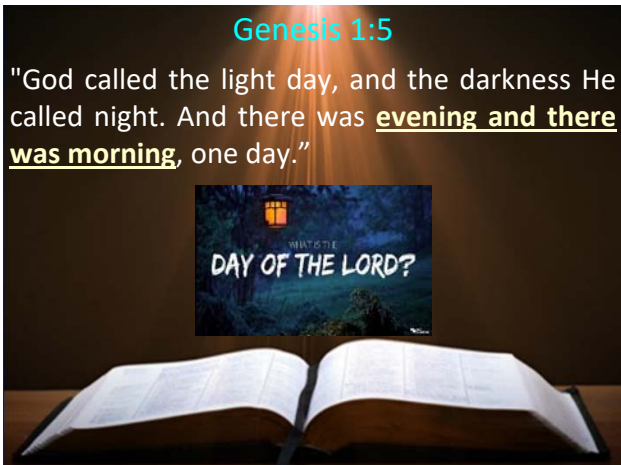
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**Genesis 1:5**

"God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day."



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### John F. Walvoord

*The Rapture Question* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1979), 216, 218.

“A study of numerous Old Testament references to the day of the Lord and ‘the day,’ as it is sometimes called, should make clear to anyone who respects the details of prophecy that the designation denotes an extensive time of divine judgment on the world. Among the texts are Isaiah 2:12-21; 13:9-16; 34:1-8; Joel 1:15-2:11, 28-32; 3:9-12; Amos 5:18-20; Obadiah 15-17; Zephaniah 1:7-18... Based on the Old Testament revelation, the day of the Lord is a time of judgment, culminating in the second coming of Christ, and followed by a time of special divine blessing to be fulfilled in the millennial kingdom.”

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### 2 Thessalonians 2:2

“that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that **the day of the Lord** has come.”



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### 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

- Problem (2:1-2)
- Prerequisites for the Day of the Lord (2:3-12)
  - ◆ The apostasy (2:3a)
  - ◆ Advent of the lawless one (2:3b-4)
  - ◆ Removal of the restrainer (2:5-7)
  - ◆ Destruction of the lawless one (2:8-9)
  - ◆ Destruction of lawless one’s followers (2:10-12)



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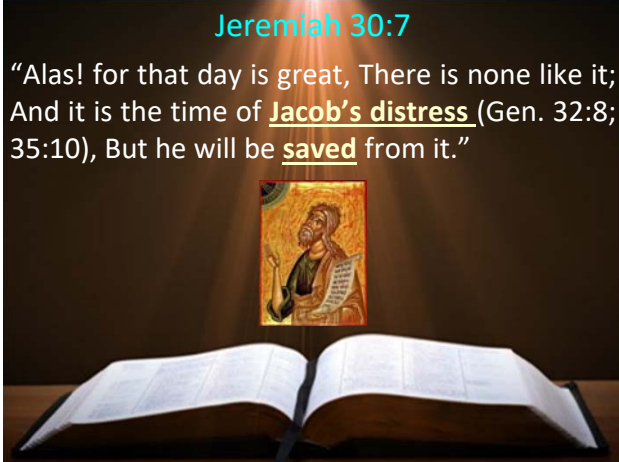
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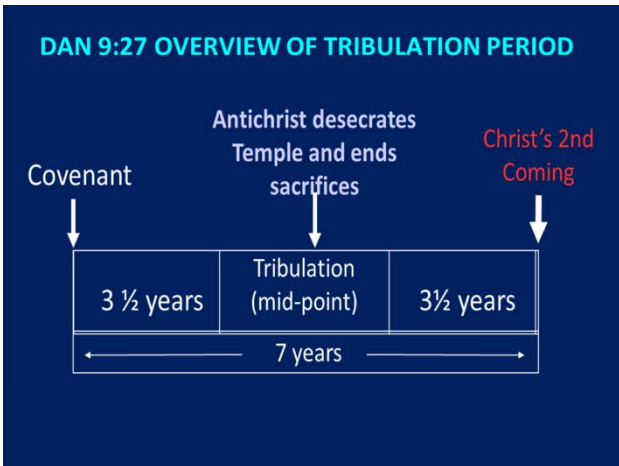
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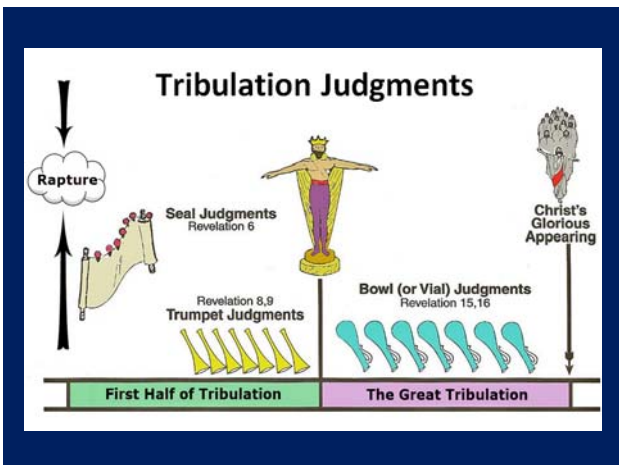
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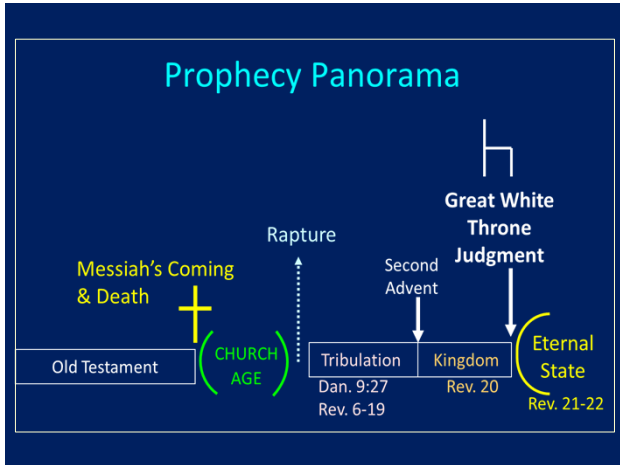
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**Thomas Ice**

"A Thief in the Night," online: [www.pre-trib.org](http://www.pre-trib.org), accessed 8 August 2020, 2-3.

"The 'thief' idea in relation to a coming of Christ is used seven times and only in the New Testament (Matt. 24:43; Lk. 12:39; 1 Thess. 5:2, 4; 2 Pet. 3:10; Rev. 3:3; 16:15)...The thief in the night imagery never applies to the rapture. Such language usually is descriptive of unbelievers and God's wrath or judgment related to the tribulation or second coming. The picture painted by a thief in the night shows it is the unbeliever who is caught off guard since he never really believes God is actually going to judge in history. The unbeliever thinks he has gotten away with ignoring God all his life, therefore, the Lord is a non-factor, he thinks..."

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**Thomas Ice**  
"A Thief in the Night," online: [www.pre-trib.org](http://www.pre-trib.org),  
accessed 8 August 2020, 2-3.



"The point of the Bible is: 'Boy is he in for a big surprise one day,' just like an individual who is robbed by a thief. When one is robbed, it is an event that disrupts the normal status of coming home every day in the past to a house that is as it should be. Like the slothful student who is never ready for the exam, and therefore, caught off guard when it actually comes, so the unbeliever will never be ready since he either does not believe in God at all or does not believe that God will ever hold him accountable."

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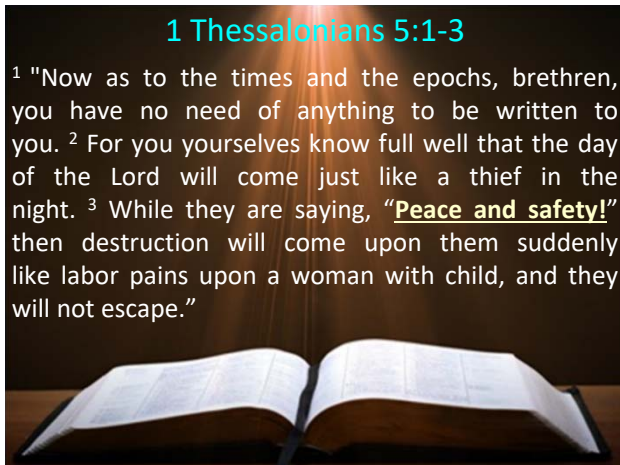
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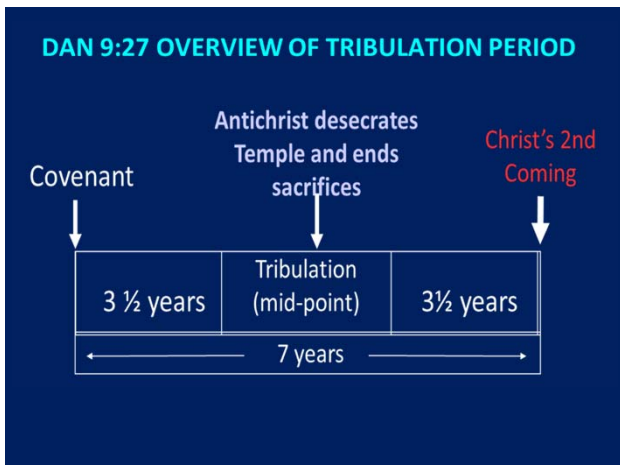
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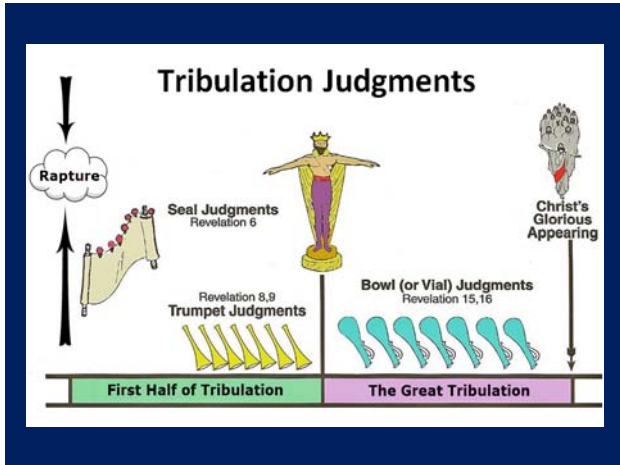
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The image shows an open Bible with a glowing light effect behind it, symbolizing the Word of God.

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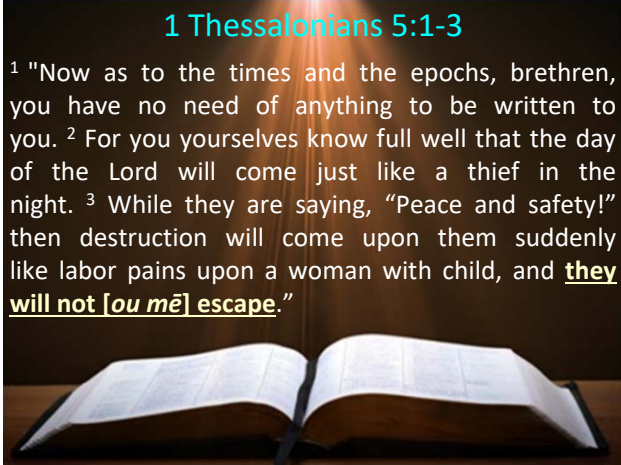
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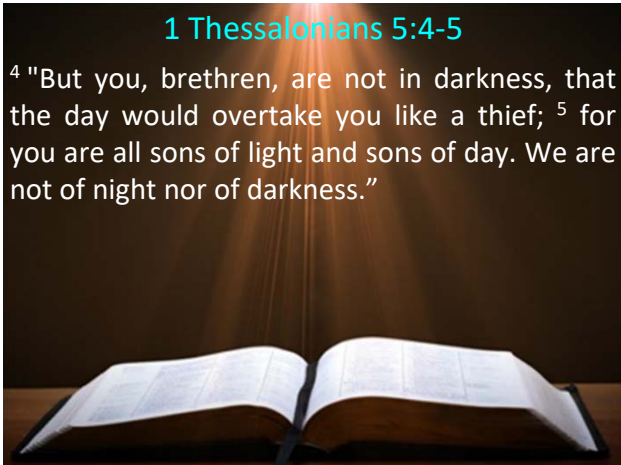
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**1 Thessalonians 5:4-5**

<sup>4</sup> "But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; <sup>5</sup> for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness."



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**John F. Walvoord**  
*The Rapture Question* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1979), 220-21.

"Paul stated that the day of the Lord will not overtake the Thessalonians as a thief. Why does an event coming as a thief come unexpectedly upon the world but with proper expectation for believers? Paul explained this in verses 4 and 5: 'But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.' Here is a crucial point in Paul's explanation: the thief is going to come in the night, but the believers are declared not to belong to the night or the darkness. The implication is quite clear that believers are in a different time reference; that is, they belong to the day that precedes the darkness."

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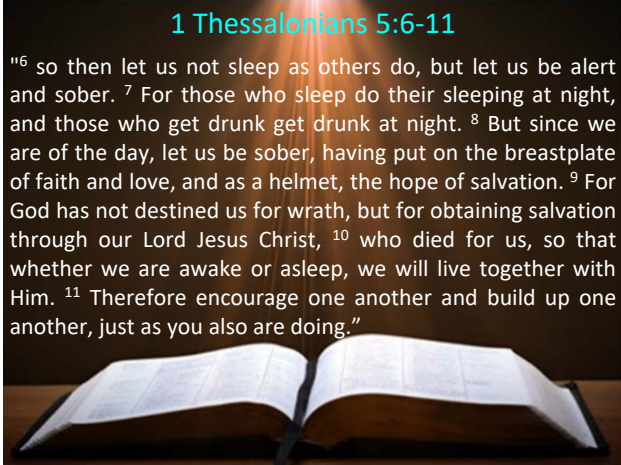
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**1 Thessalonians 5:6-11**

"<sup>6</sup> so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup> For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing."



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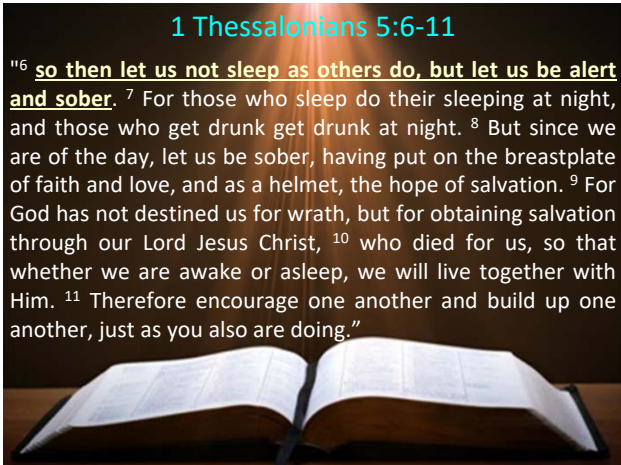
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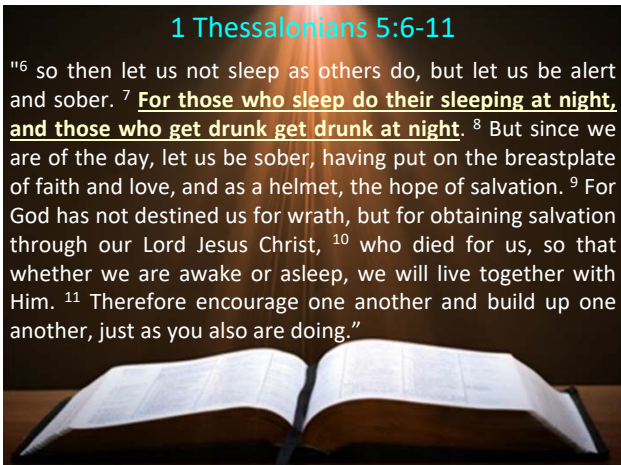
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**1<sup>st</sup> Six Seals (Revelation 6)**

- SEAL 1** – 6:1-2 – Advent of antichrist
- SEAL 2** – 6:3-4 – War
- SEAL 3** – 6:5-6 – Famine
- SEAL 4** – 6:7-8 – Death
- SEAL 5** – 6:9-11 – Martyrdoms
- SEAL 6** – 6:12-17 – Cosmic disturbances



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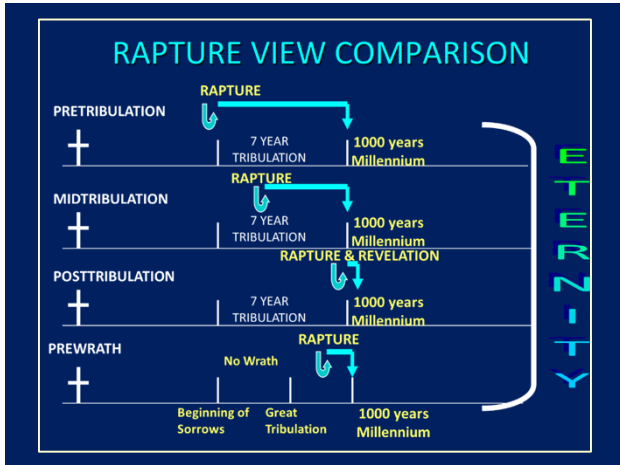
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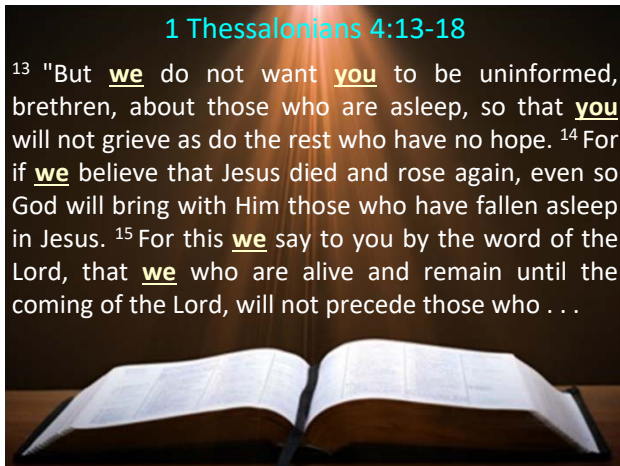
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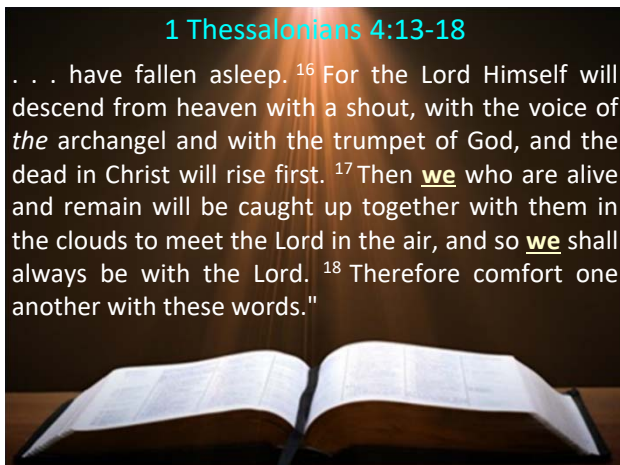
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1 Thessalonians 5:6-11

<sup>6</sup> so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup> For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing."



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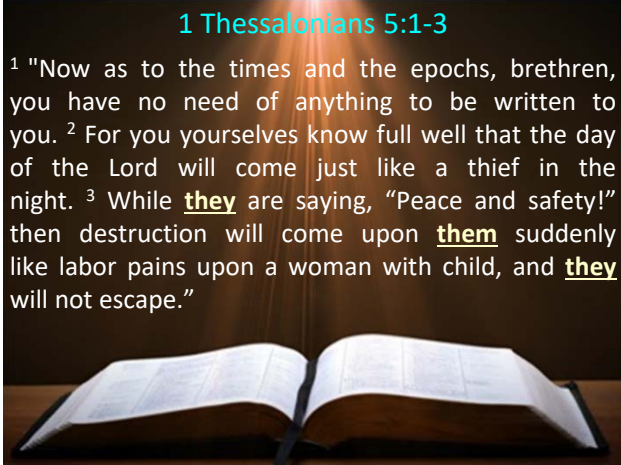
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**1 Thessalonians 5:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> "Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. <sup>2</sup> For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> While **they** are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon **them** suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and **they** will not escape."



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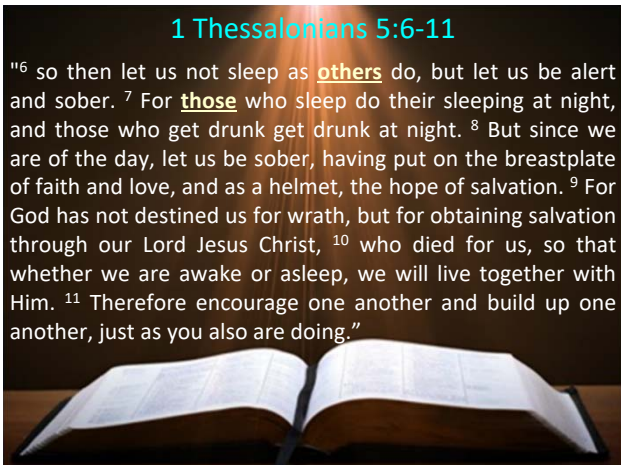
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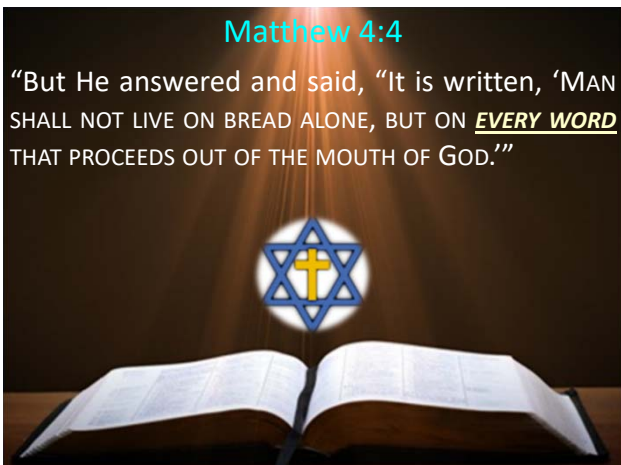
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**Matthew 4:4**

"But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON **EVERY WORD** THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"



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**Matthew 5:18**  
“For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not ***the smallest letter or stroke*** shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”



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**John F. Walvoord**  
*The Rapture Question* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1979), 233.

“Taken as a whole, the pretribulation point of view gives sense and meaning to 1 Thessalonians 5 and explains why this is introduced after the Rapture. In effect, Paul was saying that the time of the Rapture cannot be determined any more than the time of the beginning of the day of the Lord; but this is of no concern to believers because our appointment is not the wrath of the day of the Lord but rather the salvation that is ours in Christ.”

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**Conclusion**

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Strengthening the Pre-Tribulation Case

- 1. John 14:1-4
- 2. Revelation 3:10
- 3. First Thessalonians 4-5
- 4. **Second Thessalonians 2:3a**
- 5. Matthew 24-25



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