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1 Thessalonians 5

Paul in 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 presents what could be considered a new doctrine: the doctrine of Rapture. As you all know you will not find the word Rapture in the English Bible, however if you go to a Greek translation you will find the word “harpazo” meaning “caught up” which translated into Latin is Rapturo and is where we get the word Rapture.

To refresh our memories, the concern from the Thessalonians was what would happen to the dead when Jesus came back, would the dead be left behind?

God’s response for Paul to give was that the dead would rise first and those of us who are alive would be caught up – rapturo; raptured.

The Rapture is not the Day of the Lord that will be discussed in chapter 5 of 1 Thessalonians. This Day of the Lord is post Tribulation; it is filled with terror for those who are of the darkness.

## 1 Thessalonians 5

### The Day of the Lord

[\(Zephaniah 1:7-18; 2 Peter 3:10-13\)](#)

**1But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.**

The answer to these fairly new Christian brothers in Thessalonica is odd in a couple of ways. First, they were not Jews so their knowledge of the Prophets and Law would be minimal. Yet Paul tells them something about times and seasons are of some way obvious and need not comment? Perhaps Paul had exposed them to some of the Old Testament as we refer to it today by explaining that God has a timetable, and He does nothing by chance or out of His Schedule.

The other possibility is that he is impressing upon them not to worry about what you cannot control and that would include God's timing. It is better to deal with the issues of the present day, loving, helping, sharing the Good News so that souls would be saved. Sounds like good wisdom for today!

***Ecclesiastes 3: 1To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:***

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

This is an adage or saying that embraces the idea that thieves operate normally at night so as to use darkness to their advantage. An additional advantage is that the homeowner would be asleep allowing the thief to enter in stealthily and abscond with the booty. God uses several adages like this to describe someone being able to surprise those who are not cognizant or situationally aware. The point Paul is making is that the world will not be aware of when Jesus returns nor to what end He brings with Him.

**3For 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.**

The Rapture is a sudden event that removes the Bride of Christ the Church, also referred to as the Believers in Christ, from the earth. This Church that He built is not any church with His name placed on it by mankind to be clear. There will be no Baptists, Pentecostals, Methodists, Catholics, or any other manmade religions, nor Jews nor gentiles, it will be populated with only Believers, who by the Grace and Mercy of God asked Jesus Christ into their hearts. These Believers believe that they are sinners, saved by Grace, that Jesus is the Only Son of God. That He was born of a virgin and lived a sinless life. That Jesus died on

the Cross for the sins of mankind, was buried and three days later raised by God by the power of the Holy Spirit to life everlasting. That those that believe those things and call on the Name of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are Born again and are saved by the Blood of the Lamb.

However, there are those of this world that have and will reject Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. It is those whom Paul is speaking of as being overtaken by the Truth by Christ like a Thief in the Night. Sudden destruction will fall on them.

The Prophet Zephania also wrote about this worldwide event called the “Day of the Lord”.

***Zephania 1: [7](#)Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord GOD: for the day of the LORD is at hand: for the LORD hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests.***

***[8](#)And it shall come to pass in the day of the LORD'S sacrifice, that I will punish the princes, and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with strange apparel.***

***[9](#)In the same day also will I punish all those that leap on the threshold, which fill their masters' houses with violence and deceit.***

***[10](#)And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD, that there shall be the noise of a cry from the fish gate, and an howling from the second, and a great crashing from the hills.***

***[11](#)Howl, ye inhabitants of Maktesh, for all the merchant people are cut down; all they that bear silver are cut off.***

**12And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil.**

**13Therefore their goods shall become a booty, and their houses a desolation: they shall also build houses, but not inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, but not drink the wine thereof.**

**14The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly.**

**15That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,**

**16A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers.**

**17And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung.**

**18Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.**

**4But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.**

This is a declaration that as believers you will not be affected by this Day of the Lord, because believers are not in darkness but are of the light. The Light is Christ, and we will not be here for this

Day of the Lord as mortal human beings. We will be with Christ in our resurrected bodies.

**5Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.**

As children of the light and day we will not be on earth when this event happens, nor will any believer that had already died. We will all be with Christ.

**6Therefore let us not sleep, as *do* others; but let us watch and be sober. 7For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.**

This is a description of those in the flesh, living as do all others who have put their trust in anything other than Christ. We see in these previous verses that humanity is carrying on as if nothing we wrong. With the current situation on earth, it causes me to consider things of prophecy in a different light. It is still not clear but the farther we go down this Covid road the picture is becoming clearer.

Think for a moment about events described in the Old Testament; the flood, events where God instructed Israel to completely destroy every man, woman and child and animal that their enemy possessed. Why would God do that? Non-believers look at that even believers look at that and think how harsh that was, why

innocent children. When these events come about that we are studying there will be what appear to be innocent children that God will destroy; why is there no hope? I think that is exactly what was back in time even to the flood and is now again.

We know that this occurred in Geneses 6;

***Genesis 6: 1And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, 2That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. 3And the LORD said, **My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh:** yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. 4There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.***

There is an order to these events, let's parse them out.

1. Men began to multiply on earth
2. Daughters were born to these men
3. Sons of God (not men but fallen angels) saw the daughters of men that they were fair.
4. Sons of God took them wives of ALL THEY CHOSE. (emphasis mine)
5. God said "My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh.
6. God limited man's life span
7. There were giants in the earth in those days
8. The Sons of God (Giants) had intercourse with the daughters of man and "bare children to them".

Something drastic had changed with mankind from when God first created man. What was that? The literal changing of DNA, mixing human DNA with angelic DNA. The laws of nature do not necessarily exist in heaven, but on

earth all things created have a structure created by God. In the animal kingdom, all living things have a DNA structure; it is critical to existing on earth. The Bible does not tell us the nature of the structure of angels, but somehow from the fall, the fallen angels must have taken on some physical aspects of man specifically the genitalia. That would likely be required for these fallen angels to cohabit with human woman. The offspring would then be of a significant alteration of God's initial design of mankind and the related offspring.

Continuing in Genesis 6:

***5And 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. 6And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. 7And 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.***

This catastrophic change within man at the fall had progressed to a point of no -return, no hope of being saved. God the Creator of all things did the unthinkable; He gave man free will. That free will God must have known would allow man to venture into things God in His Holiness would not even imagine. The sinful nature of man eventually consumed mankind, along with the injected DNA of angelic beings that may well have given man longer life span. God had to end that problem, so He brought the flood on the earth.

From that flood, Noah and his family were found to be

***Genesis 6: continued***

***8But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.***

***9These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. 10And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.***

***11The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.***

***Genesis 6:7 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.***

We coming to that point again on the earth. There is a drastic change that has taken place over centuries of man becoming more and more evil, just like before the flood. Add to that the potential of altering human DNA so that the Blood of the Lamb is no longer sufficient to cover that sin and we have the perfect storm that was present pre-flood.

***8But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. 9For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,***

God makes a declaration that Believers were not appointed to wrath. This word “appointed” from Strong’s Concordance is:

Transliteration: tithémi

Phonetic Spelling: (tith'-ay-mee)

Definition: to place, lay, set

Usage: I put, place, lay, **set, fix, establish.**

God did not establish as a fixed or set as the outcome that Believers would go through the wrath that He has planned for the earth and those who dwell on earth that have rejected His Son.

God instead “appointed” those who would believe in, have faith in His Son Jesus Christ to “salvation”. This word from Strong’s Concordance is:

Transliteration: sótéria

Phonetic Spelling: (so-tay-ree'-ah)

Definition: deliverance, salvation

Usage: welfare, prosperity, **deliverance, preservation, salvation, safety.**

**10Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. 11Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.**

God through Paul wants to encourage the Thessalonian believers in these words. They had valid concerns over not only their own lives but for those who had already died and God through Paul, gives them comfort in this knowledge. They are told as we can assume that same direction to comfort “yourselves together, and edify one another”.

## Christian Living

**12And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;**

There are many terms some Biblical some slight alterations due to linguistics and the time the terms were used include;

Elder, Presbyter, Teacher, Pastor and many others.

**13And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. *And* be at peace among yourselves.**

The direction is to show deference to those who oversee local churches as long as they walk in obedience to God. One of the ultimate outcomes by living in love is to be “at peace among yourselves”.

**14Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all *men*. 15See that none render evil for evil unto any *man*; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all *men*.**

Part of carrying out the Great Commission we find is to treat gently those who are mentally challenged, and those that are weak, with patience toward all. We are also to “warn” them that are unruly, a challenge in itself, but none the less a directive from God.

**16Rejoice evermore. 17Pray without ceasing. 18In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.**

We so often wonder what is God's Will in my life and here are three specific examples, not suggestions these are clear and concise orders for each of us to carry out.

1. Rejoice – understand who you are in God's eyes and be very happy.
2. Pray without ceasing – as you walk through your day, have on-going conversations with God, it pleases Him and is our obligation.
3. Give thanks in everything, whether it seems good or not at the moment; God and Pray changes things.

***Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.***

### **19Quench not the Spirit.**

This command is one that challenges us in several ways. How do we quench the Spirit and how do we overcome that problem?

Transliteration: sbennumi

Phonetic Spelling: (sben'-noo-mee)

Definition: to quench

Usage: (a) I extinguish, quench, (b) I suppress, thwart.

Paul's letter to the Ephesians from God describes some of the things we as Believers might do to "quench" the Spirit.

Ephesians 4 and 5

***Ephesians 4: 17This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18Having the understanding darkened,***

*being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: **19**Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. **20**But ye have not so learned Christ; **21**If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: **22**That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; **23**And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; **24**And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

***25**Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. **26**Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: **27**Neither give place to the devil. **28**Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. **29**Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. **30**And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. **31**Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: **32**And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

*Ephesians 5: **3**But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; **4**Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. **5**For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*

quoted from "Got Questions"

*"We grieve the Spirit by living like the pagans (4:17-19), by lying (4:25), by being angry (4:26-27), by stealing (4:28), by cursing (4:29), by being bitter (4:31), by being unforgiving (4:32), and by being sexually immoral (5:3-5). To grieve the Spirit is to act out in a sinful manner, whether it is in thought only or in both thought and deed."*

**20Despise not prophesyings. 21Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. 22Abstain from all appearance of evil.**

If someone claims to "prophecy" we are to listen and not despise their prophecy, however we are to "prove" all things, holding fast to that which is good and wholesome. We not to do things that by the appearance is evil.

Just a word of caution that God warned us in the end times He said this about prophets and prophecy:

***Matthew 24: For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.***

***Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.***

## **Final Blessings**

**23And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and / pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus**

Christ. **24** Faithful *is* he that calleth you, who also will do *it*.

**25** Brethren, pray for us.

**26** Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss. **27** I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren.

**28** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen. {*The first epistle unto the Thessalonians was written from Athens.*}

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