1Thess 107

Can you discern the times of 2023?

Welcome back everyone and let me just clarify the 2023 Bible Conference is still in the process of ironing out details.

The original days I wanted, may be compromised by another event on that weekend. So, I am looking at new dates. Possibly in November?

I still want to talk with another hotel as well and then I will set everything into motion…please be patience.

Open back up in 1Thessalonians chapter five.

I did speak with some of my old friends and Royal Family members up in New England during my vacation. I got some good feedback; one area was very helpful and that was a hint, that I need to continue to use repetition. Also, the request to make sure I slow down and really give the extra details when I cover a difficult subject matter.

I am always open to constructive criticism.

Now to get us back on track remember what the Apostle Paul was doing in reference to these letters to Thessalonica.

He was trying to help guide them back toward the accuracy of the WORD, more specifically the proper doctrine of Eschatology.

The teaching of the divine order of end time events!

1Thes 5:1 Now as to the periods and times, brothers *and sisters,* you have no need *of anything* to be written to you.

/[1Th 5:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/5/2/s_1116002) For you yourselves **know full well**that the **day of the Lord is coming just like a thief in the night**.\

Many Bels at Thessalonica had fallen for the lies and counterfeit teaching that now left them confused about the Rapture of the church, the resurrection and the 2nd Advent of Christ.

/Falling for counterfeits and false doctrine always leads Bels backward into spiritual infancy. Which means you can become detached from truth and in this case, emotions gained momentum because they assumed the Tribulation is at hand. Which brings in waves of fear or doubt driving a Bel backward and into a position of weakness.\

Your current position of weakness or strength is a direct result of that which you have been allowing into your soul structure.

[1Th 5:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/5/3/s_1116003) While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction will come upon them like labor pains upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

The Apostle Paul is reminding them the series of events in the Tribulation before the return of TLJC!

Some of this may well be pointing to events leading up to the Rapture then into the 7 years of Tribulation. Which all occur before the 2nd Advent of Chrits.

[1Th 5:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/5/4/s_1116004) But you, brothers *and sisters,* are not in darkness, so that the day would overtake you like a thief;

[1Th 5:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/5/5/s_1116005) for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness;

The Apostle Paul is clearly stating that Bels in the CA who are alive for the Rapture - go up…they are not destined for the wrath we know as the Tribulation.

We may feel the pinch of discomfort and experience some mild confusion with certain events.

Yet we do not embark on the journey into darkness and wrath for 7 years.

/Jesus Christ was hard toward false teachers and HE criticized the religious leaders of His day because they could not *discern the signs of the time.* It gave Jesus a sense of righteous indignation toward those who had led HIS people astray with religion. We should be aware of the world around us while we study the scriptures. Accurately handling the word so we can be aware of the times and the seasons around us is imperative for the Bel reaching maturity – it is spiritual discernment.\

Jump over to Matthew chapter 16 RF.

The greater your spiritual growth the sharper your spiritual discernment gets!

In reference to the term…

THE DAY OF THE LORD;

/ “*It does not refer to a single day, but to a season when God rapidly advances His agenda to the end of the age.****The day of the Lord****“Is a familiar Old Testament expression. It denotes the day when God intervenes in history to judge His enemies, deliver His people, and establish His kingdom.”*

 *Prof. D. Edmond Hiebert* \

Hiebert served at Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary in Fresno, California. He was highly regarded as the professor of New Testament theology there from 1955 to 1975.

Just as we recently learned within our study of Dispensations there are ages, seasons and trends inside each dispensation.

The Apostle Paul was reminding the congregation at Thessalonica that between his own teaching there and Timothy’s lessons, they should have gained insight to the signs of the times.

/1Thes 5:2 ***For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night***: The Thessalonians knew, and had been taught, that they couldn’t know the day of Jesus’ return. That day would remain unknown, and come as a surprise, as a thief in the night. They also had been taught about the Rapture which happens at least 7 years prior to the 2nd Advent.\

A thief does not announce the exact time of his arrival.

The idea that ***the day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night*** means no one knows the exact date or time. God’s prophetic plan for the future is something mankind can never fully wrap their finite minds around.

Yet between the teaching of Jesus and then the Apostle Paul it indicated that seasons, trends and changes all around us can give us clues to prophetic times.

The apostles certainly were not ones to set dates in regard to prophecy, and Jesus forbid setting dates when He said - *of that day and hour no one knows* ([Matthew 24:36](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/mat/24/36/s_953036)).

God desires this day along with other prophetic events to be unexpected, but He wants His people to be prepared for the unexpected.

HE teaches us about trends and seasons within HIS word.

 REPEAT

/Mat 16:1 The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and **putting *Jesus* to the test**, they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven.

Religious arrogance, once challenged, will seek avenues of manipulation and word games to put stumbling blocks in front of truth. \

Very much like those in political theater engage in character assassination. They dig up some dark secret of 20 years past. Then try to use it to stop a political opponent who may well have great ideas and policies.

Testing Jesus and manipulating scriptures and phrases to see if Jesus would stumble was very common toward the end of HIS earthly ministry.

[Mat 16:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/16/2/s_945002) But He replied to them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘*It will be* fairweather, for the sky is red.’

/[Mat 16:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/16/3/s_945003) “And in the morning, ‘*There will be* a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ **You know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but are you unable *to discern* the signs of the times?**

False teaching, counterfeits and lies leave many Bels in a state of perpetual, gullibility and therefore a fool for religion and emotional nonsense. \

The interesting thing about the word, *discern* - is it holds a strength of truth within its definition.

/Discern – *diakrinō,* to learn by discrimination, to try, to decide. Come to a solid conclusion, remove the negative and focus on the facts. Give a judgement of facts, withdraw from the false. \

DEE-AH-KRINO, it really means to make a firm judgement, it is the opposite of being on the fence, it is a sound decision.

You can not come to a strong conclusion and really discern what is happening around you if you are weak and confused. It demands a removal of anything you know is questionable.

It really points to discrimination against the lies, shutting out the false so the truth can shine.

/[Mat 16:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/16/4/s_945004) “An **evil and adulterous generation wants a sign**; and so **a sign will not be given** to it, except the sign of Jonah.” And He left them and went away.

All that we can count on is the person and work of Christ. HIS death, burial and resurrection, ascension and session are what was left of the signs that HE will return! \

Jump ahead to Matthew chapter 24 RF.

/Jesus was very clear the only signs and symbols that the emotional and religious crowds would receive was HIS sacrificial death, resurrection and the ascension and session. The completed canon of scripture which illuminates the person and work of Christ is all we need to be prepared for any and all prophetic events. \

Most people (Bels & Ubels) want a quick fix and someone else to give them answers or solutions.

Even though all solutions and answers are in scripture, there is a definitive call for spiritual growth inside the study of the mind of Christ.

Mat 24:36 “But about that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

The humanity of Christ did not have exact times or dates to speak of.

/[Mat 24:37](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/24/37/s_953037) “For **the coming of the Son of Man** will be **just like the days of Noah.**

The coming or build up to the time Christ returns is in view- it is a reference to seasons and trends. \

This could cover a wide swath of time, perhaps from before the Rapture into the end of the 7 years of Tribulation.

/[Mat 24:38](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/24/38/s_953038) “For as in those days before the flood **they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage,** until the day that Noah entered the ark,

All written in a Greek present tense, active voice, in the plural, masculine gender. “*everyone was marrying everyone – anything goes!”* it was an open party of flesh, mind and values. \

It is a very interesting the way the original language has this written, which is what Jesus was insinuating.

It has a strong hint of same sex activities.

Marriage and the term eating and drinking in this context, is speaking of a carefree lifestyle in reference to loose- living. It was one big party of flesh and immorality and intoxication.

[Mat 24:39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/24/39/s_953039) and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

[Mat 24:40](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/24/40/s_953040) “At that time there will be two *men* in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.

[Mat 24:41](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/24/41/s_953041) “Two *women* will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.

Both at the Rapture of the church and the 2nd Advent of Christ a cleansing on the earth takes place in the blink of an eye.

/The days leading up the flood were seen as days of extreme ungodliness and impurity. The sons and daughters of Cain had dominated the landscape and developed a *‘serpent culture’* which elevated Satan. They were the ones who gave themselves over to fallen angels. These are the children that Genesis chapter six teaches us about. A creation of a new hybrid species, almost as if a new gender or creation arose from the wicked practices. \

Many Christians today do not realize the times they live in.

Many are confused like the Bels at Thessalonica.

Jesus clearly tells us what trends, times and seasons will unfold as we get closer to the end times.

/Gen 6:4 **The Nephilim were on the earth in those days**, and also afterward, **when the sons of God came in to the daughters of mankind**, and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who *were* of old, men of renown.

Nephilim - often described in ancient Hebrew as the fallen giants – children of fallen angels. \

So if we look around today, we can begin to recognize trends and seasons that look familiar;

/The trends and seasons before the flood were ungodly, to the point there was only one family still recognized as Bels. Fallen angels had developed systems and idols of themselves and rituals so as to have mankind occupied in worshipping their power. Satan was arising in power among mankind, the OSN was now given greater freedom. \

Think about what is around you today in the devil’s world.

Use your spiritual discernment.

Compare the many years leading up to the flood and where we are today in the year of our LORD 2023;

/Aspects of sexuality were twisted and incorporated in a new creation. Demonic inspiration, possession and ideology dominated the landscape. God’s divine institutions and HIS word were trampled upon and minimized in all cultures. Satan was having great victories – the presence of the coming Messiah (Jesus Christ) appeared to be in jeopardy. \

/Mankind had rejected the true teaching of the word of God and fell in love with cults of demonic religion and rituals. True Biblical teaching was disappearing right up until only one man held the truth of BD. Mankind had reached a peak of narcissism, sexual perversion and wicked intentions so much so that the man of GOD became the glaring, minority among the majority of evil. \

Keep in mind, the warnings and discipline were becoming more obvious over the years and yet people simply kept up their neglect toward the power and plan of God.

The attitude was one of scoff at the word of GOD – laughter at the warnings of the coming flood.

/Just as in the future Tribulation period, the flood was a time of supernatural disaster. A time that will be nearly impossible for the natural minded man to fathom. This is because just as the earth had never been flooded. Or seen the rains and burst of fountains from the ground before, they will NEVER see anything like the mid-way point of the Tribulation. It comes like a thief in the night! \

Just as a young man goes off to war and within 6 months of combat you can see a dramatic change even in their countenance.

No video game, movie, or backyard G.I. Joe survival tests you played as a boy can prepare you for the horror of combat up close and personal.

I believe it was Mike Tyson who said…every boxer comes at me with confidence and a game plan…until they get hit in the face.

Its easy to laugh at the plan of GOD when Satan’s system appears to be having its share of victories… just as it was easy to laugh at Noah building an ark on dry land.