



*Edgemont Bible Church*  
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*1 Thessalonians 5:1-3*

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Intro: What is the purpose of History?

A. Three views

1. Cyclical view - history repeating itself (Eccl 1:9),
  - a. very popular among ancient Greeks and today among eastern thought,
  - b. but gives no purpose to history
2. Atheistic naturalistic view - evolutionary
  - a. linear and non-repetitive
  - b. no movement toward a goal, gives no purpose
3. Christian view
  - a. stands in a sharp contrast to other views in their lack of purpose and hopeless despair
  - b. History is the outworking of a purposeful plan of the Sovereign, Creator God

- i. Job 42:2 "I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.
- ii. Isa 46:10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'
- iii. Isa 43:13 Indeed before the day was, I am He; And there is no one who can deliver out of My hand; I work, and who will reverse it?"

B. One purpose that looms large - "The Day of the Lord"

1. This event will mark the end of "the day of man"
2. God will take back direct control from the usurpers, both human and demonic

C. Paul had taught the Thessalonians about "The Day of the Lord"

1. Ac 20:27 "For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.
2. 1 Th 1:10; 2:16; 4:6; 5:9; 2 Th 1:5-9; 2:5

D. Apparently, questions arose that Paul needed to clarify about:

1. the rapture - 4:13-18
2. The Day of the Lord - Th 5:1-3
  - a. But concerning the times and the seasons,
    - i. times - **chronos** - a space of time (in general), or interval; an individual opportunity; delay:--+ years old, season, space, (a) while. Refers to chronological time, clock or calender
    - ii. Seasons - **Kairos** - an occasion, set or proper time, opportunity, (convenient, due) season, (due, short, while) time, a while. Refers to views time in terms of events, eras, or seasons
    - iii. Both refer in a general sense to the end times - Dan 2:21; Acts 1:7

b. you have no need that I should write to you. - When? - Acts 1:6

## XII. The Day of the Lord

### A. The Coming of the Day of the Lord - vs 2-3a

#### 1. For you yourselves know

a. perfectly - **akribos** - exactly:--circumspectly, diligently, perfect(-ly).

Describes careful, accurate, painstaking research.

b. that the day of the Lord - was coming unexpectedly

i. The time is not revealed - No advanced warning

- so comes as a thief in the night.

- Jesus also uses thief in the night talking about 2nd coming - Mt 24:43

ii. never used to talk about the rapture

- used of the Lord coming in judgment

- a thief coming is not a hopeful, joyful, event of deliverance

#### 2. The Day of the Lord

a. describes God's cataclysmic future judgment on the wicked

i. mentioned 19 times in OT

- many convey a sense of imminence, nearness

- Is 13:6; Ez 30:3; Joel 1:15; 2:1; 3:14; Ob 15; Zeph 1:7,14

ii. Mentioned 4 times in NT and alluded to several other times

iii. 3 times called the day of vengeance - Isa 34:8; 61:2; 63:4

iv. Many of the OT passages have a near and far fulfillment

- Historical fulfillment - refers to God's judgment for the

situation of the time - Isa 7:14 - Isaiah's son's birth/ Joel 2 - Acts 2:16-21

- Eschatological fulfillment - refers to God's judgment at the end of days - Isa 7:14 - Christ's birth/ Joel 2 - Rev

b. must be distinguished from

i. "The Day of Christ"- Phil 1:10; 2:16

ii. "The Day of Christ Jesus"- Phil 1:6

iii. "The Day of the Lord Jesus"- 1 Co 5:5

iv. "The Day of the Lord Jesus Christ"- 1 Co 1:8

v. all refer to when believers receive rewards - Ro 14:10; 1 Co 3:11-14; 4:1-5; 2 Co 5:9-10

c1. Signs for the arrival of the eschatological "Day of the Lord"

i. appearance of a Elijah-like forerunner - Mal 4:5 - cf. Lk 1:17

ii. Worldwide rebellion against God and His word - 2 Th 2:3

iii. The man of Lawlessness is revealed - 2 Th 2:3-4; Dan 9:27; 11:31; 12:11; Mt 24:15

iv. Nations will gather in the valley of decision for the battle of Armageddon - Joel 3:2-14

v. Signs in the heavens - Joel 2:30-31; 3:15; Isa 13:10; Mt 24:29; Lk

21:25; Rev 6:12-13; 8:12

- c1. Jesus' signs from the Olivet Discourse of the "Day of the Lord" corresponding to the seal judgments of Revelation - Mt 24:5ff/ Rev 6:2ff
- i. false teachers, apparently not a few - Mt 24:5; the ultimate false teacher - Rev 6:2
  - ii. Wars and rumors of wars - Mt 24:6-7a/ Rev 6:4
    - though a covenant is signed for 7 years, peace is elusive
    - we know the anti-Christ breaks the covenant in the middle
  - iii. Famines and earthquakes - Mt 24:7b/ Rev 6:5-6, 7-8
  - iv. Martyrdom - Mt 24:9-10/ Rev 6:9-11
  - v. Gospel preached throughout the world - Mt 24:14/ Rev 7:9; 11:2-6; 14:6

3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!"

1. At the beginning of the Tribulation?
  - a. After the destruction of Gog and Magog?
  - b. After the signing of the Covenant between the man of sin and Israel?
2. After the beginning of the Tribulation?
  - a. false teachers - Mt 24:5,11,24
    - i. that can do signs and wonders
    - ii. to deceive, if possible, even the elect.
    - iii. So much so that Mt 24:37-39
  - b. In Jeremiah's time
    - i. Jeremiah's warning 6:1
    - ii. In Spite of Jeremiah's warning, false teachers - 6:14
  - c. The False Prophet - Rev 13:11-18
  - d. God's Judgment - 2 Th 2:10-12

B. The Character of "The Day of the Lord" - vs 3b

1. then sudden destruction

- a. **olethros** - ruin, i.e. death, punishment:--destruction,
  - i. not annihilation, but separation from God - 2Th 1:9.
  - ii. Not destruction of being, but of well being—1 Tim 6:9
  - iii. Not the end of existence, but the destruction of Purpose
- b. Re 6:12-17 I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits

on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

2. comes upon them - unbelievers, not the Thessalonians

3. as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. Jer 13:21; Ho 13:13; Lu 17:27-29; 21:34-35;

C. The Completeness of "The Day of the Lord" - vs 3c

1. The tragedy is that unbelievers will not be prepared - Isa 13:6-9;

2. And they shall not escape - divine judgment

a. double negative in Greek stresses the comprehensiveness of "The Day"

b. it will bring destruction on every unbeliever alive when it comes

3. Comfort and motivation for the believer

a. Comfort in that we will leave through the rapture before "The Day of the Lord"

b. Motivation to win our lost family and friends - knowing therefore the Fear of the Lord, we persuade men - 2 Co 5:12