

The Fate of the Earth

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: I Thessalonians 5:1-11.
- B. Believers are waiting for the judgments of heaven.

II. Paul speaks about the times and the season of Christ's coming.

- A. This is not concerned with the exact timing of the event.
- B. It is not a single event, but a series of events.
- C. The day of the Lord refers to any time when God acts in human affairs.
- D. Only the Father knows when Christ will return

III. Three characteristics of the Day of the Lord.

A. It will come stealthily. (Luke 17:26)

- 1. The people of God will disappear before the judgment. (Matthew 24)
- 2. The Old Testament testifies to a day of great tribulation. (Joel 2, Isaiah 2)

B. It will be inescapable.

- 1. The only way we can find an escape is to find it in Jesus.
- 2. God's delay of the Day of Judgment is to give people a chance to come to the redemption in Christ Jesus.
- 3. There is a way of escape—God has not destined the believer for wrath.

a. We have been delivered from the kingdom of darkness and transferred to the kingdom of God's Son. (Colossians 1)

b. The reason that the believer is not destined for wrath is that he has kept His Word. (Revelation 3)

c. The believer will always be with the Lord. (II Peter 1:16-18)

C. Some will be changed before the judgment. (I Corinthians 15)

- 1. The hope of the believer is that he is with Christ already and will be taken up with Christ in that day.

2. The result.

a. The believer is to fulfill the will of God for his life instead of wasting time until Jesus' return.

b. The believer ought to take life seriously.

Application questions:

1. How would you respond to someone who says that he knows the day and hour of Jesus return?

2. Is judgment necessary for an all-powerful God? Explain.

3. How should the Day of the Lord affect how the believer lives his or her life now? How might your life look different?
