

## No Escape!

1 Thess 5:1-11

**Intro:** The preceding section on the rapture of believers (4:13-18) presented a *joyful hope*; this one gives a *solemn warning*. The Thessalonians had not heard the first exhortation before (4:18), **it was a mystery**—a sacred secret never before revealed in the OT (1 Cor 15:51); however, they had heard about the “**Day of the Lord**” from many of the Old Testament prophets.

### I. The Catastrophe of the Day of the LORD 5:1-3

A. Definition of the Day of the LORD (v. 1)

B. Characteristics of the Day of the LORD (vv. 2-3)

1. It will come stealthily, like “a thief in the night” (v. 2)
2. It is a destructive judgment, “none shall escape” (v. 3)



The prophet Zephaniah describes the Day of the LORD as “*a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom*” (**Zeph 1:14-15; 3:8**; see also, **Isa 13:9-11**; Joel 2:28-32; Matt 24:21).

3. **It is inescapable**, like “a woman giving birth” (v. 3; cf. Matt. 24:8; Mark 13:8)

### II. The Challenge of the Day of the LORD 5:4-8

- A. Believers are “sons of the light” (**Eph 5:8 and 1 John 1:5-7**), and are *promised deliverance from the day of the LORD* (vv. 4-5; cf. 5:9; 1:10; Rom 5:9; Rev 3:10).
- B. Believers are to be *alert* and *sober* (v. 6; see **Tit 2:11-13**)
- C. Believers are to remain ready for battle (v. 8; **1:3**) *Notice the armor* (see Eph 6)
  1. The **breastplate** of *faith and love*
  2. The **helmet**, *the hope of salvation*

### III. The Comfort of the Day of the LORD 5:9-11

A. Believers are **NOT destined for wrath**, but for obtaining salvation (vv. 9-10)

B. Believers are exhorted to encourage one another with these words (v. 11; **cf. 4:18**)

That is God’s picture of the fate of the earth. As we study these great passages and see what is coming in world affairs we can understand that the hope of the believer is to be with Christ; we have given our hearts to Him already and He will claim us, body, soul and spirit, prior to that coming frightful day of judgment—“**the Day of the LORD.**”

Applications:

1. Keep in mind that these words are provided to give us comfort, “**We will be delivered!**”
2. In light of these words, How should you and I be living our daily lives?
3. Let us remind one another daily that Jesus is coming for us very soon, so—**Go and Tell!**