

*1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, v2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. v3 While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. v4 But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. v5 You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. v6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. v7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. v8 But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. v9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. v10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. v11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.*

## **ARE YOU READY FOR THE RETURN OF JESUS?**

### **1. WE SHOULD NOT SPECULATE ABOUT THE RETURN OF JESUS – v1**

Jesus SAID this verse in the middle of a chapter about the signs of the second coming: *Matthew 24:36 "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.*

If someone claims they know, “GOD IS HONOUR BOUND NOT TO KEEP THAT DATE!”

### **2. WE SHOULD KNOW THE RETURN OF JESUS WILL BE A SURPRISE – v2**

We all know that criminals can come at any time, but everybody is SURPRISED when it happens.

### **3. WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND WE WILL ALL FACE THE RETURN OF JESUS – v3**

The person who thinks they can control the politics of their world to the women who thinks she can predict her pregnancy.

*Acts 12:21-23 On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. v22 They shouted, "This is the voice of a god, not of a man." v23 Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.*

#### **4. THOSE WHO ARE NOT READY FOR THE RETURN OF JESUS ARE LIVING IN DARKNESS – v5-7**

##### **a. They are SLEEPING – v6 & 7a**

A person who is sleeping has the same capacity as someone who is dead.

##### **b. They are SINNING – 7b**

A person who is drunk has the same capacity as someone who is dead.

#### **5. THOSE WHO ARE READY FOR THE RETURN OF JESUS ARE LIVING EXPECTANTLY – v5-6**

##### **a. They LIVE in the LIGHT – v5**

*1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

##### **b. They are ALERT – v6**

*1 Peter 5:8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

#### **6. YOU CAN BE READY FOR THE RETURN OF JESUS**

### **IF you know:**

##### **a. GOD LOVES YOU AND DOES NOT WANT YOU TO SUFFER**

*v9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath .*

##### **b. GOD PROVIDED A WAY OF SALVATION THROUGH JESUS**

*v9 ... but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

##### **c. GOD HAS PAID THE PENALTY FOR YOUR SIN**

*v10 He died for us.*

##### **d. GOD INVITES US TO SPEND ETERNITY WITH HIM**

*v10 ... so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.*

Isaiah 51:1-6 v1 **Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the LORD...** v3 The LORD will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the LORD. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing. v4 "Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation: The law will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations. **v5 My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations.... v6 Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath;** the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies. **But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail.**