



4 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE END OF TIME

1. Sleeping is both natural and tragic.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14—*Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.*

2. The timing is both predictable and unpredictable.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-5:1—*According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words. Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you...*

3. The day of the Lord will be both terrific and horrific.

1 Thessalonians 5:2-3—*...For you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.*

See also **Matthew 24:36-44**; **Luke 12:39-40**; **2 Peter 3:10**; **Revelation 3:3**; **Revelation 16:15**

4. The rapture of the saints could happen both today or tomorrow.

> Be ready and waiting.

1 Thessalonians 5:4—*But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief.*

> Live righteous lives.

1 Thessalonians 5:5—*You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.*

> Be alert and self-controlled.

1 Thessalonians 5:6-7—*So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night.*

> Be full of faith, love, and hope.

1 Thessalonians 5:8—*But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.*

> Rejoice in your salvation.

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10—*For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.*

> Encourage one another.

1 Thessalonians 5:11—*Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.*

All verses quoted in New International Version unless otherwise noted.

Rewatch today's message online at bcachurch.com/messages.

STUDY GUIDE: 5/19/24

Begin your group with prayer. Have one or two people share a testimony from their week. Keep it positive and reflect on the good things God has done.

STUDY QUESTIONS

Read and discuss all of the scriptures from this week's message. Then, answer the following questions.

1. When you think of heaven, what comes to mind? What do you know about heaven? What are you looking forward to most? (Study all the Scriptures from this week's message.)
2. What does the Bible say about who goes to heaven? Who does God want to go to heaven? What scriptures come to mind on these subjects?
3. Read and discuss I Thessalonians 4:13-5:11. What jumps out to you and why?
4. Read and discuss I Corinthians 15:51-58. What jumps out to you and why?
5. Rob challenged us to "live in the shadow of Christ's soon return and in the imminence of heaven." What are the implications of living this way?