

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

When the Big One Comes – Don't Worry!

I Thessalonians 5:1-11

1 What is the Big One? Let's look at our scripture from First Thessalonians, chapter 5, verses 1 through 11. 2

Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, 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. 1 3

But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. 2 4

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. For God did not

¹ | Thessalonians 5: 1-3.

² | Thessalonians 5:4-7.

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. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. ³

The police in Northern California arrested Chesta Arthur Mills, Jr., on charges of malicious mischief. He instructed them that he was to be addressed as Lord Chesta because he was the second son of God and lord over all the churches.

He said he would destroy the Santa Rosa jail, were he was incarcerated, at 10:01 p.m. At 9:58 p.m., an earthquake, centered five miles north of the jail, rumbled through the area.

“Lord Chesta, I’m on your side, brother!”, shouted one inmate as other screams swept through the jail. Although the building shook a little, it wasn’t destroyed! ⁵

³ | Thessalonians 5:8-11.

Earthquakes do have enormous destructive power. 6

8.9 on the Richter Scale is equivalent to 10,000 megatons – one hundred times greater than the largest nuclear device ever exploded! This happened in Alaska in 1964. 7

The greatest loss of life occurred, 830,000, in China in 1556. 8

The second greatest loss of life was, also, in China on July 28th, 1976, when 655,000 people died. The Richter Scale measured 8.2. 9

Years ago my family lived in a mobile home just three miles south of the Hayward Fault (home to the most destructive earthquakes in California history. I made sure we had earthquake insurance! That big one could erupt most anytime. 10

Lord Jesus said that a sign that He is coming again will be earthquakes! 11

Matthew, chapter 24, verse 7, Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be

famines and earthquakes in various places. ¹² Again, in Mark, chapter 13, verse 8, **There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.** ¹³ And, then again, Luke, chapter 21, verse 11, **There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.** ¹⁴

They are happening more often now with greater intensity! In the 9th century there was one major earthquake; in the 11th century, two; in the 13th century, three; in the 16th, two; the 17th, two; the 18th, five; and in the 19th century, nine major earthquakes! In the 20th century we had 40! ¹⁵

According to the World Almanac, between 1800 and 1896 (almost a century) we had six major earthquakes. From 1897 to 1947 (50 years) we had three. Between 1947 and 1956 (only nine years) we had seven. The following nine years (1957 through 1966) we had seventeen! Then in 1976 (one year!) we had eighteen major ones! ¹⁶

The Big One is coming when the Lord comes again!

So . . . 17

I. When is It Scheduled? – v1-3

When is it scheduled? 18

There have been some predictions in the past. 19 **The Moonies in Korea believe that whenever it happens, the Lord will come again as a Korean! 20**

Various Adventist groups in the past have claimed March, 1843, then, 1844. 21 The Catholic Apostolic Church predicted 1864. 22 The Jehovah's Witnesses thought an invisible coming occurred in 1874 and the world would end in 1914. This was, later, revised to September of 1975. These sincere predictions were usually based on mathematical formulas that, obviously, proved to be inaccurate. 23

What did the Lord Say?

In Matthew, chapter 24, verses 36 through 39 Lord Jesus said, No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the

Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

First, in verse 36, He said that **nobody knows; not even Him! ²⁴**

Next, in verses 37 through 39, He said, like in the days of Noah's flood, **people would be conducting normal life. ²⁵**

Then, in verses 43 and 44 as well as verse 2 in our scripture today, the event will be like a thief coming in the night; unexpectedly! ²⁶ The event will be sudden, like having labor pains. ²⁷

II. What Happens to Those Who Belong to the Night? – v3-6

What happens to those who belong to the night? ²⁸

The general attitude of the world at that time ²⁹ was peace and safety. ⁴ ³⁰

These people are in darkness! You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ⁵ They love darkness instead of the light! ⁶ ³¹ They are controlled by the rulers of the dark! ⁷ ³² In fact, verse 6 states that they are asleep! ⁸

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⁴ | Thessalonians 5:3 - 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.

⁵ | Thessalonians 5:5.

⁶ | John 3:19-20 - This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

⁷ | Ephesians 6:12 - For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

⁸ | Thessalonians 5:6 - You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled.

What will happen? ³⁴ Verse 3 says, **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.** Destruction will come unexpectedly and sudden. ³⁵ “Destruction”, ⁹ in the original language, means to destroy with the idea of corruption. ³⁶ There will be no escape! ³⁷

Now . . .

III. What Happens to Those Who Belong to the Day? – 6-8

What happens to those who belong to the day? ³⁸

The general attitude of the saved at that time ³⁹ **was alert and self-controlled.** ⁴⁰ They put on faith, love and the hope of salvation. ¹⁰ ⁴¹

We will have the fruit of the Spirit evident in our lives.

¹¹ ⁴²

⁹ ολεθρος.

¹⁰ I Thessalonians 5:8 - 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.

**We say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions ¹² ₄₃
and live upright and godly lives! ₄₄**

What will happen? ₄₅

**We will be adopted as His children and our bodies will
be redeemed. ¹³ ₄₆**

In the last chapter, verses 16 and 17, it says, **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.**

¹¹ Romans 8:23 - Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

¹² Titus 2:12 – It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age . . .

¹³ Romans 8:23 - Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Charles Taylor, a noted Canadian philosopher, ¹⁴ pictured what would happen when this event, theologians call “The Rapture”, takes place.

“Millions of people will suddenly disappear from the face of the earth, including all of the infant children. From all walks of life, and from virtually every phase of life, there shall be people missing.”

“The freeways, subways, airports and streets will be in shambles as many engineers, pilots, bus drivers and a multitude of private car owners shall suddenly be caught up out of this world. It will be many days before they can unscramble the mangled cars, trains and fallen aircraft.”

“Remaining millions of people will be wailing, dazed and shaken by the event. They shall be frantically striving to locate loved ones in all the rubble of broken cars and amid broken storefronts and smashed residences.”

¹⁴ [Charles Taylor \(philosopher\) - Wikipedia](#)

“Communications will be greatly disrupted. Many key persons shall disappear and much of the lines of communication which are still above ground will be broken by crashes of cars and aircraft. Distraught and searching multitudes will jam and overload the communication lines and systems that do remain.”

“Dazed and confused pleas from bewildered men over the ‘alert’ systems will try to bring about some semblance of order. Policemen, firemen and rescue crews will work around the clock. Hospitals will overflow. Emergency shelters and first-aid stations will be inadequate. The Red Cross and other emergency units, plus the army facilities will still not be enough.”

“Opportunists will add to the confusion and the misery by looting and killing. They shall feel that under such a total emergency they can get away with anything. CHAOS WILL BE ON EVERY HAND.” 47

Verse 11 says to encourage one another! ¹⁵ In Christ you don't have to worry about being left behind.

Just trust Lord Jesus and let Him call the shots in your life!

<http://biblelifemessages.org/>

¹⁵ | Thessalonians 5:11 - Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.