

What Happens at the Death of the World? *The Judgment of the Return of Christ*

I Thessalonians 5:1-11 / November 19, 2022

What Happens After Death?

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

Therefore encourage one another with these words. (4:16-18, ESV)

What Happens After the Death of the World?

Where is History Going?

DEISM:	It is not known.
NATURALISM:	It is going nowhere.
NIHILISM:	It has no meaning.
EXISTENTIALISM:	It is going nowhere.
PANTHEISM:	It will never end.
POSTMODERNISM:	It is not important.
ISLAM:	It is to setup a global rule of Allah
BIBLICAL THEISM:	It is ushering in God's absolute and meaningful purpose of setting up his eternal reign.

Tomorrow: The Return is Unknown 5:1-3

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you.

Thief at Night (Sudden and unexpected): For you yourselves are fully aware that the **day of the Lord** will come like a thief in the night.

Pregnant Woman (Sudden and Unavoidable): While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

Today: The Preparation for the Return 5:4-8

Day vs Night

But you are not in **darkness**, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.

For you are all children of light, children of the day.

We are not of the **night** or of the **darkness**.

Awake vs Sleep

So then let us **not sleep**, as others do,

but let us keep awake and be sober.

For those who **sleep**, **sleep** at night, and

Sober vs Drunk

those who get **drunk**, are **drunk** at night.

But since we belong to the day, let us be sober,

Fight the Fight

having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

Yesterday: The Hope of the Return 5:9-10

For God has **not** destined us for **wrath**,
but to obtain **salvation** through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we **might live with him**.

The Encouragement of the Return 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

The Story of "Coming" for **Judgment and Salvation** in the Old Testament

Serpent / The Seed:

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:8-9, ESV)

Cain / Seth:

Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. (Genesis 4:9, 10, ESV)

Earth / Noah:

So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." (Genesis 6:7, ESV)

Babel / Shem:

Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech." So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. (Genesis 11:7-8, ESV)

Sodom and Gomorrah / Lot:

Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the LORD out of heaven. And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. (Genesis 19:24-25, ESV)

Egypt / Moses:

Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. (Exodus 3:7-8, ESV)

Judea / Ezra:

He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia, to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years. Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing: "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people, may the LORD his God be with him. Let him go up.'" (2 Chronicles 36:20-23, ESV)