

STUDY 7: THE DAY OF THE LORD

What do you understand by the term Day of the Lord?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1 – 11

Another question Timothy brought back to Paul concerned 'the times and seasons' surrounding the Lord's return. There was speculation and even anxiety around this topic in the church. Paul though is perplexed as to why, '... concerning the times and seasons ... you have no need to have anything written to you ... For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night' (v.1, 2). Jesus taught on the subject (Matt 24:36), Paul and Silas had as well.

The term 'The day of the Lord' (v.2) has its' origins in the OT prophets. In Joel 1 - 3, Amos 5, Zephaniah 1, Isaiah 13 and Jeremiah 46, it refers to God breaking into history to judge His enemies and save His people; In Malachi 4 the LORD speaks of 'the day that is coming' and 'the day when I act'.

The New Testament connects the Day of the Lord with Jesus' return. In 2 Thessalonians 2:1&2 Paul uses the terms 'the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ' and 'the Day of the Lord' synonymously. They are one and the same event.

DEEP IN THE WORD

1. What can we know for sure about this day? See verses 2 and 3.
2. What can we know of the fate of both non-believers and believers and the Day of the Lord? (v.4 and 5)
3. What is our best preparation for that day? How should this knowledge shape our thinking and our lives as we await the day? (v.6 – 11)

DEEP IN PRAYER

Prayer: Pray for each other that we will indeed be found 'awake and sober'. Pray for the salvation of family, colleagues, neighbours and friends.