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the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the

night ... then sudden destruction cometh upon

and they shall not

escape (1

them

...

servants of righteousness" (Rom. 6:17b-18).

saved?!

God Sent Ep 1.7; His Son 1Pe 1.19

HisSon Jn 3.16;

1In 4.10

Thessalonians 4:16–17; 5:1–3; cf. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

This means:

- 1. After the Lord's return (His one and only future coming), nobody will be left on earth (1 Thessalonians 4–5), and the universe itself will be destroyed (2 Peter 3:10–12). Peter and Paul described the very same "day of the Lord."
- 2. No 7-year tribulation (there's no clear passage for that anyway)
- 3. No rebuilding of the temple and no reinstating the Law of Moses with its animal sacrifices (that would be a blasphemous insult to our Lord's one effectual sacrifice forever; Hebrews 10)
- 4. No return of the so-called "10 lost tribes" to their land (they already returned — Ezra 1:1-4; 2:70; 6:17; 8:35; Ezekiel 37; Luke 2:36; Acts 26:7, etc.)
- 5. No literal battle of Armageddon (that is apocalyptic language, not literal)
- 6. No literal 1,000-year reign of Christ on earth (that is apocalyptic language, not literal)
- The word "kingdom" can sometimes refer to Heaven, but Christ's kingdom — His holy nation, His church — has already come. It is not something still waiting to be established: "[God] hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son" (Colossians 1:13; cf. Daniel 2; Matthew 3:2; 4:17; 10:7; 16:18–19, 28; Mark 9:1; Luke 10:9; 17:20–21; 24:49; John 18:36; Acts 1:8; 2:1-47; Hebrews 12:22–28; 1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:9).
- 8. Christ is reigning as King over His kingdom now (1 Corinthians 15:25), and He will deliver the kingdom "up" to the Father at His return (1 Corinthians 15:24). He's not coming "down" to set up a kingdom on earth, but coming to bring the righteous to Heaven and punish all the wicked. This will not be a new beginning on earth, but what Paul called "the end" (1 Corinthians 15:23 –24).
- 9. Only one literal resurrection, not three (John 5:28–29; 11:24; Acts 24:15)
- 10. The day the Lord returns is "the last day" the final day of history, the day of Judgment (John 6:39; 11:24; 12:48). It is the day when all will be raised in the same hour and judged together both the righteous and the wicked (John 5:27–29; Matthew 25:31–46; 2 Corinthians 5:9–11). The righteous,

like Jesus' friend Lazarus, will be raised on that same day the wicked are judged (John 11:24; 12:48), as also shown clearly in 1 Thessalonians 4–5.

11. Jesus gave signs for the destruction of Jerusalem that occurred in A.D. 70, but His literal return will come suddenly without signs — like a thief in the night, like the flood in Noah's day when people were suddenly swept away. There will be no second chance after He returns; the door will be permanently shut: "They that were ready went in with Him to the marriage: and the door was shut" (Matthew 25:10; cf. 24:35–25:13; Mark 13:32-33).

Please don't simply take my word for it. I challenge you to carefully study all the passages referenced above. It all fits together perfectly when you let God speak through His rightly divided Word (2 Timothy 2:15). Please contact me if you want help preparing for the Lord's return on the Day of Judgment.

-- Jason Hilburn, http://www.JasonsBibleBlog.com

"But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is" (Mark 13:32-33).

"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 24:42-44).

"The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of" (Matthew 24:50).

"Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 25:13).

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?" (2 Peter 3:10-12).