DAY OF THE LORD
Sermon Outline & Devotional Guide
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
November 1, 2026
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† *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, "And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. 14For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with Him the believers who have died. 15We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet Him ahead of those who have died. 16For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. 17Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. 18So encourage each other with these words" (NLT).*

† *1 Thessalonians 5:2b, ". . . the day of the Lord's return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night" (NLT)*

- The phrase "the day of the Lord" is mentioned _____ times in the Old Testament alone (Isa. 2:12; 13:6, 9; Ezek. 13:5; 30:3; Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14; Amos 5:18 [2 times], 20; Obad. 15; Zeph. 1:7, 14 [2 times]; Zech. 14:1; Mal. 4:5).
- The phrase "the day of the Lord" is mentioned _____ times in the New Testament (Acts 2:20; 1 Thess. 5:2; 2 Thess. 2:2; & 2 Pet. 3:10) and is alluded to in other passages (cf. Rev. 6:17; 16:14).
- In fact, Scripture three times calls the Day of the Lord the "day of _____. (Isa. 34:8; 61:2; 63:4)
- The Day of the Lord" refers to the 7 years of _____ that kicks off the dreadful wraths, judgments, plagues, and catastrophes that will culminate in the Battle of Armageddon.

What Will Be The Signs that the Day Of The Lord Is Near?

1. There will be the appearance of an Elijah-like _____.

† *Micah 4:5, "Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the Lord arrives" (NLT).*

† *Luke 1:17, It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord" (NASB).*

† *Revelation 11:3,"And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will be clothed in burlap and will prophesy during those 1,260 days" (NASB).*

2. There will be a worldwide _____ against God and His Word that will precede the Day of the Lord.

† *2 Thessalonians 2:3, "Don't be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction" (NASB).*

3. The Day of the Lord will not come until "the man of lawlessness" is born. He will eventually take his seat in the Temple of God, declaring himself as being _____.

† *2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, "Don't be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction. 4 He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God" (NASB).*

- The Bible calls him the _____ and he will desecrate the Temple.

† *Daniel 9:27, "He will make a firm covenant with the world for seven years, but in the middle of it, three and a half years, he will put a stop to sacrifices and offerings in the Temple. And the abomination of desolation will bring horrors to the temple until the decreed destruction is poured out on the desolator" (PAR).*

† *Matthew 24:15, "Jesus said, 'Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand) . . .'" (NASB).*

4. **Nations on a global scale will be pressured to turn _____ Israel.**

† *Zechariah 12:2-3, "I will make Jerusalem like an intoxicating drink that makes the nearby nations stagger when they send their armies to besiege Jerusalem and Judah. 3 On that day I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock. All the nations will gather against it to try to move it, but they will only hurt themselves" (NLT).*

The Seven Last "Bowl" Judgments In The Day Of The Lord

1. **_____ (Rev. 16:2)**

2. **Death to all _____ (Rev. 16:3)**

3. **The contamination of all _____ and the stopping of all _____ (Rev. 16:4-7).**

4. **The scorching of the earth by the sun with intense, searing _____ (Rev. 16:8-9; Isa. 24:4-6).**

5. **Gnawing on _____ because they will be in so much pain from the sores in their mouths (Rev. 16:10-11; Joel 2:2; 3:14-14; Mark 13:24; Luke 21:25; Acts 2:20).**

6. **Drying up the _____ River so armies can cross for the Battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16:12-16; Joel 3:2, 3:9-13; Zech 14:2-3; Ps. 2:1-3; Rev. 19:11-21).**

7. **Atmospheric terror that creates the worst _____ and _____ ever (Rev. 16:17-21).**

† *John 3:19-21, "And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. [20]All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. [21]But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants" (NLT).*

What Do "Night Dwellers" Do that "Day Dwellers" Should Avoid?

1. **Avoid _____ — a metaphor for spiritual _____ (vv. 6-7).**

† *Matthew 25:5, "Jesus said, "When the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep" (NLT).*

2. **Avoid getting _____ — a metaphor for how the indulged in the _____ of the flesh and the mind (vs. 8-11).**

† *Ephesians 2:3, "All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else" (NLT).*

Two Words Of Application

1. **As believers, let's not be _____ or _____ to the lost because our future is secure.**

2. **To unbelievers, do not be fooled because your life seems _____.**

********** Next Steps Devotional Questions**********

1. Since the "Day of the Lord" signals the beginning of the 7 years of Tribulation, what difference would it make in your life if you knew it would be begin one week from today?
2. Do you believe we are living in the "last days?" If so, what difference is it making in your life spiritually, your marriage, your family, your witness, your discipleship and your testimony?
3. What scares or terrifies you the most about the "Day of the Lord" and why?