

Knowing the Future?

Darryl Zanuck, 20th Cent. Fox (1946):

“_____ won't be able to hold any market it captures after the first six months.”

Television

Knowing the Future?

William Orton, *Western Union* (1876):

"This _____ has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication."

Telephone

Knowing the Future?

Newspaper personal ad:

“Yesterday in this space I predicted that the world would come to an end. It did not, however. I regret any inconvenience this may have caused.”

*Paul's Letter to the
Church at Thessalonica*



I Thessalonians

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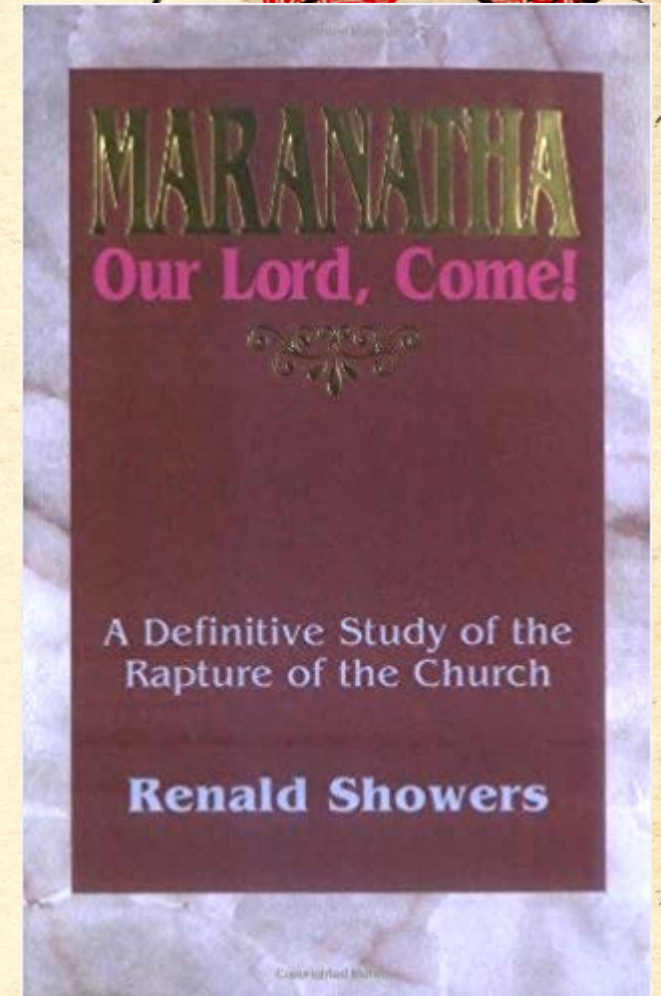


In Light of the End

1 Thess. 5:1-11

Regarding the End Times

- There are several views
- My view:
 - Rapture before Tribulation
 - Trib. before Millennium
- If you would like to discuss, please read this first ->



1 Thess. 5:1-11

1. The Day of the Lord

2. The Diligence of the Believers



The Day of the Lord

- Definition (Renald Showers):
 - “The Day of the Lord refers to God’s special interventions into the course of world events to judge His enemies, accomplish His purposes for history, and thereby demonstrate who He is—the sovereign God of the universe....”



The Day of the Lord

- Examples:

- The Flood (Gen. 6:5-8; Matt. 24:36-41)
- Babel (Gen. 11:1-9)
- Sodom & Gomorrah (Gen. 18:26-19:29; Luke 17:22-37)



The Day of the Lord

- Several *Days* in the past
 - E.g. – Assyria -> N. Israel (Amos 5:18)
- Numerous references to a future *Day*
 - E.g. – Isaiah 2:10-22; 34:1-8
 - 2 Thessalonians 2



The Day of the Lord

- *A Day* in the future

1. Darkness, punishment, destruction, desolation, judgment, *wrath*

- God will demonstrate His sovereignty

2. Light, blessing, order, peace

- God will rule the nations



The Day of the Lord

- A *Day* in the future
 - Purification of Israel
 - Punishment of God's enemies
 - Promises to Israel

[It's not about the Church]



The Day of the Lord



The Day of the Lord

RAPTURE

TRIBULATION
7 yrs.

2nd COMING

MILLENNIUM
1,000 yrs.

The Day of the Lord

- Why is the Rapture separate?
 - “Now as to...” introduces a new subject (e.g. – 4:9; 1 Cor. 7:1; 8:1; 12:1)
 - They were well-informed about the *Day of the Lord* (5:1), but they were uninformed about the rapture (4:13)



The Day of the Lord

- Pay attention to the pronouns
 - They / them (3)
 - You / us / we (4-11)



The Day of the Lord

- Like a thief in the night
 - Unexpectedly, suddenly (cf. Luke 12:39)
 - They: “Peace and safety!” (cf. Ezek. 13:10)
 - Not just unaware but deceived
 - Deception & delusion (2 Thess. 2:8-12)
 - Then destruction comes



The Day of the Lord

- Suddenly like labor pains
 - Matt. 24:8; Mark 13:8; Isa. 13:8-9; Mic. 4:9-13
 - They will *by no means* escape
- The *Day of the Lord* means certain destruction for unbelievers on earth



Diligence of the Believers

- Reason for diligence

- You are not in darkness

- Darkness involves sin, evil, ignorance, unbelief, alienation (Eph. 4:17-19)

- You don't belong to that realm anymore (Col. 1:13); therefore you will not be overtaken



Diligence of the Believers

- Reason for diligence

- You are *all* sons of light / sons of day

- Light involves understanding, truth, goodness, righteousness (Eph. 5:8-9)

- Your new realm is *day*

- We are not of night or darkness



Diligence of the Believers

- Because we are of day, not night:
 - Let us not *sleep*
 - Different word from 4:13-15
 - *Complacent; insensitive or indifferent to spiritual things; tolerant of sin*
 - Opposite of works of faith, labors of love, excelling (1:3; 3:12-13; 4:9-12)



Diligence of the Believers

- Because we are of day, not night:
 - But let us be alert
 - *Alert: watchful, attentive, vigilant, active, cautious, intent*
 - Matt. 26:40-41; Col. 4:2; Mark 13:35-37; 1 Pet. 5:8; Acts 20:31
 - Pay attention to what you need to do



Diligence of the Believers

- Because we are of day, not night:
 - But let us be sober
 - *Sober: calm, collected, clear-headed, under control, rational, self-possessed*
 - 2 Tim. 4:5; 1 Pet. 1:13; 4:7; 5:8
 - Balance: neither easily/overly excited nor indifferent



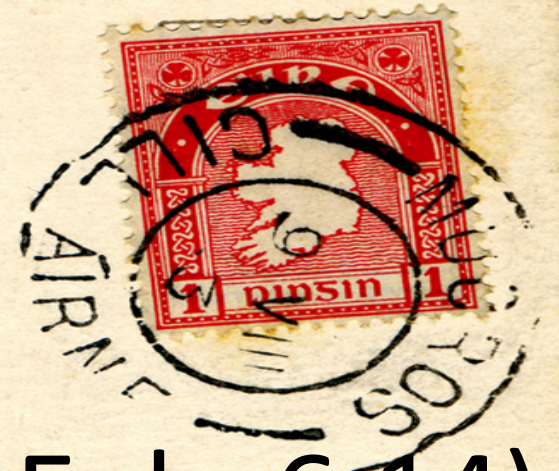
Diligence of the Believers

- Because we are of day, not night:
 - Do *day*-type things
 - Night things: sleep, drunkenness
 - Day things: sobriety; self-control; diligence; works of faith; labors of love
 - Rom. 13:11-14



Diligence of the Believers

- Alert and sober like a soldier?
 - Breastplate of faith & love (cf. Eph. 6:14)
 - Active faith and abounding love protect us from complacency and distraction
 - Helmet – the hope of salvation
 - Hope keeps our thoughts focused and our fears at bay



Diligence of the Believers

- The hope of salvation
 - God has not destined us for wrath
 - Divine judgment to come (see 1:10)
 - A major purpose and portion of the *Day of the Lord* (see Rev. 16)



Diligence of the Believers

- The hope of salvation
 - But to *the obtainment of salvation*
 - Appropriating salvation in its fulness as our own personal possession (*own it*)
 - Human response to God's call (2 Pet. 1:5-11)



Diligence of the Believers

- The hope of salvation
 - Through our Lord Jesus Christ
 - Mercy and grace (Titus 3:3-7)
 - Who died for us
 - Reconciliation (Rom. 5:6-11)
 - Propitiation (1 John 2:2; 4:10)



Diligence of the Believers

- The hope of salvation
 - So that whether we are awake or asleep
 - Alert/lazy or physically alive/dead?
 - Why use the same words?
 - Why let people 'off the hook'?



Diligence of the Believers

- 1 John 2:28

“Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.”



Diligence of the Believers

- The hope of salvation
 - We will live together with Him
 - All believers will be *with* Him, will be *like* Him, and will be *complete* in Him (4:17, 1 John 3:2)



So What?

- Encourage one another
 - Exhort, compel to be alert and sober
- Edify one another
 - “Each needs the mutual assistance of other believers for the attainment of full spiritual maturity.” (Heibert)

