

1 Thessalonians: Surprise!

Isaiah 29:5-6 ❖ 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

“Jesus said, ‘So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him.’
(Matthew 24:44)

Unexpected But Not Alarming

Paul uses two metaphors about the second coming of Jesus: a _____ coming in the middle of the night and a woman going into _____.

About 10 years ago, thieves _____ the Church. They stole four of our HVAC units - in order to get the _____ out of them. The elders decided to install locked _____ around them - at a considerable cost. The Security Team set up a 24/7 _____ in case the thieves came back before we could get the cages built.

Both Jesus and Paul said, “You know that the day of the _____ will come like a thief in the _____” (1 Thessalonians 5:2).

What did Jesus mean? I think He meant that His second coming will be a _____. For believers, it will be a good _____, because we knew He was coming; we just didn’t know _____. But for unbelievers, it will be a bad _____, because they didn’t know He was coming at all, and they won’t be _____.

29 years ago and then 25 years ago, my wife Rene went into _____. John Knox took a little while to come into this world, but Josh was _____ pretty quickly. To this day, our sons bring us so much _____.

So, what did Jesus mean by this metaphor? I think He meant that we all know labor pains are going to lead to a _____. So in the same way that a mother doesn’t know _____ the pains will come but does know they will result in a _____, so, though we do not know _____ Jesus is coming back, we do know that His return will usher in the birth of a new and _____ age.

“Suddenly, in an _____, the LORD Almighty will come with thunder and earthquake and great _____, with windstorm and tempest and flames of a devouring fire” (Isaiah 29:5-6).

In the Meantime

What should we believe about the Second Coming?

- 1) Jesus _____ return.
- 2) No one knows _____.
- 3) The universe as we know it will come to an _____.
- 4) There will be a _____ heaven and earth.

What should we be doing until Jesus comes again?

- 1) _____ patiently
- 2) _____, not speculate
- 3) _____ expectantly
- 4) _____ diligently

Takeaway

As the Apostle Paul said to the Christians in Thessalonica: “Be _____ and self-controlled. _____ one another and build each other _____” (vv. 6, 11).

“No matter the timing and sequence of the last days, these are _____ last days. We are given just one brief lifetime to serve God and advance His kingdom purposes. If we are so privileged to be the generation that is called to _____ on behalf of our Lord prior to His _____, I pray that we will do so with joy.” (“Big Trouble Ahead,” Allen Jackson, p. XIV)

Aren’t we all ready for a good _____?!

