



1 THESSALONIANS Chapter 5:1-11

"Be Ready!"

Compilation and edition of prophetic commentaries by Gaetan

1TH.5:1 But of **the times and the seasons**, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

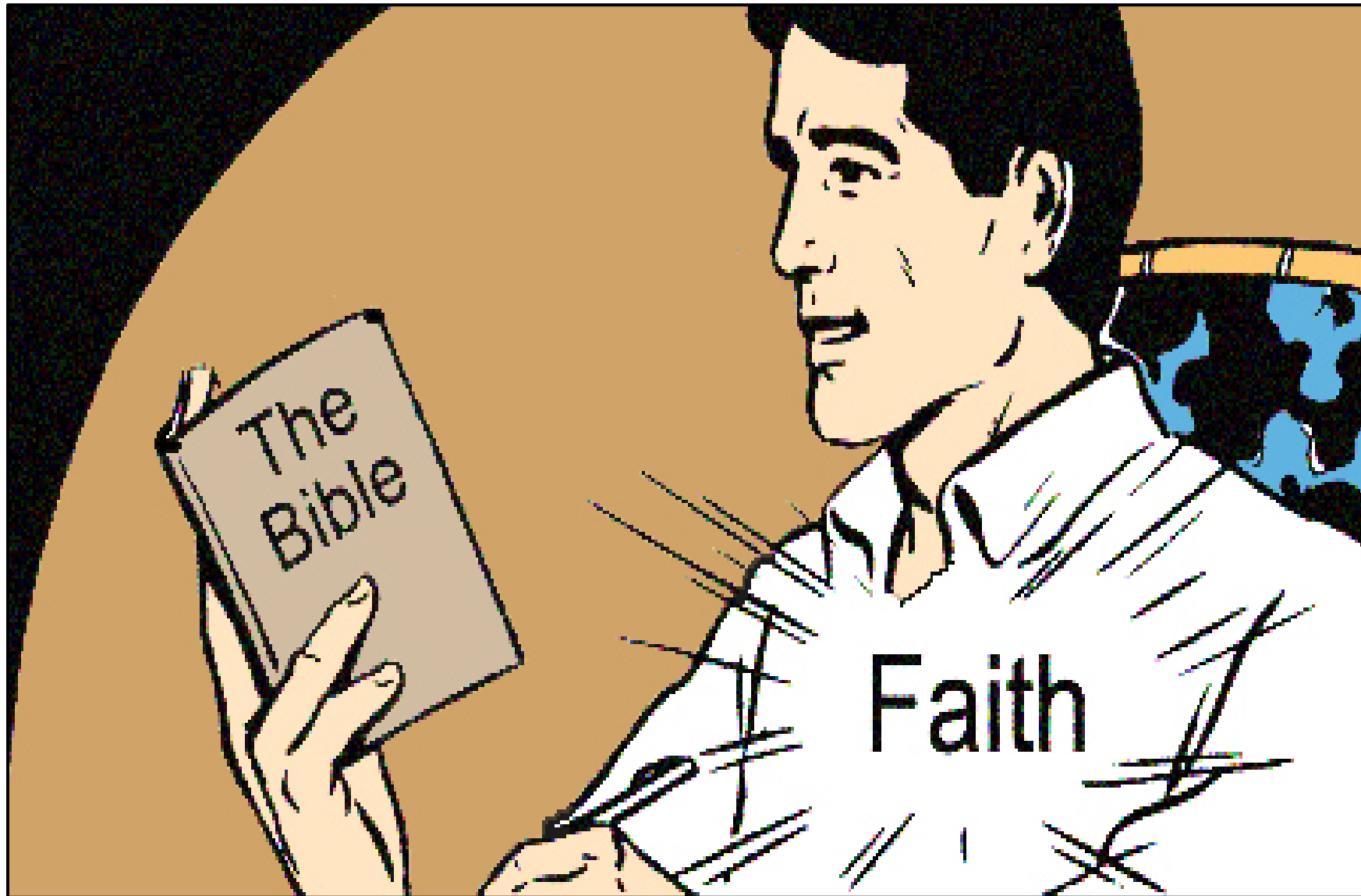
We shouldn't be ignorant of **God's plan** for the times and seasons of future events. Paul says that they should not catch us by surprise, that we should know what to expect and be ready for it. (*1Th.5:4*) That's why we are studying together so we'll understand our beliefs and be ready to give an answer for the faith that's within us. (*1Pet.3:15.*) *"Faith comes by hearing the Word of God!"* (*Ro.10:17.*)

As the days of Christ's Second Coming draw closer, you'll want to know more and more details of what's happening--where is this in the Bible, and what's next?

For hundreds of years, thousands of years even, students of the Bible have wondered about the what or the when of predicted events. But they could only guess and be left hanging in suspense because the time had not yet come. And besides, they didn't need to know yet how the future would unfold. But now the End of the Age is almost upon us, and so the Lord is getting more specific, revealing more details – even years, months, days - so you would know more exactly where you are in the End Time schedule. In the Daniel and Revelation Books, the Lord specifies the exact length (in years) of the Antichrist's reign. In addition, He gives the exact timing for the arrival of the Abomination of Desolation and the exact duration of time for the Tribulation to follow. He even numbers it in days, because you'll be counting the days if you happen to live during that time! (*Da.9:27; Rev.11:3; Rev.13:5*) So we shouldn't be ignorant of the times and the seasons.



After the preceding chapter 4 on the Resurrection and Rapture, now we are “*ready*” in this chapter 5 for Paul’s follow-up message. And the best strategy for getting ready for what’s coming is to know and study the Word.



Dan.11:32-33 ... the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits. And they that understand among the people shall instruct many...

DAN.12:10 Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.

1TH.5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.



Mat.24:42-44 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this that **if the good man 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.

Jesus is going to come like a thief in the night! What? God's Word is comparing Jesus to a thief? Yes! Not only the apostle Paul, but Jesus Himself compared His Coming to the unexpected coming of a thief in the night! -- Not that you won't know when it happens, but it'll be so sudden that some are going to be caught by surprise! Some will not expect it and will not be prepared and ready.

But He says to us, "Who then is a faithful and wise servant whom his Lord has made ruler over his household to give them meat in due season?

Blessed is that servant whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, that **he shall make him ruler over all his goods**!" (Mat.24:45-47)



Who is the Lord going to bless when the time comes? Who is the Lord going to make ruler over all His goods, one of the rulers in the Millennium? --That servant whom the Lord, when He comes, will find is feeding and taking care of His sheep, His household.

He's going to come like a thief in the night to others, to the world, those who don't know God, but not to us! That's the difference! He says, you don't have to be told the times and seasons, you already know these things! Because you have studied the Word, you will be ready, you'll understand what's going on, and you'll welcome His Coming!"

1TH.5:3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

Dan.11:21, 24 "He shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries. He shall enter peaceably even upon the fattest places of the province; he shall do that which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers' fathers; he shall scatter among them the prey, and spoil, and riches..."

This man, the Antichrist, is very clever and works deceitfully. He promises the people big things but lies to them. And one big promise he makes will be the Holy Covenant, which the Bible refers to in the Book of Daniel, chapters 8, 9 and 11. --That's his biggest lie! He promises the World peace, religious freedom, Jerusalem internationalized, and no more war between the Jews, Arabs, and Christians, he promises them everything. But right in the middle of the seven years he breaks it!
(Dan.9:27)

Dan.8:25 "By peace shall he destroy many!" As the Antichrist begins to take over the World and establish his worldwide empire, and anti-God government, he will say,

"Peace and safety! Everything's going to be peaceful and safe now. --No more wars, everything's going to be secure, prosperity on Earth, everybody's going to have plenty, and my kingdom's going to be the ultimate utopia, Heaven on Earth!"



Psa.55:20-21 He hath put forth his hands against such as be at peace with him: he hath broken his covenant. The words of his mouth were smoother than butter ('Peace, Peace'), but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords.



But *"When they shall say, peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them."* **He** makes the **Covenant** as a **World Peace Treaty**, and everything is going fine, he's making everyone happy. World peace seems to have arrived. He has the world firmly in his grip.

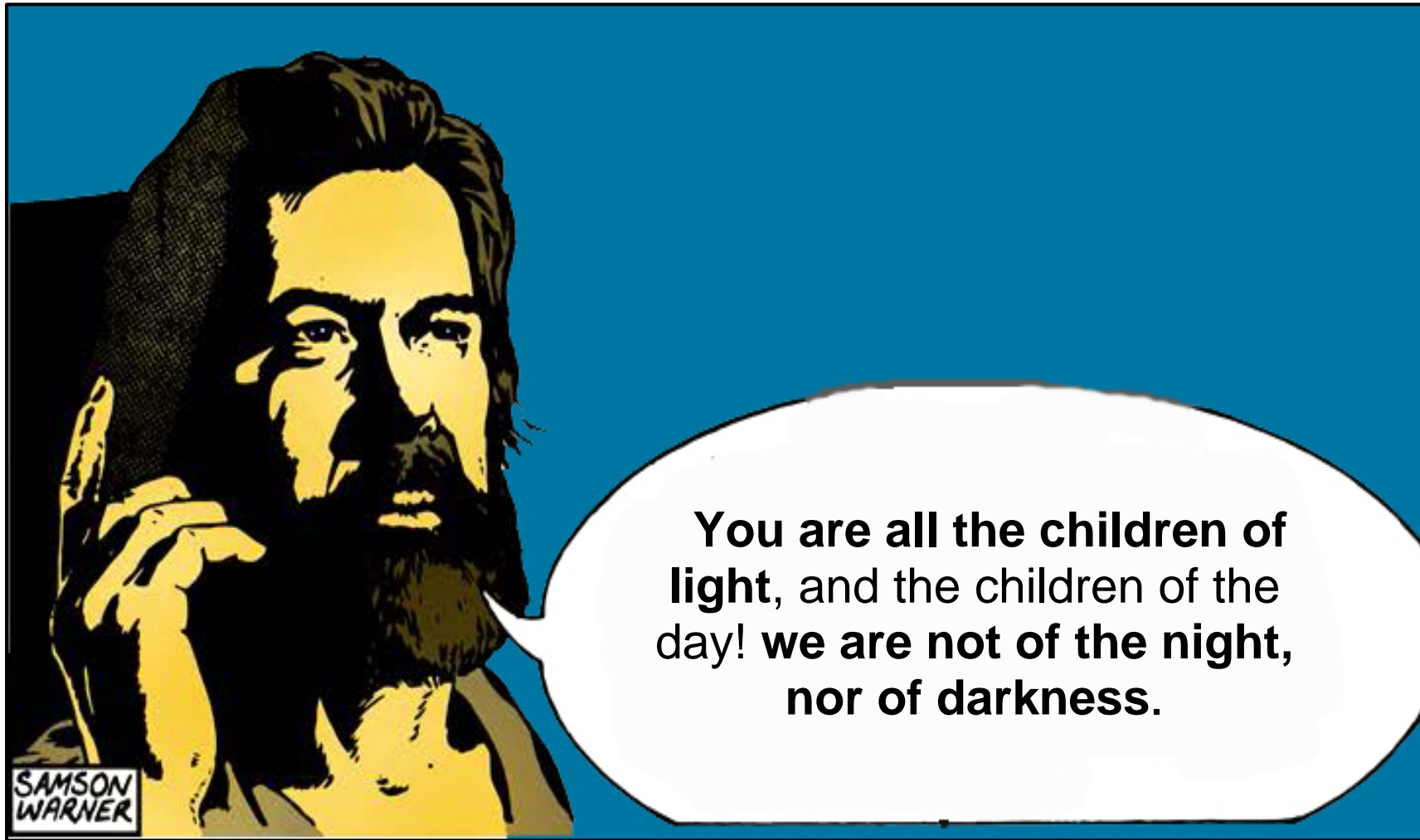
But *"after the League (**Covenant**) made with him, he shall work deceitfully and he shall come up and shall become strong with a small people."* (**Dan.11:23**)

"And in the midst of the week (7-years covenant period), he shall cause the (Jewish) sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of Abominations he shall make it desolate!" (Dan.9:27) At the end of 3-1/2 years he breaks the Covenant, makes Jerusalem his capital, places the Abomination of Desolation in the Holy Place, proclaims himself God, and attempts to enforce worldwide worship of himself via his Image--a time of "Great Tribulation"!

*Jesus said, "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains...**For then shall be great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." (Mat.24:15, 16, 21)*



1TH.5:4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.



God's prophets are well informed:

AMOS.3:7 Surely the **Lord GOD** will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

REV.10:7 But in the days...of the **seventh angel**, when he shall begin to sound, the **mystery of God** should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

"For you brethren," **the apostle Paul** tells us, "are not in darkness, that that day (of Christ's coming) should

overtake you as a thief!" In other words, it shouldn't take you by surprise!

1TH.5:5 Ye are all the children of light, the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. We're not in the dark on this question. We know Jesus is coming, and from His Word we know how He's going to come! The Bible tells us plainly! --It couldn't be any plainer!

If you want to look for just a moment with us in *Matthew 24:29-30*, it is made very clear:

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days!" What comes first? Tribulation! See it right there in your Bible? Glue your eyes to that, stay with it, because we've got two or three verses to read here: *"Immediately after the Tribulation of those days"--when? --After the Tribulation! Is that clear enough? "Shall the sun be darkened and the moon not give her light, the stars shall fall from Heaven."* Jesus is speaking, mind you, who once said, *"My words shall not pass away."* (Matthew 10:35)

"And the powers of the heavens shall be shaken!" Does that sound like He's coming secretly? *"Then shall appear the sign of the son of man in Heaven!"* Are they going to see it? If a sign *"appears"*, how can it not be seen?





"And then shall all the tribes of the Earth mourn." Why are they mourning if they don't even know what happened? Why are they crying if it was so secret that nobody knew what happened, if Christ's followers just disappeared suddenly and no one knew what became of them?

It's not going to happen that way, Jesus said so right here! Furthermore, He didn't say before the Tribulation, He said after the Tribulation He would appear! Plain as day! The sun will be darkened and the moon will not give her light, stars fall from Heaven, powers of the heavens shaken, sign of the Son of man in Heaven, all the tribes of the Earth mourning! My God! What could be more cataclysmic, catastrophic, noisy, dramatic, terrific and more obvious than that! And He clearly specified His Return would come after the Tribulation!

"And they shall see"--Who? Just the church? Just the Christians? No! The whole World is going to see Jesus come! Everybody on Earth! It's going to be the biggest Light Show that ever happened!

He's going to sweep right around the world gathering together His elect from the four winds! Everybody in every corner of the Earth is going to see! Think of that! How do we know? Because on one side of the Earth the sun's going to be darkened! On the other side of the Earth, the moon won't give its light! He's going to go right around the World to gather us all! Isn't that wonderful?

"And they shall see the son of man coming in the clouds of Heaven with power and great glory!" How can all this power and great glory be a secret with nobody seeing it? The Pre-Tribulation Rapture doctrine, popular in the mainstream Church - the idea of being secretly gathered by the Lord in a secret coming before the Tribulation - all that is unscriptural!



1TH.5:6 Therefore **let us not sleep**, as do others; but **let us watch and be sober**.



What does he say? "You're not children of the night. You're not supposed to be sleepy and asleep when it happens. You're children of day, children of light! You're supposed to be wide awake and have the light on these things!"

You're supposed to know what's happening and when it will happen! You're not children of darkness, you're not in the dark about all these Bible prophecies, about the things that are going to happen! You won't be surprised when they come. You won't be surprised when the Antichrist arises and reveals himself, when he proclaims a worldwide government of peace and signs a seven-year peace-pact amongst the religions, a holy Covenant that he promises not to violate.

And neither will you be surprised when he breaks the peace pact in the middle of the last 7 years after which there's nothing but trouble and war. It won't take you by surprise. You don't have to be

stunned or mystified or astonished! You're expecting it!

Jesus said that “iniquity shall abound” and “except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved.” (Matthew 24:12,22) So You may even wonder why it hasn't happened sooner!

"As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also when the Son of Man cometh. For they married and were given in marriage," He says, "and they planted and they reaped and they builded, and they knew not until the flood came and swept them all away!" (Mt.24:37-39, Lk.17:26-28)



Who knew not? --The vast multitude! Who knew? --Noah! He knew what was going to happen, he was expecting it! He was not one of those who knew not. --He knew! And, like Noah and his family then, we Christians today know the judgments of God are soon going to fall! We know that Jesus is coming soon! But before that, we know the Antichrist must be revealed. And these things will come as no surprise to us. God told us in advance so that we won't worry about it. We will know exactly what and how and why it's happening, since it's been explained already in God's Word.



It won't catch us by surprise like a thief in the night as it will the rest of the world! They won't be expecting it. And when Jesus comes, they will gaze in utter shock to see graves open and bodies of the dead rise in the Resurrection! And we who are alive will slip right out of their hands and their attempts to persecute, kill, torture, imprison, and force us to worship the Beast and his image. They won't be able to touch or reach us anymore!

1TH.5:7 For they that sleep, sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

1TH.5:8 But let us, who are of the day, be **sober**, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation.

Paul compares the slothful, drunken behaviour (of the previous verse 7), so common in any culture, and contrasts it with how we are supposed to be in Christ "**sober**," which he relates to being people "*of the day.*" He uses a favorite analogy comparing our walk in Christ to the uniform worn by a Roman soldier. A more detailed version of this imagery appears in *Ephesians 6:10-18*. There, the "**breastplate**" refers to "**righteousness**" and "**faith**" is described as a "**shield**."

1TH.5:9 For God hath not appointed us to **wrath**, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ

The church may suffer some tribulation, a "**spanking**" from the Lord once in a while, but will not go through the period of the Wrath of God. For we will have been raptured by then. "*For God hath not appointed us to wrath.*"



That fate is reserved only for the wicked, only those who have totally rejected Jesus.



“For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,”

1 Thessalonians 5:9 (KJV)

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John.3:36 *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; **but the wrath of God abides on him.***

1TH.5:10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, **we should live together with him.**

1TH.5:11 Wherefore **comfort yourselves together, and edify one another**, even as also ye do.

In conclusion:

The purpose of Bible prophecy is to strengthen your faith. (*John 14:29*) And it is also meant to prepare you for the future, so that you will not be in ignorance or found in darkness. But rather ye you are the children of Light and these things will not come upon you as a thief in the night, unexpected or by surprise. You will not have a mighty **“widening of the eyes”**, as many will who are not aware of the signs of the times. But you will see them in advance, you will recognize these events as they begin to transpire and you will be able to specifically know that ***"this is that which was spoken of by the Prophet"*** (*Acts 2:16*)

Therefore, you will know what is happening or about to happen, and you will know what God was talking about: *"This is it! We're here! We've arrived at this point, we are now in this period, and this is that event!"*--And so you will know how to respond and react and what to expect since you have prepared for it for years with your knowledge of His Word.

"Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time?" (Lu.12:56) Jesus chastised the religious leaders of His day for not knowing the signs of the prophetic *'times'* in which they were living. Because of their failing in this matter, they missed the foretold coming of their own Messiah. Therefore, we believe it is extremely important that God's people keep a watchful eye on appropriate prophetic interpretations and current world events that may well match them.

This is what Bible Prophecy is for. God in His mercy is letting you know and preparing you in advance for what's coming. Then you will not live in a state of fear of the unknown.



The best way to be ready for and handle any of the events of life, whether future or present, is to receive Jesus at this very moment. It is a free gift of God. Please pray this simple prayer:

"Jesus, please forgive all my faults. I accept that You are the Son of God and that You died for me. I invite You into my heart and life. Thank you for your gift of eternal life and please fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Help me to read and understand Your Word. Amen"

Therefore
ENCOURAGE
one another & build up each other
as indeed you are doing.
1 Thessalonians 5:11