

## GOD'S COSMIC PLAN

**God's Word:**

*1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, 23-24*

**Key Verse:**

“FOR GOD HAS NOT DESTINED US FOR WRATH, BUT FOR OBTAINING  
SALVATION THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.”  
1 THESSALONIANS 5:9



**Breaking It Down:**

Paul is bringing some light into the Thessalonians' knowledge of the second coming of Christ. He tells them that this will surely take place and reminds them that since they are believers and have a relationship with the Lord, Jesus' arrival should not catch them by surprise. They should stay awake and alert.



Paul also refers to the rest of the people in the world, who when Jesus returns, will not be ready to receive Him. They will be too busy living their lives for themselves with nothing left for God. This was Paul's greatest concern for the brethren in Thessalonica. Paul wanted them to live their lives productively and unselfishly awaiting Jesus' return.

When the Lord comes, He will be like a thief in the night. Many will not see Him coming. The destruction that will come will be like labor pains to a pregnant woman. Paul also reminds his brothers that they don't know the hour, or even the day of Christ's

coming. As Jesus stated in Acts 1:7, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority.” And in Matthew 24:36, Jesus states, “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.”

Paul is writing to his fellow brethren because he is certain that in God’s cosmic plan they are not destined for destruction, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. They needed to arm themselves with the breastplate of faith and love, and the helmet of hope and salvation.



### **Living It:**

When a woman is pregnant, she knows the day will come soon for her to go into labor, but she can’t predict the exact day or hour. The doctors who are monitoring the pregnancy can give her an expected date, depending on the measurements of the baby, but more likely than not, she will not deliver on that exact date. Therefore, a pregnant woman needs to have the nursery ready, her hospital bag packed and an infant car seat in the car.

We know the time for Jesus to return is very soon, but we cannot predict the day or the hour. As for us, what are we doing to prepare ourselves for Jesus’ coming? Are we living our lives in faith, courage, love and service so Christ’s advent will be a day of joy, not a day of fear? Will we be awake and ready, or asleep in unbelief? The day of the Lord is so unpredictable we must always be ready and alert.



Can you imagine if a mother didn’t get anything ready for her baby’s birth? One day she is out getting her nails done and boom, her labor pains start suddenly. She has to be rushed to the hospital to deliver her baby, and she doesn’t have anything prepared for the baby’s coming. No clothes, diapers, car seat ... not even a crib! How do you think she would feel knowing that she has been pregnant for 9 months, and never even once thought about preparing for her baby’s coming? Pretty awful, huh? Let’s not let this happen to us. Jesus has given us so many chances to be part of His cosmic plan, and His

plan is all-inclusive; we all belong there. So when he arrives we want to be alert and prepared so we can live forever with Him.



**Understanding It:**

1. Why does Paul refer to Christ's coming as like a thief in the night?
2. What are the two armors Paul tells us to put on in awaiting the Lord's return?
3. What are some ways we can encourage each other to be alert for Jesus' coming?
4. List the full armor of God found in Ephesians 6:10-18. Are you equipping yourself daily with these components?



**Doing It!**

Paul saw that it was important for his fellow believers to be a part of God's cosmic plan to be with Him caught up in a selfish nobody else. It is for our brothers and haven't already – to others about Christ's



eternally. In today's culture it is very easy to get lifestyle, worrying only about us and time we change that attitude and look out sisters. Let's start this week – if we make it part of our daily lives to speak to coming.