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Timely Advice?

They will proclaim “Peace and safety!” Then Jesus will suddenly return.

In his first epistle to the Thessalonians, Paul warned that Christians need to stay alert because Jesus will return as a thief in the night. Just before He returns, they (the inhabitants of the earth) will be saying, “Peace and safety!” Could the end be close at hand? (The world is suddenly thinking that peace may be at hand.)

*“Do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words. ^{5:1} But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For **when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.** But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation” (1 Thessalonians 4:13 - 5:8).*

Obviously, since Paul uses the word “hope,” he was referring to our future salvation that is ready to be revealed at the end (as opposed to our past conversion). In chapter four, he comforts us with the promise of our coming salvation when Jesus returns. In chapter five, he warns us to stay alert because Jesus will return as a thief in the night. Those who fail to remain vigilant and soberminded run the risk of perishing with the rest of the world who will bear the full force of God’s wrath when Jesus comes back. Since the world is now suddenly talking about an unexpected covenant of peace between the nations, let us remember anew Jesus’ command to stay alert and to expect His return.

Though some people may suggest otherwise, the scriptures are not absolutely clear about the exact timing of the events that take place just before Jesus comes back. But Jesus did warn about severe persecution of Christians near the end. We should be asking God ahead of time (now) to give us grace to remain faithful in the remaining days leading up to His return. In the meantime, come quickly Lord Jesus.