

1 THESSALONIANS 4 – THE DAY OF THE LORD

The following chart lists 24 parallels, demonstrating that Mathew 24-25 and 1 Thessalonians 4-5 are not separate “comings” of the Lord, but both refer to the “Day of the Lord” at the final (second) coming of the Lord Jesus.

1 THESSALONIANS 4-5	MATHEW 24-25
Don't want you to be uninformed (4:13)	See to it that no one misleads you (24:4)
The coming (parousia) of the Lord (4:15)	The coming (parousia) of the Lord (24:30)
Those who have fallen asleep (4:14)	The elect (24:31)
To meet the Lord (4:17)	To meet the bridegroom (25:6)
In the clouds (4:17)	On the clouds (24:30)
With the trumpet of God (4:16)	With a great trumpet (24:31)
Voice of archangel (4:16)	Send forth His angels (24:31)
Caught up together (4:17)	All nations gathered together (25:32)
Dead in Christ raised (4:16)	Sheep placed on right hand (25:33)
For you yourselves know (5:2)	I have told you in advance (24:25)
The day of the Lord (5:2)	The day your Lord is coming (24:42)
Times and seasons (5:1)	Day and hour (24:36)
Then destruction will come (5:3)	Then will be great tribulation (24:21)
A thief in the night (5:2)	A thief in the night (24:43)
Like labour pains (5:3)	The beginning of birth pangs (24:8)
They will not escape (5:3)	Flood came, took them all away (24:39)
Those who sleep, sleep at night (5:7)	Got drowsy and began to sleep (25:5)
Let us be alert (5:6)	Therefore, be on the alert (24:42)
Those who get drunk (5:7)	Eat and drink with drunkards (24:49)
Sons of light, of the day (5:5)	Took oil with their lamps (25:4)
(Sons) of night, of darkness (5:5)	Took no oil with their lamps (25:3)
Wicked destined for wrath (5:9)	Wicked into eternal punishment (25:46)
Hope of salvation (5:8)	Will be saved, inherit Kingdom (24:13,25:34)
We who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord (4:15,17) (Fulfilled in the lifetime of Paul's generation)	This generation will not pass away until all these things take place (24:34) (Fulfilled in the lifetime of Jesus' generation)

Based on the above parallels, who could argue that Mathew 24-25 and 1 Thessalonians 4-5 are parallel texts, and both refer to the eschatological “Day of the Lord” – the resurrection and judgment of all men, the establishment of the kingdom of God, and the second coming of the Jesus.

Consider the following:

1 Thessalonians 4-5 = Mathew 24-25

But, Mathew 24-25 refers to the Day of the Lord at the second coming of Jesus.

Therefore, 1 Thessalonians 4-5 refers to the Day of the Lord at the second coming of Jesus.

This is devastating to the dispensationalists who believe that 1 Thessalonians 4 refers to a “pre-tribulation rapture”, and not the second coming. Their “proof text” for a rapture turns out to be a proof text for the second coming. The above chart completely falsifies the pretribulation rapture theory.

With that established, consider the following:

Both 1 Thessalonians 4-5 and Mathew 24-25 refer to the Day of the Lord at the second coming of Jesus.

But, both Mathew 24:34 and 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 place the Day of the Lord at the second coming of Jesus in lifetime of the first century disciples.

Therefore, according to Paul and Jesus the Day of the Lord was fulfilled in the lifetime of the first century generation, at the second coming of Jesus.

Notice the parallel “time statements” in both texts.

Mathew 24:30,34

And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and **they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory....** Truly I say to you, **this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.**

1 Thessalonians 4:15,17

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 not precede those who have fallen asleep.... Then **we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air,** and so we shall always be with the Lord.

In conclusion, the Day of the Lord of both Mathew 24-25 and 1 Thessalonians 4-5 was fulfilled in the lifetime of Paul and Jesus’ contemporary generation. This also means that the resurrection and judgment of all men, and the establishment of the kingdom of God was fulfilled at the same time. Finally, this destroys the doctrine of a pretribulation rapture. The Day of the Lord was accomplished in AD70, when “all that had been written was fulfilled” (Luke 21:20-22).

Praise God for his faithfulness, our redemption is complete!