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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pew Bible Page Number is 1088.
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Four Things We Already Know About the Fate of the Earth

1. We know our earth will be destroyed.

1 Thessalonians 5:1–3, NASB95 -¹ Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. ² For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. ³ While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.

1 Thessalonians 5:1–3, NLT -¹ Now concerning how and when all this will happen, dear brothers and sisters, we don't really need to write you. ² For you know quite well that the day of the Lord's return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. ³ When people are saying, “Everything is peaceful and secure,” then disaster will fall on them as suddenly as a pregnant woman's labor pains begin. And there will be no escape.

- It will come like a thief in the night.
- What comes is a period of great destruction.
- There will be no escape.
- All that man has built will crumble when Christ returns.

2. We know our identity.

1 Thessalonians 5:4–5, NASB95 -⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; ⁵ for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness;

1 Thessalonians 5:4–5, TLB -⁴ But, dear brothers, you are not in the dark about these things, and you won't be surprised as by a thief when that day of the Lord comes. ⁵ For you are all children of the light and of the day, and do not belong to darkness and night.

3. We know our duty.

1 Thessalonians 5:6–8, NIV84 -⁶ So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

- We must be alert.
- We must be self-controlled.
- We must reach into our faith.

4. We know our destiny.

1 Thessalonians 5:9–11, GNB -⁹ God did not choose us to suffer His anger, but to possess salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us in order that we might live together with Him, whether we are alive or dead when He comes. ¹¹ And so encourage one another and help one another, just as you are now doing.

- The word “destiny” means **an appointed end**.
- Our destiny is not to destruction.
- Our destiny is for deliverance.

Life Application Section

“Your Identity Determines Your Destiny”

Think of the words that Paul uses in this passage:

Light and Darkness Sleeping and Waking

Night and Day Us and Them

Wrath and Salvation

There is no reason to be unprepared.

