

“Like a Thief in the Night”

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

- A. The Thessalonians were well informed about the future (1Th. 5:1-2).**
- B. Others were in bad shape (1Th. 5:3).**
- C. Believers are different and ought to be ready for all future events (1Th. 5:4-6).**

A. The Thessalonians were well informed about the future (1Th. 5:1-2).

- 1. (vs. 1) They had a good sense of “the times and the epochs,” and consequently,
 - a. they had “no need of anything to be written.”****
- 2. (vs. 2) Paul explained, “For you yourselves know full well” or accurately about “the day of the Lord,” namely,
 - a. that “it will come just like a thief in the night.”****

**B. Others were in bad shape re: future things
(1Th. 5:3).**

- 1. (vs. 3a) “While they” in ignorance, “are saying,
‘Peace and safety!’ *Awful* things happen:
 - a. “then destruction will come upon them
suddenly”**
 - b. “like labor pains upon a woman with child”
– indicating inevitability.****
- 2. (vs. 3b) The result: “and they will” certainly
(Greek) “not escape.”**

C. Believers are different and ought to be ready for all future events (1Th. 5:4-6).

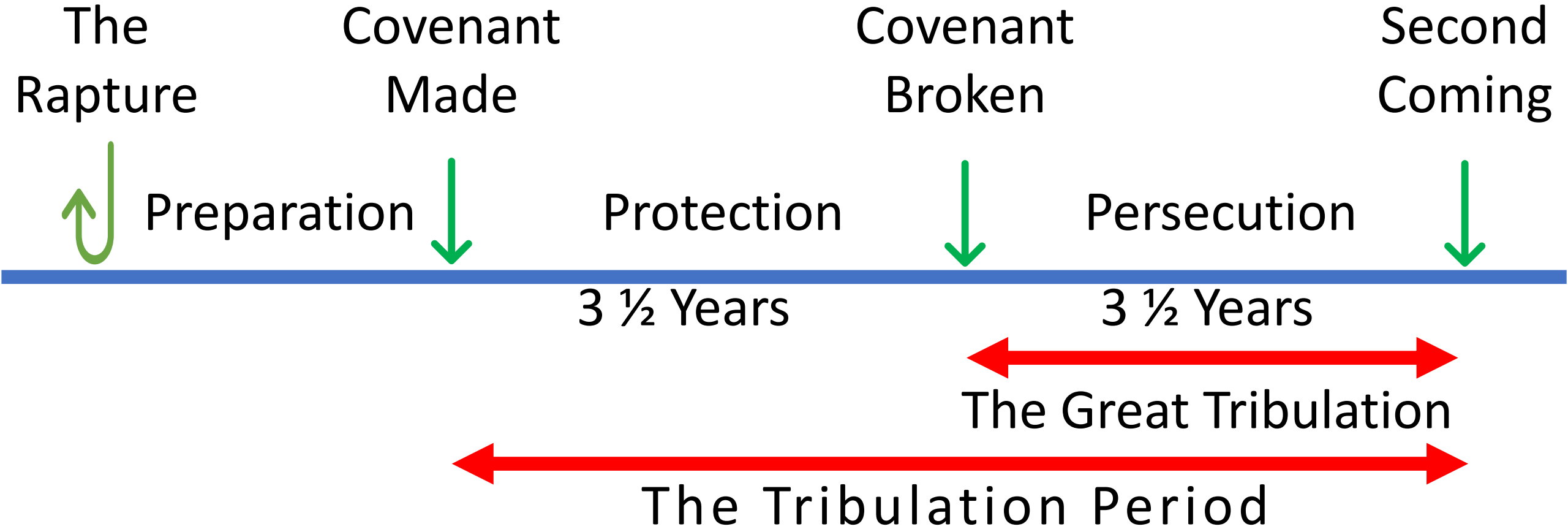
- 1. (vs. 4) Paul said, “But you, brethren” in contrast to “they” and “them” of vs. 3, “are not in darkness” with the result**
 - a. “that the day would overtake you like a thief”**

2. (vs. 5) Paul explained, “for you are all sons of light and sons of day” as members of the family of God via the new birth, they were morally and spiritually linked with the light of God, “the Light of life” (Jn. 8:12b).
 - a. Paul then included himself: “We are not of night nor of darkness” – that would be moral and spiritual darkness that results in death.

3. (vs. 6) Here is the practical application:

- a. “so then let us not sleep as others do”**
- b. “but” in contrast, “let us be alert and sober.”**

The Tribulation Judgments



Covenant
Made

Covenant
Broken

Second
Coming



Protection

Persecution

3 ½ Years

3 ½ Years

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

Seals: Rv. 6:1-17; 8:1-5

Trumpets: Rv. 8:6-21; 11:15-18

Bowls: Rv. 16:1-12, 17-21

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

Bowls

Trumpets

S E A L S