

## STEP 7. BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS

7.1 How does your passage compare to other passages in Scripture which address similar issues?

On the topic of the return of the Lord there are aspects of this topic mentioned in the Old Testament, and it is mentioned in the gospel by Jesus. However 1Thessalonians 5:1-11 gives a more informative and a more detailed description of the Lord's return, including the nature of the event.

7.2 What would be lost or how would the message of the Bible be less complete if your passage did not exist?

If 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 were left out of the Bible, then the message of salvation would be incomplete. There would be no certainty of the afterlife, there would be no assurance of the return of the Lord with the loved ones who have passed away, and with whom we would be reunited, and here will be no glorious future to look forward to enjoy in the presence of the Lord.

7.3 What is the theological importance of your passage?

The theological importance of 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 is that it instructs believers that the return of the Lord will be sudden and unexpected; therefore, they ought to be living in a state of readiness. Christ will return as he has promised for his church to be separated no more.

## STEP 8. ACCUMULATE A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SECONDARY SOURCES AND READ WIDELY.

8.1 Find a combination of at least 6 commentaries, books, or academic or pastoral journal articles which deal with your passage and read the contributions of other scholars. List the sources here using the correct Turabian style).

1. Hodges, Zane C. 1 Thessalonians 5-11. *Chafer Theological Seminary journal*, Volume CTSJ 06:4 (Oct 2000).
2. Keener, Craig S. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary, New Testament*. IVP Academic, An imprint of InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, Illinois.
3. Malherbe, Abraham. *The letters to the Thessalonians*. Anchor Bible 32B. New York: Doubleday, 2000.
4. *NRSV Cultural Background Study Bible*. Zondervan, 2000. Grand Rapids Michigan.
5. Shogren, Gary S. , Arnold Clinton E. *Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament*. Ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan 2012.
6. Stoll, John R. W. *the Message of 1 & 2 Thessalonians*. IVP Academic, An imprint of InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, Illinois.

8.2 What are some of the most significant differences (presuppositional, theological, hermeneutical, etc.) between your approach and that of some authors you have read?

At this time I see no significant theological differences between my approach and the approaches of the authors I have read. Theologically and hermeneutically we are in agreement.

8.3 State a few places where you will use other scholars' work to SUPPORT your conclusions, indicating some quotations from them worthy of citing in your paper. *"Be careful not to let them dictate what you conclude about the passage. Be critical of your sources and do not be afraid to disagree with commentators. As always, cite your sources so as not to plagiarize,"* (Duvall and Hayes, *Grasping God's Word*, p. 506).

The following scholar's work will be used to support my conclusions:

The times and seasons  
The Day of the Lord  
The readiness for the return of the Lord

8.4 State a few places where significant differences between you and some scholar(s) demand that you deal with their views in your paper and show why they are wrong. *You need not write your full refutation here.*

I am unable to think of any places right now.

8.5 Hypothesize what the passage of Scripture you chose to investigate means. Then write out a well-crafted preliminary thesis statement that either explains how you will interpret the significance of the subject matter or question under discussion, what to expect from the rest of the project/paper, and/or makes a claim that others might dispute. *A thesis statement is an essential part of any graduate project/paper, so you need to identify enough resources to support the claims being made. A thesis is often revised once you have gathered enough supporting evidence to begin your Final Project/Paper. The more quality attention is given here, the better your final project will be.*

Sermons may not use this written thesis, but they should reflect the preparation that went into the sermon and a thesis statement (reflected in the Big Idea) is an important part.

I hypothesize that the passage means: the Lord will return some time in the future when he is least expected by the unbelievers on the earth.

Thesis statement: Many people do not believe that the Lord will return soon. My research of the scripture indicates that the Lord's return is imminent. *Be ready, the Lord is coming soon!*

**YOU ARE NOW READY TO WRITE/PRODUCE YOUR PROJECT (PAPER, SERMON, ETC.)!**