

# When People Say Peace and Safety, Destruction Will Come Upon Them Suddenly

## First Thessalonians 5: 1-3

**DIG:** How will the world view the antichrist? Why? Why does this period need to come before the Great Tribulation? What is its purpose?

The **antichrist** will seemingly be able to solve all the world's problems. All the "hot spots" of the world will cool down and, for the first time, the entire earth will enter into a period of **peace and safety**. But this will merely be the calm before the storm. At the time when men and women in the *Gentile* world are talking about the remarkable **peace and safety** they are experiencing, the devastation of the *Great Tribulation* will hit the *Gentile* world with devastating force. The apostle Paul told the church in Thessalonica about this when he said: **Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.** Once again, the phrase **the Day of the Lord** is found, which is a reference to the *Great Tribulation*.

This fact will require this period of **peace and safety** to come just before the *Great Tribulation* itself. So while the world is under the ten kingdoms and the antichrist is rising to power, there will be a period of **peace** and false security. **The Lord** will unleash **His** wrath against an unrepentant world once the *Great Tribulation* begins. **ADONAI** will turn up the heat on the Jews and the *Gentiles* of the world. At that time they will either harden their hearts against **Him**, or break through their stubborn pride to accept **Him**. But either way, a decision will be demanded. Once again, the **birth pain** motif is found here. This will be **the fifth birth pain** leading to the *Great Tribulation*.