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the midst of tribulation and persecution. In view of all these dozen passages and this great stress on that, it seems to me that you have a strong presumption against the first obvious interpretation of these two verses in Matthew 24, but now it may be that Thessalonians will show us definitely one way or the other, and so we want to look at Thessalonians and see whether Thessalonians will over-
 through the, what seems to be the practical importance of these many passages and will show that the possible interpretation of Matthew 24 there is the right one. Now in 1 Thessalonians we have in verse, in chapter 4, the presentation of the rapture, and there, of course, we are told nothing of when it comes. It is our great source of comfort, that the dead and the living will be raptured at once. That we are told in the end of Chapter 4, and then it goes right on to say but of the times and the seasons you have no need that I write to you about them. Well, that would seem to contradict Acts where it says, "It is not ^{Father} ~~Lord~~ for you to know the times or the seasons, which the ~~Lord~~ has kept in His own power. Or does He mean ~~that~~ the times and seasons you shouldn't get disturbed about because you don't know them, and therefore there is no need that I remind you of this fact but I am doing it. He is doing it, even if He says there is no need of it, we must recognize it. There is no need I write to you for you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord can't come until after the abomination of desolation has appeared and the sign of the Lord has appeared in the heavens. Well, that isn't the stress in this particular verse. He says, "You yourselves know that when the day of the Lord comes it is something that is sudden. It is something which many, at least, will not recognize as being near. It comes as a thief in the night. Well, now does this mean no one on earth knows when it is coming? It is like a thief in the night? Or does it mean the unbelievers don't know when it is coming? It is like a thief in the night but you Christians are able to see the signs and so you know it isn't. Well, he says, as far as the unbelievers are concerned when they say, "Peace and safety", sudden destruction