

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Newsletter

The Lord May Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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Commemorative Days

At the front and side of Belfast City Hall there are two statues, one of an angel above stormy seas and the other is of Queen Victoria. Why have such monuments? It is because man is forgetful and needs to remember certain events and persons. Nations also have remembrances of major events in their country's history. One way this is done is by setting aside certain "days" as holidays.

These national "days" are important in man's evaluation but God tells us of "days" which are important in His evaluation. In contrast to man's days, which are always historical, God's days are always in the present or the future. For instance: "The Day of Salvation" has to do with the present whereas the "The Day of the Lord" (Isa. 13:6); "The Day of God" (2 Pet. 3:12); "The Day of Christ" (Phil. 2:16); "The Day of His Wrath" (Job 20:28); "The Day of the Lord Jesus" (1 Cor. 5:5); and "The Day of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:6) will all reach their full fulfillment in the future.

On the July front page of the website www.scripturaltruths.org there is a cursory look at some of the other "days" God is interested in.

The word "day" often indicates a period of twenty-four hours, but it is evident from passages such as: "Behold, now is the accepted time" and "Behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2) that it can also refer to a much longer period of time, therefore, context must determine which it is.

For this Newsletter there are three "days" we will look at: "The Day of the Lord's return to earth"; "The Day of the Lord"; and "The Day of God".

These Three Days In Micro

- 1) "Day of the Lord's Return": In this context is the day when He returns to earth to judge and rule. It differs from the day He comes to take the church to Himself. For instance, He comes to the air (1 Thess. 4:17) and then comes to the earth (Zech. 14:4); He comes for His own (1 Thess. 4:17) and then comes with His own (1 Thess. 3:13). The "signs" we see today are mainly spiritual (1 Tim. 4:1-3; Rev. 3:7-22), whereas the signs for His coming to the earth are political/religious (Matt. 24:15). That is, the abomination of desolation is both a political and religious sign; spiritual in that the gospel of the kingdom shall be "preached to all the world" (Matt. 24:14); false Christs (Matt. 24:24); and universal catastrophes (Matt. 24:29).
- 2) The "Day of the Lord": This will be the manifestation that Jesus is Lord, not only of those who trust Him, but in His position of Lord of Lords all creation will be subject to Him. He will be Lord of all (Acts 10:36) whither it is the military governments of the world (Rev. 19:19-21); the satanic government (Rev. 19:20; 20:1-3); Israel (Isa. 25:9), or creation (Rom. 8:18-22); all will be subject to Him as Lord.

- 3) The “Day of God”: This brings us to eternity. In that sphere God will be all in all (1 Cor. 15:28). For God to be such means that He will be the source of everything, the maintainer of everything, and the goal of everything. All hearts will be filled with the wonder and glory of God for all the redeemed it will be living in unsullied fellowship with God, unhindered by the limitations of this life and body, and forever functioning for the praise of His glory.

Day Of The Lord’s Return To Earth

Concerning this day the Lord said: “But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of Heaven” (Matt. 24:36, see v.30). Therefore, any attempt by man to “discover” when that day shall occur is utterly futile. However, that does not stop man from trying to determine when it shall happen for since the Lord ascended there have been 242 spurious predictions of His coming. They began in 44 A.D. and the latest one (of which I am aware) was by Harold Camping when he prophesied that the Lord would come in May 2011. Some predict He will come in 2012, among whom is Michael Drosnin who wrote “The Bible Code”. The Weekly World News predicts 2016, John Denton of “Bible Research and Investigation Co. predicts 2034. All of these will be proven wrong because of that which the Lord said!

A consideration of Rev. 6:12-14; Matt. 24:29-30; Mk. 13:24-26; and Lk. 21:25-27 will make it evident that the coming of the Lord to the earth can only come after the sixth seal is opened. These passages all describe the same events and in the gospels we are told distinctly that the Lord will come “after” the catastrophic happenings in creation. It is important to notice the word “then” in the three gospel passages.

When the Lord comes to the earth to judge, it will be a manifestation of unspeakable terror for those who are rebellious against Him. The wording of Paul, Jude and John are not only intimidating but frightening. Let the Holy apostles speak:

1) Paul:

- a) “Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you . . . when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from Heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (2 Thess. 1:6-8)
- b) “That wicked . . . whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming.” (2 Thess. 2:8-9)

2) Jude:

- a) “Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed.” (v. 14-15)

3) John:

- a) “Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pieced Him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him.” (Rev. 1:7)
- b) “And I saw Heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and He had a name written that no man knew, but He Himself. And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God. . . . And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron: and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And on His vesture and on His thigh, a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.” (Rev. 19:11-16)

If we more fully understood the glory of God we would rejoice, for in that day: “He cometh to judge the earth.” Then shall the trees of the wood sing out at the presence of the Lord (1 Chron. 16:33); “He shall judge the world in righteousness, and the people with His truth” (Psa. 96:13), and “with equity” (Psa. 98:9).

The Day of The Lord

The expression “Day of the Lord” occurs in 15 verses in the Scriptures, the first being Isa. 13:6 and the last in 2 Pet. 3:10. It is also called “The Day of the Lord’s anger” (Lam. 2:22); “The Day of the Lord’s sacrifice” (Zeph. 1:8); “The Day of the Lord’s wrath” (Zeph. 1:18); “The Day of the Lord GOD of Hosts” (Jer. 46:10); “The Day of the LORD of Hosts” (Isa. 2:12), “The Great Day of God Almighty” (Rev. 16:14); and the “Day of the Lord’s vengeance” (Isa. 34:8). The two in the New Testament are 1 Thess. 5:2 and 2 Pet. 3:10. They all refer to a time in earth’s history when God came, or will come,

in fierce judgment. It is to be observed some of those prophetic statements carry a double fulfillment, that is, there was a historical fulfillment and a deeper future fulfillment.

The “Day of the Lord” is a time period when the Lord is seen in the glory of His holiness and righteous retribution on rebellious humanity; in the keeping of His promises to Israel; to fulfill the purpose of God for His Man to reign in righteousness; and the removal of every vestige of sin’s corrupting influence.

It is described as coming “as a thief in the night” (1 Thess. 5:2; 2 Pet. 3:10). This is because men are in a state of smug complacency thinking that God does not intervene in the things of this world (2 Pet. 3:4) and living for the present (Matt. 24:38). They will be dark days when the beast and the false prophet rule (Rev. 13:4-8; 11-17), the laws of God will be changed to suit man’s evil ways (Dan. 7:25). We see the darkening shadows of the changing of God’s laws in the gay movement and the selling of morality for votes and acceptance. When this day comes, man will know that he has done evil in the sight of the Lord and that the upheavals of creation are not natural phenomena, nor mother nature, but the “wrath of the Lamb” (Rev. 6:16).

The Happenings In That Day:

If one were to read selected verses it would seem that the “Day of the Lord” is strictly a time of judgment as many verses show. However, due to its duration, it will also be a duration in which:

- a) Grace is shown and people saved. (Rev. 7:14-17)
- b) The gospel will be preached. (Matt. 24:14)
- c) The covenant with Israel and the beast will be confirmed. (Dan. 9:27)
- d) The opening of the first six seals, blowing of the trumpets, and the pouring out of the vials. (Rev. 6-16)
- e) The two witnesses who prophecy for three and a half years and then killed, their bodies lie in the street of Jerusalem and after three days they are raised from the dead and ascend to Heaven. (Rev. 11:3-12)
- f) The world wide apostate church, “Mystery Babylon”, having reached its peak in power, will be overthrown. (Rev. 17:16)
- g) The financial world will be left in a state of panic. (Rev. 18:1-23)
- h) The battle of Armageddon with the casting alive of the beast and false prophet into the Lake of fire. (Rev. 16:16; 19:17-21)
- i) The binding of Satan and his being cast into the bottomless pit, from which after the millennium he will be released for a little time before being cast into the Lake of Fire. (Rev. 20:1-3; 7-10).
- j) The Judgment of the living nations. (Matt. 25:31-46)
- k) The regathering and restoring of Israel. (Ezek. 37:1-14; 20:33-38)
- l) The restoration of Israel to the land. (Amos 9:15)
- m) The great White Throne judgment. (Rev. 20:11-15)
- n) The removal of the heavens and earth. (2 Pet. 3:10-13)

It’s Character

Due to the enormity of the subject and the space for a Newsletter, I can only take a few scriptures to show the character of that day.

- a) Isa. 2:1-22.
 - i) It is evident from verses 19-21 that the time of the reaction of man to the sixth seal and the coming of the Lord, that it is part of the Day of the Lord (v.12), which is **after the tribulation**. Mark wrote: “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light. And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. And **then** shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory” (Mk. 13:24-26). When the events under the sixth seal are unleashed (Rev. 6:13-17), they are virtually identical to these verses from Isaiah.
 - ii) The chronological order according to Peter is: “The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, **before** that great and notable day of the Lord come” (Acts 2:20).
 - iii) But the judgment of God is not only against the nations of the world but also apostate Judah (Isa. 2:6-18). It will be a day when there will be the breaking of rebellious hearts (vv.10-17) and idolatry (v. 20). From the beginning of the chapter it also includes the “last days” (v. 2) and the Millennial reign of our Lord.

- b) Isa. 13:1-22
- i) This is one of the passages which has a shadow fulfillment and the full fulfillment of the Day of the Lord (v. 6). The Lord is distinctly speaking about Babylon (v.1) and their destruction by the Medes (v.17). When reading verses 17-22 it is clear (for us today an historical event which was fulfilled in Dan. 5:30-31), yet it is very evident that it has prophetic foreshadowings as verses 9-10, and 13. The prophetic statement of verse 13 follows chronologically years after the events of verse 10. As seen in Isa. 2:1-22, the events of verse 10 are the happenings of the sixth seal, whereas the heavens being shaken and the earth removed out of her place comes when time is no more; the millennium is past; Satan's binding, loosing, and being cast into the Lake of Fire is history (Rev. 20:1-3; 7-10); the judgment of the Great White Throne is still future (Rev. 20:11-15). Isaiah makes it clear that the shaking of the heavens and the removal of earth from its place is at the same time (Isa. 13:13).
- c) Isa. 34:1-17
- i) This again is a passage that had an ancient fulfillment and has prophetic overtones. The situations spoken of in verses 9-15 are historical, yet the Lord speaks of it as the "day of the Lord" (v. 8) which is a double edged verse, summarizing that which has gone before and leading into that which follows. In possibly all of the scriptures which have this double fulfillment, even if the prophetic pronouncements are first, the harbingers are the assurance of future judgments. There can be no doubt that verses 1-7 are prophetic. There the prophet speaks of the "fury of the Lord upon all their armies" (v.2) when the nations gather to annihilate the Jews and then, as a united force, turn their hatred and focus on the Lord (Psa. 2:2; Dan. 11:36-45; Rev. 19:17-21).
 - ii) Once again, the day of the Lord continues to the "host of heaven being dissolved and the heavens rolled together as a scroll" (v.4), words which are reminiscent of 2 Pet. 3:10. It must be observed that in 2 Pet. 3:10 it is not saying that the Day of the Lord comes when the heavens shall pass away, but the passing away of the heavens is "**within**" the day of the Lord.
- d) Obadiah 1:15
- i) Obadiah is one of the prophets who speaks specifically of the day of the Lord and it being largely historical with little prophetic pronouncements. The only real future prophecy is in verse 21b: "And the kingdom shall be the Lord's". It is dealing with the judgment of God on Edom (ch. 1:1) and informs us why the judgment will fall (vv.3-14; 16), and that came by Cyrus, the King of Persia, when he slaughtered thousands of them. Under the Maccabees they received another crushing defeat, until they were no more (v.18). Thus, the "day of the Lord" was the day of His judgment on those who afflicted His people.

In summary, the majority of the passages where the Day of the Lord is spoken of, it has this double fulfillment. The following are a list of the passages, which I am aware of, where this is so. (Ezek. 20:2-29; Joel 1:1-15; 2:30-32; 3:14; Amos 5:18-20; Zeph. 1:14-18; Zech. 14:1; Mal. 4:1, 5)

What Is It's Purpose?

As already mentioned, there are several aspects to this day.

It will be a day when the judgment of God is executed on apostate Israel (Isa. 22; Jer. 30:1-17; Joel 1-2; Amos 5; Zeph. 1); the unbelieving and rebellious world and the rebellious demonic world (Ezek. 38-39; Zech. 14). In that day the judgment of God on the religious world (Rev. 17), the financial world (Rev. 18), and the military world (Rev. 19), will be executed without pity.

Despite it being a time when the judgment of God is poured out, there will be a remnant of Israel so that "all of Israel will be saved" (Rom. 11:26), their sins will be forgiven and they shall mourn as one that mourneth for their son. They will realize that the One they rejected is their Messiah (Isa. 53:5). With sins forgiven and the fountain opened for sin and uncleanness (Zech. 12:10-12; 13:1; Ezek 36:25-27), they will learn the fulness of God's pardoning grace. They will be restored to the land promised so long ago (Ezek. 34:13; 36:28; Jer. 23:3). There will be the restoration of the monarchy (Ezek. 37:22); resurrection to life (Ezek. 37:1-14); and reunion of the tribes (Ezek. 37:15-22).

It's Coming

The Scriptures indicate that "the Day of the Lord" will come quickly, like a thief in the night (1 Thess. 5:2), and it is always presented as imminent.

- a) "The day of the Lord is at hand." (Isa. 13:6)
- b) "For the day is near, even the day of the Lord is near." (Ezek. 30:3)
- c) "The day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand." (Joel 2:1)
- d) "For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision." (Joel 3:14)
- e) "The day of the Lord is at hand." (Zeph. 1:7)

The Day of God

There are several passages that deal with the "Day of God." (2 Pet. 3; Rev. 20)

With the Day of God will come the new heavens and new earth. In those spheres there is a difference in how righteousness is spoken of. In the millennium the King will "reign in righteousness" (Isa. 32:1), but in the eternal state "wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Pet. 3:13).

Its main teaching is that God is manifested in His fulness of Godhood. Today man imagines he rules the world and his laws determine what is right or wrong; his beliefs in the god of the pseudo science of evolution are treated as absolutes. Yet the worst is not yet, for concerning the beast we are informed that he will seek to change times and seasons (Dan. 2:21). In the Day of God, the Lord will hand up the kingdom to God, and from that point on, God will be all in all (1 Cor 15:28).

The clause "the Day of God" only occurs once in the scriptures (2 Pet. 3:12) and we the people of God ought to be "looking for and hastening" unto the coming of the Day of God. That is we should be watchmen earnestly waiting for that day when this sphere of corruption will be removed by God. Noah lived in a world under the condemnation of God, we ought to be the same. It is not wrong to enjoy the lovely things of life but when they take place before God then they are sin.

What Will The Eternal State Be Like?

In 1969 at the Easter Conference in Belfast I had the privilege of listening to Mr. E. Wilson speak on Heaven. The following are some of the thoughts that he expressed at that time:

- a) Heaven is a real place, a place which is viewed as a:
 - i) House (Jn. 14:1), a place of all nations and prayer (Mk. 11:17).
 - ii) Instead of being "at home (endemeo) in the body", we will be "at home (endemeo) with the Lord" (2 Cor. 5-7).
- b) It is a place of perfection:
 - i) Perfection of power: "A throne was set in heaven, and One (God) sat on the throne . . . was like a jasper and a sardine stone" (Rev. 4:2-3).
 - ii) Perfection of purpose: "The rainbow round about the throne and the elders on thrones round about the throne" (Rev. 4:3-4). This is a geometric shape, like the wheels of Ezekiel where they "turned not whither they went but went straight forward" (Ezek. 1:9, 12 the unswerving, undeviating fulfillment of divine purposes)
 - iii) Perfection of priesthood: The elders crowned, having learned and fellowshiped with God in overcoming the world, etc. (Rev. 4:4).
 - iv) Perfection of state: There is "a sea of glass like unto crystal", perfection of reflection (Rev. 4:6).
 - v) Perfection of character: There were seven lamps burning before the Throne. Nothing done by this throne is covert nor shady (Rev. 4:5).
 - vi) Perfection of person: The Throne Sitter is acclaimed as being thrice holy and supremacy of power for "Thou hast created all things" (Rev. 4:8,11).
 - vii) Perfection of praise: "Thou art worth, O Lord, to receive (lit) the glory, and the honour and the power: for Thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure (according to Thy will and pleasure) they are and were created" (Rev. 4:11).

. . . . Rowan Jennings