

Prophecy

An Introduction To The Day Of The Lord

Introduction

The world we live in is a world which “lieth in wickedness” (1 Jn. 5:19). Like a slumbering child in the arms of the mother, the inhabitants of this world are in spiritual slumber and blindness promoting the deception that casting off the restriction (as they view them) of God, when in reality they are living according to the “prince of the power of the air” (Eph. 2:2). It is becoming clearer and clearer that antichrist characteristics are getting more pronounced and blatant in an atheistic world where man seeks to live without God; reject every claim of God; despise every child of God; hating every iota of Christianity and accepting every iota of evilness. God says concerning them, they walk in the darkness of their mind, “having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness” (Eph. 4:18-19).

The satanic deception that casting off God’s restrictions means liberty is the same deception Satan used with Eve in the garden of Eden. Freedom from God means liberty and progressiveness (Gen. 3:3-4).

- a) Recently there was a report of a conference held at Oxford University. It was made clear at that conference that man is in full control of his own destiny! There was the assurance that modern finely tuned man, by imagined billions of years of evolution, has all the resources he needs to cope with any future threats to his prosperity, comfort and well being! The summary being, our destiny and our future are apparently now entirely in our own hands.
 - i) Oh how quickly they have been proven wrong! A little virus, so much smaller than a human hair, has resulted in chaos across the world. Man is not able to cope with such an emergency.
- b) From all observable evidences, this is a world in which the activities of Satan and man are doing what they want, when they want, and without any recompensing retribution. Two matters of note are:
 - i) Man is not completely doing as they want because the Holy Spirit is curtailing their activities. He is the Restrainer as Paul wrote, “He who now letteth (restrains) *will let*, until He be taken out of the way” (2 Thess. 2:7). At the moment the Holy Spirit is letting humanity do as they want and things will get more debased and evil. When the Holy One is taken away, it means that the Holy Spirit will no longer hinder the full opening of the flood gates for the development of wickedness.
 - ii) Despite man’s determination to banish everything that is of God, God is still calling men in grace and offering salvation. Who can measure the depth of such love and grace?

Similarly Related “Days”

The phrase “the Day of the Lord” appears about twenty-one times in the Old Testament and six times in the New Testament. In all but a few cases it refers to a time yet future.

- (a) That day (2 Thess. 2:3)
- (b) The day of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:6)
- (c) Day of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 1:4-8)
- (d) Day of our Lord Jesus (2 Cor. 1:14)
- (e) Day of Christ (Phil. 1:10)
- (f) Day of God (2 Pet. 3:12)

God Will Intervene

Man today reminds me of the little story about the three little pigs who had a little house. The wolf came and openly declared, “I will huff and puff and blow the house down”. However, no matter how much he boasted he

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could not do it. Today man huffs and puffs about what he will do. He will stop churches from operating, seek to prevent the gospel being presented, but the day of reckoning is coming. God will once more intervene in the affairs of men and it will be in judgment called, "The Day of the Lord". It is a period of time when God will deal with wicked men directly and dramatically in fearful judgment (2 Thess. 1:6-9; Jude 14-15). Those human beings who believed not the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness will be judicially blinded by God, believing the lie and will be "dammed", banished from God for eternity (2 Thess. 2:10-12). God is not an impotent, non consequential Being. The day is coming when God will deal in wrath and judgment with a Christ-rejecting world.

At the time appointed, the Lord will in time step in and no longer be an absentee owner, but as the rightful Heir, He will come and take His property again and restore it to God's purposes for it.

Will the Day of the Lord be a single day or a period of time?

It is a fact that in normal speaking no single word can be taken without consideration of the context. For instance, take the word "suit". It can refer to a suit of clothes, how clothing blends together, or that which is becoming to an individual. God uses the word "day" in a variety of contexts. It can refer to a specific 24 hour period (Josh. 10:14); a point of time (Job 1:6); the characteristics of moral character thus, "children of the day" (1 Thess. 5:5); or "the Day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2). The day of the Lord is of an unknown duration.

On this subject one cannot be dogmatic for many deep scholars of the scriptures and prophecy do not see eye to eye on this subject. All one can do is present the material as it is understood by them. It is my understanding that the "Day of the Lord" is not a twenty-four hour period but an unknown duration in which the rule of the Lord is manifested by judgments on the rebellious sinners and flaunters of wickedness and perverseness. Yet, at that time, God is still offering salvation to the whosoever.

Many of the Old Testament passages dealing with the Day of the Lord convey a sense of imminence, nearness, and expectation: "Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand" (Isa. 13:6); "For the day is near, even the day of the LORD is near" (Ezek. 30:3); "For the day of the Lord is at hand" (Joel 1:15); "Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh; for it is nigh" (Joel 2:1); "Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision" (Joel 3:14); "For the day of the LORD is near upon all the heathen" (Obad. 15); "Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord GOD; for the day of the LORD is at hand" (Zeph. 1:7); "The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly" (Zeph. 1:14). This is because the Old Testament "day of the LORD" passages often have both a near and a far fulfillment, as does much of Old Testament prophecy. There are times in the Old Testament that "the day of the LORD" is used to describe historical judgments that have already been fulfilled in at least some sense (Isa. 13:6-22; Ezek. 30:2-19; Joel 1:15; 3:14; Amos 5:18-20; Zeph. 1:14-18) while at other times it refers to divine judgments that will take place towards the end of the age (Joel 2:30-32; Zech. 14:1; Mal. 4:1, 5).

An observation oftentimes overlooked is that the expression "Day of the Lord" is a trajectory clause having a double fulfilment. There is one fulfilment indicating that which is imminent and that which still is in the future. Such an illustration is found in our Lord coming out of Egypt. Hosea speaking for God says, "When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt" (Hos. 11:1), yet Matthew quotes it as a fulfilment of a prophecy when he writes, "Out of Egypt have I called my son" (Matt. 2:15).

To be continued on next paper.....

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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