

Study in Eschatology – Specific Subjects

Grace Bible Chapel

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The phrase – the “Day of the Lord”

- The “day of the Lord” is a consistent biblical term describing the end time events particularly centered on what is also described as “the tribulation.” Some apply the term “day of the Lord” to include both the time frame of the tribulation and the millennial kingdom of Christ. This is based on the assumption that the phrases “day of the Lord” and “that day” are synonymous. For this immediate study we will confine the “day of the Lord” specifically to the time frame of “the great tribulation.”
- Passages concerning “the day of the Lord” in general:
 - Isaiah 2:12 – 22 – emphasis is on the terror of God in that day.
 - Isaiah 13:6 – 16 – emphasis on the major purpose of the tribulation to bring an end to wickedness and wicked individuals.
 - Ezekiel 30:1 – 9 – the effect of the tribulation on Middle East nations.
 - Joel 1:15 – 20 - how the crops of the earth will be affected.
 - Obadiah 10:20 – the effects on the land of Edom or present-day southern Jordan.
 - Zephaniah 1:14 – 18 – a time of darkness and distress.
 - 1st Thessalonians 5:1 – 3 - will come to the world suddenly and unexpectedly.
 - 2nd Thessalonians 2:1 – 4 - emphasizes the need for the revelation of the “man of sin” prior to the day of the Lord.
 - 2nd Peter 3:10 – 12 – emphasizes a time of burning on the earth.
- Passages concerning “the day of the Lord” in relation to Israel:
 - Ezekiel 13:1 to 7 – false prophets arising in Israel.
 - Joel 2:1 – 11 – a time of darkness and invasion of the people of Israel.
 - Joel 3:14 – 17 – a time of refuge for Israel.
 - Amos 5:18 – 20 – a time of darkness for the Jewish people.
 - Zephaniah 1:7 – 13 – a time of severity or the city of Jerusalem. It is also in this context associated with Zephaniah 1:15; 18 where it is spoken of as a day of God’s wrath (also in Dan 12:7). In Daniel 9:27 - the same period is referred to as Daniel’s 70th week – or the last 7 years of Israel’s punishment for their great sin.
- Summary – the day of the Lord is a time of God’s wrath on the earth (darkness, torment, anguish, turmoil, confusion, death, massive destruction (especially by fire); but with special emphasis on Israel.
 - There are many other passages that address “the tribulation” or “the great tribulation” or as Jeremiah 30:7 describes it “the time of Jacobs trouble” all referring to the same event. The idea of Jeremiah 30:7 is again the emphasis is Israel.
 - It is described by Christ in Matthew 24:21 – as great tribulation such as never occurred before.
 - Point: this day (a time frame) is a real event prophesied in both the Old and New Testaments and is therefore a major event in human history.

Five purposes for the Tribulation.

- To complete the decreed period of national Israel's judicial hardening as punishment for her rejection of the Messiah (Isa. 6:9-13; 24:1-6; Dan 9:27; cf. Jn. 12:37-41; Rom. 11:7-10).
- To produce a revival of the scattered Jewish throughout the world (Deut. 4:27-30; Rev. 7:1-4; Matt. 24:14).

- To convince the Jewish Nation of their need for the Messiah in order to produce a national regeneration (Dan. 12:5-7; Jer. 31:31-34; Ezek. 20:34-38; 36:25-27; 37:1-14; Zech. 12:9-13:2; Isa. 59:20-21). This will result in a massive return of Jews to the Land of Israel (Zech. 8:7-8; Ezek. 36:24; 37:21).
- To end the time of Gentiles and effect the deliverance of the Jewish People from Gentile dominion (Isa. 24:21-23; 59:16-20; cf. Matt. 24:29-31/Mk. 13:24-27; Rom. 11:25).
- To purge the earth of wicked people in order to establish the Messianic Kingdom in righteousness (Isa. 13:9; 24:19-20; Ezek. 37:23; Zech. 13:2; 14:9; Isa. 11:9). This violent reduction of the world's unbelieving population will result from the divine judgments unleashed throughout the Tribulation (Rev. 6-18), climaxing with the battles of Armageddon under King Messiah (Rev. 19), and His purge of both rebel Jews and oppressive Gentiles (Ezek. 20:33-38; Matt. 25:31-46).

Thoughts relating to the Rapture

- The rapture is for those leaving the earth to be with the Lord in heaven (1 Thess 4:16-17).
- Historically, what has God done for the saved (His elect) prior to his wrathful judgments?
 - Enoch – Gen 5:21-24 – was taken prior to the apostasy & great sin of man before the flood.
 - Noah – Gen 6:5-13 - reserved from the wrath of God.
 - Lot – Gen 18 - reserved from the wrath of God.
 - Rahab – Josh 2, and 6 – reserved from the wrath of God.
 - He rescued them.
- What would we expect God to do for His church prior to the tribulation (the greatest event of His wrath)?
 - 1 Thess 1:10; 5:1-11 (Especially 5:9) – let's look at this with a new understanding.
- There are three primary passages for the rapture: John 14:2-3; 1 Thess 4:13-18; 1 Cor 15:51-58.
 - 2nd coming passages are: Zech 14:3-9; Acts 1:11; Mat 25:31-46; Rev 19:11-16; Mat 24:26-30.
 - There is a clear distinction in the accounts of end time events related to Christ activities from the earth & to the earth that has no explanation other than two separate events.
 - Christ coming for His saints to take them to the Father's house in heaven is obviously a movement from earth to heaven.
 - Christ's coming with His saints is a movement from heaven to the earth. Acts 1:11; Jude 14-15; Rev. 19:11-14; Matt. 26:64; Mk 14:62; Zech. 14:3-9.
 - At the rapture living saints are translated, while no saints are translated in connection with the second coming of Christ to the earth.
 - At the rapture, the saints go to heaven, while at the second coming saints remain on the earth without translation.
 - The rapture of the church is a deliverance from the day of wrath which follows, while the second coming is a deliverance of those who have believed in Christ during the time of trouble & survived.
 - The rapture relates only to those who are saved, while the second coming of Christ to the earth deals with both saved and unsaved.
 - As presented in the NT, no unfulfilled prophecy is given as standing between the church and the time of its rapture, which it is presented as an imminent event, while many signs must be fulfilled before Christ's second coming to set up His kingdom.
 - In the sequence of events describing the second coming of Christ to the earth, there is no adequate place for an event like the rapture. According to Matt. 25:31-46, believers and unbelievers are still intermingled at the time of this judgment, which comes after Christ's coming to the earth and so it is obvious that no separation between saved and unsaved has taken place.
 - Under the two event (on two stages) approach the world will not see Christ until His second coming, thus they will continue in their sin until He appears. Rev. 6:16; 2 Thess 2:8.