

The Day of the Lord: a study

By R.S. Neaville

The "Day of the Lord" is one of the most misunderstood Bible themes of our present day theology. Our doctrines of the eschatology of the last days are defined largely by this one concept. If we get the Day of the Lord wrong, we find that all other concepts like the rapture of the Church, Christ's return, and the revealing of the antichrist are obscured in a tangle of ill fitting pieces to the puzzle of our Christian destiny. Like all Christian doctrines, there is only one absolute truth, for the Bible is a book based on absolute truths. Our aim in this study is to reveal the one, the only absolute truth of the Day of the Lord; not according to men's wishes or speculation, but by clear and concise exegesis of God's Word.

We will proceed with this study in a format that answers the basic questions about the day of the Lord; the who, what when and where of the subject.

Who? This is The Lord's day, hence the "Day of the Lord. Easy so far, but the term the "Lord's day" gives us insight into the "what" of the subject.

What is the Lord's Day? or "The day of the Lord"? Scripture reveals it plainly.

Exodus 20:

8. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

9. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

10. But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

11. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

The Sabbath is a day of rest, hallowed by God. It is on the "Last day" of the week. 6 days God created and then on the 7th he rested . So, as the Law commanded we copied it for us, to hallow it or keep it holy. We worked 6 days and on the seventh we rested under the Law. But it is more than that. It is also prophetic: as we will see in the Scripture. Remember, the following portion of scripture is from the new testament.

Hebrews 4

1. Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

2. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

3. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

4. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.

5. And in this place again, if they shall enter into my rest.

6. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:

7. Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

8. For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.

9. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

10. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

11. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

That rest is a spiritual sabbath. One we as Christians wish to enter into, to rest from our labors. It is the last day of our prophetic week. It is the last day period. As Jesus promised repeatedly in John chapter six;

39. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

40. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

44. No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

54. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

(it is an interesting note that John six is the only place recorded where Jesus used the term "the last day" in this manner.)

His disciples knew of this concept of a spiritual sabbath as evidenced by Martha in John 11:

23. Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

24. Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

How long is the Day of the Lord?, this spiritual sabbath? The scriptures are plain when rightly divided. Peter tells us:

2Peter3:

3. Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

4. And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

5. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

6. Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

7. But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

8. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

10. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

12. Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

13. Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

We are told in Revelations chapter twenty that Jesus will return to earth and rule and reign here for a thousand years. How will he rule here for a thousand years if it is destroyed in a literal day? The day of God is not a literal day as men count but a day that lasts a thousand years. at its beginning Jesus returns, and at its end the world , and the heavens are dissolved as Peter said.

Revelations 20:

4. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

5. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

6. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

At the end of this thousand years heaven and earth are destroyed, and as Peter said a new heaven and earth are created:

Revelations 20:

11. And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

12. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelations 21:

1. And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

So we see that the prophetic sabbath, the last day of God's prophetic week is a thousand years long. This is how the Heavens and Earth can be destroyed in the same day Jesus returns. The Day of the Lord is a thousand years.

And finally when is the Day of the Lord?

The Day of the Lord happens after a period of time called the great tribulation. If we read in Matthew 24, we find that Jesus tells us this day of his coming, this Spiritual sabbath occurs immediately after the tribulation period:

Matt.24

14. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

15. When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

16. Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

17. Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:

18. Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

19. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

20. But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

21. For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. 23. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

24. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

25. Behold, I have told you before.

26. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.

27. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

28. For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

29. Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

30. And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

31. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

This is confirmed by other Old Testament verses:

Isaiah 13:9

9. Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.

10. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

11. And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

12. I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.

13. Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the Lord of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.

Joel 2

31. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come.

32. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.

So we see , that contrary to what many are teaching these days, the Day of the Lord is not a time that runs along the tribulation period, but rather immediatly after. This is when the Rapture will occur, our gathering to be with the Lord. It is one of the components of the day of the Lord.

2Thessalonians 2:

1. Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

2. That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

3. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4. Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

So we see that both the Coming of Christ, and our being gathered to him are both components of the day of the Lord and that day cannot happen until antichrist is revealed. What reveals him is when he takes his seat in the temple and proclaims himself god. When this happens then we know that there is 3 and 1/2 years left approx. until the Day of Christ occurs.

Jesus said that the great tribulation happens when the abomination of desolation happens.

Matt.24:

15. When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

16. Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

17. Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:

18. Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

19. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

20. But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

21. For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

In Daniel chapter nine we see that this antichrist will make a covenant with many for seven years, and that in the middle of this seven years he will cause the abomination of desolation.

Daniel 9:

26. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

27. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

So this makes a 3 and 1/2 year tribulation period. The seven is merely a covenant, so contrary to previous teachings, there is no seven year tribulation period. This fits perfectly with the rest of scripture. The antichrist is only given power to rule for 3 1/2 years (42 months Rev.13)

Revelations 13:

5. And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

6. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

7. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

8. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

The two great witnesses are given power to prophesy for 1260 days (3and1/2 years)

Revelations 11:

3. And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

4. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

And a place is prepared for God's people to run in Israel when the city is under attack by the antichrists army, and the abomination of desolation occurs . They will be taken care of there for three and a half years:

Matthew 24:

15. When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

16. Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

17. Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:

18. Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

19. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

20. But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

21. For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Revelations 12:

1. And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

2. And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

3. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

4. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

5. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

6. And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

In this way Matt.24 and Rev. 12 fit perfectly. The tribulation is only 3 and a1/2 years.

But still some say we are not going to suffer God's Wrath, so why will we be in the tribulation. This is a misunderstanding of what God's Wrath is. God's wrath is on sinners, and permanently resolved. The tribulation period have only warnings of God's true wrath. But the tribulation is a time of the Devil's wrath on Christians.

Revelations 12:

12. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

The wrath we are not appointed to suffer takes place in the millenium, or as it is better called, the day of the Lord.. For us it is a time of rest but for the nations it is a time for judgement. For Christ will rule over them with a rod of iron:

Revelations 12:

5. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

He will then separate the nations..as one would sheep from the goats...JUDGEMENT!

Matt.25:

31. When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

32. And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

And he will consign those to hell that disobeyed his gospel: this is his wrath!

Matt.25

40. And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

41. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

42. For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

43. I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

44. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?

45. Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

46. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

read also 2Thess.1:

6. Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

7. And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

8. In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

9. Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

10. When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

And in what day shall this vengeance be? this punishment be? this wrath on sinners?

The day of the Lord. The section of scripture above explains it clearly. On the day Christ returns to be glorified in his saints, he also comes to punish the wicked. This is our rapture and sinners punishment that is everlasting. He sends them to hell to await Judgement at the Day of the Lord's end. In the tribulation, yes sinners will die, But in the Day of the Lord, At the great white throne, at the Day's end, the lake of fire waits to be filled. This is God's wrath , the wrath we are not appointed to, but rather we get salvation. As Jesus Himself said:

Matt.10:

28. And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

And as Paul told the Thessalonians:

2Thess 5:

1. But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

2. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

3. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

4. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

5. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

6. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

7. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

8. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

9. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

Pauls words suddenly become clearer in light of the true meaning of the Day of the Lord. For that is the Day our Lord returns. We should not be found drunk or asleep, but doing his will as children of the light.

God bless you. R.S. Neaville

My Name is R.S. Neaville. I live in Greenville Texas where I am currently involved in starting a new congregation according to the pattern I have recieved by revelation of Jesus Christ. I encourage You to come and hear me teach and share these things on Paltalk.com in the Christian section. My nickname is "prophetic".

Paltalk is an interactive program that is free to down load. You can talk and exchange video with people all over the world. come visit me in the Christianity section. We have a daily and nightly bible study room as well as a room we gather for prayer.

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