

THE GREAT & TERRIBLE DAY OF THE LORD

INTRODUCTION

The Day of the Lord refers to the unusual events (positive and negative) that will escalate dramatically in the 3 1/2 years just before Jesus returns. The 2-fold nature of this time is seen in the great blessing it releases on those who call on Jesus and the judgment for those who refuse Him. ***It will be a great Day*** to those who call on Jesus' name because they will experience the greatest outpouring of the Spirit in history leading to Jesus' Coming (Joel 2:28-32). In this great revival, the Spirit will release the miracles that were seen in the book of Acts and the book of Exodus combined and multiplied on a global scale. ***It will be a very terrible Day*** to the rebellious who will experience the most severe outpouring of God's judgments in history in the Great Tribulation which occurs in the last 3 1/2 years of this age. The main emphasis of the Tribulation is Jesus' judgment against the Antichrist's empire in releasing the judgments seen in Rev 6-20. Secondly, is the Antichrist's attack on the saints.

"And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD." Joel 2:30-31

"Then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. Unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved (physically preserved); for the elect's sakes those days will be shortened." Matthew 24:21-22

I. THE TWOFOLD NATURE OF "GOD'S DAY" – GREAT AND TERRIBLE

- A. **Great Day:** To the redeemed it will be the time of the greatest manifestation of the power of God ever seen in history. It will include supernatural provision, direction (Ps. 91; Jer. 31:9), and protection (Goshen principle of Ex. 8:22-23; 9:4, 6, 26). The miracles seen in the book of Acts and the book of Exodus will be combined and multiplied on a global scale. The "great" aspect of that Day will include the outpouring of the Spirit with extraordinary miracles (Joel 2:28-32).
- B. **Very Terrible Day:** To the rebellious it will be the most severe time of God's judgments ever seen in history (Rev. 6-20). The "terrible" dimension of the Day of the Lord speaks of judgments against the Antichrist's empire in the seals, trumpets, and bowls judgments (Rev. 6; 8-9; 16-19).

- C. Throughout Scripture, God appealed often to two Old Testament events to illustrate the two aspects of the activities of the Day of the Lord. The story of ***Moses in Exodus*** is a picture of the “great” aspect with God’s miraculous deliverance for those who call on Him. The ***Babylonian military invasion in 586 BC*** portrays the “terrible” aspects of judgment against persistent rebellion. These two examples teach the primary principles related to the end- time judgment and blessing.

II. THE GREAT DAY – GOD’S PEOPLE DIVINELY PROTECTED

- A. Another characteristic of the greatness of the Day of the Lord is God’s supernatural protection. It is what many call the **Goshen principle** (Ex. 8:22-23; 9:4-6, 26; 10:23; 11:7).

1. In the time of the plagues of Egypt, God did not allow His judgments to touch the place where His people lived, a place called Goshen (Ex. 8:22). God protected His people from the plagues He released in Egypt. The Lord said to Pharaoh, “I will make a difference between My people and your people” (Ex. 8:23).
2. Though the plagues were poured out in Egypt and all around the Israelites, nobody in Goshen was sick or affected, not even their livestock. In Goshen, none of the hail or fire fell, and none of the flies swarmed (Ex. 9:4, 6, 26).

“I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell that no swarms of flies shall be there, in order that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the land. I will make a difference between My people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall be.” Exodus 8:22-23

- B. **Protection**-The same idea of the Goshen principle is seen in Scripture when the mark or seal of God is put on the saints to protect them from the judgment of God.

1. ***“They [demons] were commanded not to harm the grass but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.” Revelation 9:4***

“He [angel] cried to the four angels... saying, ‘Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.’” Revelation 7:2-3

“The LORD said to him [angel], Go ... through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry [intercession] over all the abominations that are done within it.” To the others [angels] He said, “Go through the city and kill... Utterly slay old and young ... but do not come near anyone on whom is the mark.” Ezekeial 9:4-6

2. For Noah God provided an ark- Gen 8:18-21, 9:12-17
For Lot God provided Angels - Gen 18:16-19:22
For Israel God provided blood from a lamb - Ex 12:12-23
For the End-Time Church God provides a seal - Eph 4:30, Rev 7:3

- C. **Direction**- Another expression of the greatness of the Day of the Lord will be in receiving supernatural direction. The Lord will direct His people that they may find safety, protection, and provision. Isa 30:21, Jer 31:9, Joel 2:28.

“But He made His own people go forth like sheep, and guided them in the wilderness like a flock; and He led them on safely, so that they did not fear; but the sea overwhelmed their enemies.” Psalm 78:52-53

- D. **Provision**- A major distinction in the Day of the Lord is God’s supernatural manifestation to provide for His people. In the midst of all the judgments and the widespread destruction, the earth’s food supply will be greatly affected. The saints will begin to see the miracles of God’s supernatural ability to multiply food and direct His people to hidden sources of provision that the unbeliever will not be privy to.

1. Israel in Egypt- Ex 9:1-5
2. Israel in the wilderness- Ex 16:10-16
3. Elijah in the midst of the drought- 1 Kings 17: 1-7
4. The starving widow and her dying son- 1 Kings 17:8-16
5. Elisha and the poisoned stew- 2 King 4:38-41
6. Elisha feeding 100 men in famine- 2 Kings 4:42-44
7. Jesus multiplied food, provided wine, provided tax money, brought healing and deliverance to the oppressed. He declares that the Church would operate in greater miracles on a worldwide scale.

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.” John 14:12-13

III. THE TERRIBLE DAY – GOD WILL RAISE UP AN EVIL LEADER TO JUDGE SIN

- A. At the foundation of this evil, global empire is the ***great paradox that it is God Himself who will raise it up***, though, certainly, Satan will have his role in it and the sin of man will play into it. Jesus will open the first seal to release the Antichrist to conquer rebellious nations (Rev. 6:1-2).

- B. God raised up evil Pharaoh in Moses' day. He was the most powerful man in the world.

"The Scripture says to Pharaoh, "I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth." Romans 9:17

"Indeed ... I have raised you up [Pharaoh] that I may show My power in you." Exodus 9:16

- C. God raised up an evil Assyrian leader named Sennacherib to judge Israel in 721 BC.

"Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger... the staff in whose hand is My indignation." Isaiah 10:5

- D. God called Nebuchadnezzar, His servant, to judge Israel in 586 BC.

"Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will [come] against this land...and will utterly destroy... Then...when seventy years are completed...I will punish the king of Babylon and the Babylonians, for their iniquity," says the LORD." Jeremiah 25:9, 12

"I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar...My servant..." Jeremiah 27:6

"Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Behold, I will send Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will set his throne above these stones..." Jeremiah 43:10

"Look among the nations and watch—be utterly astounded! For I will work a work in your days which you would not believe, though it were told you. For indeed I am raising up the Chaldeans [Babylon], a bitter and hasty nation... they are terrible and dreadful." Habakkuk 1:5-7

"I [the Lord] will prepare destroyers against you [Babylon against Jerusalem]." Jeremiah 22:7

- E. God will raise up the Antichrist to great authority for 3½ years to bring the entire earth to a place of decision for righteousness or unrighteousness (Dan. 7-12; 2 Thes. 2; Rev. 13). God will grant authority for sinful events to be walked out (Rev. 6:2, 4, 8; 9:1, 3, 5; 11:2; 13:5, 7, 14-15).

- F. *"He [Antichrist] was given...authority [by God] to continue for forty-two months. It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. Authority was given him [by God] over every tribe, tongue, and nation." Revelation 13:5, 7*

"He [Antichrist] shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High...Then the saints shall be given into his hand [3½ years]." Daniel 7:25