

"The Day of the Lord"

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Scripture Lesson:-

Text:- Second Peter 3: 12. "Looking for and hastening 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".

Introduction:- The apostle Peter, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, saw the panorama of world history culminating in the "Great day of God". In anticipation of this culminating day of world history with its sublime, majestic and cataclysmic events, Peter says, (see text). This text says, "the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat. That sounds very much like an atomic bomb. Of one thing I am sure, that the elements shall be dissolved with a heat more hot than any atom bomb has yet has produced.

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Peter did not ^{*see*} ~~visible~~ "the great day of God" as a 24 hour day, but rather as a period of time, in which will be involved many significant and tremendous events, earth shaking and revolutionary in their consequences. In the same chapter in which Peter speaks of the "great day of God" he says, "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." (" Peter 3:8)

Explanation of text

"The great day of God" will include an array of cataclysmic events as never known before in the history of the universe. A number of these events are clearly revealed in the Holy scriptures, while doubtless, there are others which will not be revealed until the day of their appearing. Among the revealed events may be mentioned, vast transformations in the earth, the return of Jesus, the translation of the church to meet the Lord in the air, the resurrection, the millennial reign of Christ on earth, the final judgment, and the sublime consummation in the eternal separation of the righteous from the unrighteous, and the commitment of Satan, bound forever in the bottomless pit, never again to molest

the righteous.

While Christians have had varying interpretations concerning some of the sequences and many of the details in relation to these events, the different interpretations, however, can in no sense neutralize the facts and the reality of "the great day of God." All of the ancient prophets of the O. T. and the apostles of the N. T. use with splendor and with sublime awe and wonder, the coming of the "great day of God." The prophets of the O. T., scanning the distant ages under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, saw the coming of "the day of the Lord," and described it in terms of justice, the reign of righteousness, universal peace and good will among men.

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The Scriptures are very definite in revealing that the day of the Lord includes the return of Jesus to the world, in power and glory. John speaks of his coming with these words: "Behold, he cometh with the clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him; and all the kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen." (Rev. 1: 7)

Paul said, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: so shall we ever be with the Lord." (I Thess. 4:16-17).

Peter said, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fire trial which is to try you, as though some strange happened to you, but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." (I Pet. 4:12,13)

The revealed glory which will make glad the children of God, will be the return of Christ in glory.

Judgment will be involved with the return of Christ. In the 22nd chapter of Rev., the 12th verse, we find these significant words: "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give to every man according as his work shall be." John gives a further description of the solemn scenes of the judgment in connection with "the day of God," in these words: "And I saw the ~~men~~ 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 are written in the ~~books~~ books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death & hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their work;:::;And whosoever was not found written the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." (Rev.20: 12-15.)

The millennial reign of Christ over the earth for a thousand years, will be one of the crowning events in connection with the day of God. Satan will be bound and cast into the bottomless pit for a thousand years, as is described in these words: "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon that old serpent, which is the devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set his seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: after that he must be loosed a little season. (Rev.20:1-3.)

Out of the cataclysmic changes in the universe, in connection with "the day of God" there will ~~be~~ come a new heaven and a new earth. Peter says: "Nevertheless we, look for a new heaven and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." (2Peter 3:13.

The apostle John speaks of his vision of the new heaven and the new earth in these words: "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. And I John, saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."

In the new heaven and the new earth, and the new Jerusalem that will come in connection with the "day of God," there will be no more death and no sorrow. John speaks of the conditions that will then prevail with these comforting words: "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away!"

Conclusion:- The anticipation of the events of "the day of God" should be an incentive for us to live holy lives. Peter says: "Seeing that all of these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and Godliness:::::Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless".
2 Peter 3: 11-14.

Friends when we read of Christ coming as a thief in the night, the heavens being dissolved the earth on fire, how does it affect you? are you afraid? would you be one to cry for the rocks & mountains to fall on you to hide you from His face. If He came suddenly as He shall would you be ashamed for Him to find you in ^{where you are} those questionable places doing questionable things? It will be too late then to repent. Are you ready & looking for His coming. We know not the time day or hour, but the Bible teaches He is coming again. All signs & prophecies make us believe it is soon. There is a feeling of expectancy over the whole world