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The Day of the LORD - The Destructive, Deadly Wrath of God



By Steven J. Hogan

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Throughout history, people have wondered how this world will come to an end. Some say it will just keep going for 1000's of years, and others say it could end in the next decade or two. Some worry whether it will be destroyed by some catastrophic event(s). In the 1960's, there was talk about nuclear war; in the 1970's, it was an ice age; in the 1980's, it was the ozone layer; in the 1990's, it was global warming; and since the early 2000's, there's been talk about EMP's, solar flares, super volcanoes, and climate change.

The truth is that God has already told us how this world, as we now know it, will come to an end. His word tells us that Jesus Christ

will return to rapture the church, and then judge the earth, pouring out His righteous world-ending wrath. This is called the day of the Lord, and it will be destructive, deadly, and deserved. *"The Lord is coming to judge the earth; He will judge the world with righteousness."* Psalm 98:9

The Bible talks extensively about the day of the Lord, and that's because God doesn't want us to be ignorant – He wants us to know what will happen, and warn others. Most importantly, we need to tell people to turn from their sin and turn to Christ, believing that He died to pay for their sins and rose again. If they do, they will be forgiven, receive eternal life, and won't be here on earth when God pours out His wrath. And they won't go to hell, where they would have been justly and eternally punished for their sins but, instead, will go to heaven, and forever be with God, Jesus Christ, and all the believers. *"He who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life."* John 5:24

Here are some important questions and answers about the day of the Lord:

1. What is the *"day of the Lord"*? This phrase refers to a period of time when God judges sinful people living on this earth. It speaks of specific times in the past (recorded in the Old Testament) when God poured out His powerful and punishing wrath on people and nations. But there is another day of the Lord, a future, fiery, global judgment that will take place just after the end of this age. It is this eschatological day of the Lord that is the focus of this post.

2. Why must God carry out this *"day of the Lord"*? Because He is perfectly holy and must punish all sin. God has no choice but to judge people's great and grievous sin. Not only that, but He also needs to clean up this sin-polluted world before His Son begins His holy and glorious 1000-year reign on a restored earth. *"Holy, holy, holy is the*

Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come." Revelation 4:8, Acts 3:20-21

3. Does God predict this coming *"day of the Lord"*? Yes! *"The day of the Lord is coming, cruel, with fury and burning anger, to make the land a desolation, and He will exterminate sinners from it… I will punish the world for its evil"* **(**Is. 13:6-13; Joel 2:30-32; Zeph. 1:1-3, 14-18; Amos 5:18-20; Acts 2:19-20; 1 Thess. 5:1-4). These many references to the day of the Lord mean that God is deadly serious, that His coming judgment is most severe. Here we are in the end-times, not long before Christ's coming and the day of the Lord, and God is now sounding the alarm with all these birth pains (Matt. 24:4-8, Rev. 6:1-8). God's purpose is to wake up and warn people about His world-wide wrath that will result in massive devastation and destruction.

4. Are there other phrases that predict and describe this end-of-the-age eschatological wrath? Yes! Here are some of them: *"judgment day"* (Is. 10:3), *"the day of His burning anger"* (Is. 13:3), *"the day of vengeance"* (Is. 34:8), *"the day of the Lord's wrath"* (Zeph. 1:8), *"in those days"* (Joel 3:1), *"the days of the Son of Man"* (Luke 17:26), *"the day of wrath"* (Rom. 2:5), *"the day of judgment"* (2 Pet. 2:9), *"the judgment of the great day"* (Jude 6), *"the great day of God"* (Rev. 16:14). Again, there are many references to this time of judgment which means it's an extremely important subject, one that both the saved and the lost need to hear and understand.

5. Will Christians be physically affected by the day of the Lord? No, not at all! That's because God will rescue Christians who are alive on earth from this crushing, cataclysmic wrath. God tells us *"to wait for His Son from heaven… Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come"* (1 Thess. 1:10), and that He *"has not destined us for wrath."* 1 Thess. 5:9

6. How should the coming day of the Lord spiritually affect Christians? First, we should be very thankful that God's Son was punished for us (Rom. 5:8), that God had mercy on us, that we will escape this end-times' wrath, and not go to hell, but instead go to heaven (John 3:16). Second, we should be sobered as we think about our just God pouring out His wrath upon this wicked, super-sinful world (1 Thess. 5:5-8). Third, we should be motivated to live holy lives in these last years leading up to the day of the Lord. (Rom. 13:11-14, Rev. 18:4). Fourth, we should love the lost, warning them of the terrible wrath to come and sharing the gospel with them. Luke 21:12-17

7. How will unbelievers be living in the final years before the day of the Lord? They won't be expecting this coming wrath – they will be living like everything is going to stay the same. *"They were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying… they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building"* (Luke 17:27-28). They will mock the Christians – *"… in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming?'"* (2 Pet. 3:3). They will be greatly and grossly sinning – they "*did not believe the truth but took pleasure in wickedness"* (2 Thess. 2:12). They will be persecuting Christians – *"They will deliver you to tribulation and will kill you."* Matthew 24:9

8. What will be the response of unbelievers when they realize the day of the Lord is about to begin. They will be scared to death – *"men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world"* (Luke 21:26). They will be completely caught off guard – *"The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While they are saying, 'Peace and safety!' then destruction will come upon them suddenly… and they will not escape"* (1 Th. 5:3). They will try to hide from God but they can't – *"The kings of the earth, the great men, the commanders, the rich, the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; and they said to the mountains and the rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from*

the presence of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb.'" Revelation 6:12-17

9. What events need to happen, what conditions need to met before the destructive day of the Lord? Birth pains (false christs, wars, famines, earthquakes, famines); increasing lawlessness; the signing of a treaty by the Jews; the building of the Jewish temple; a great apostasy; great persecution of Jews and Christians; the coming of the Antichrist and his desolation of the temple in Jerusalem; a ten-nation kingdom ruled by the Antichrist; the world worshiping the Antichrist; the false prophet doing great signs and false wonders; unbelievers taking the mark of the Beast, the Antichrist; and the gospel being preached to all nations. All these things must occur before Christ returns to rapture the church and pour out His wrath upon this ungodly world. Matthew 24:4-29, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-10, Revelation 13

10. What will be the final warning sign before the day of the Lord? *"I will grant wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below, blood, fire, and vapor of smoke. The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and glorious day of the Lord shall come"* (Acts 2:19-20). There will also be a great earthquake. Revelation 6:12-14

11. When does the day of the Lord begin? Sometime after the midpoint of Daniel's 70th week. Let me explain. The day of the Lord begins just after the rapture of the church, the rapture being the first event to take place at Christ's coming. (Matt. 24:29-31, 1 Thess. 4:15-5:2). And Christ's coming occurs after the coming of the Antichrist. (2 Thess. 2:8-9) – and the Antichrist is revealed at the midpoint of Daniel's 70th week (Daniel 9:27). Therefore, we can conclude that the day of the Lord begins sometime, an unknown time, after the midpoint of Daniel's 70th week.

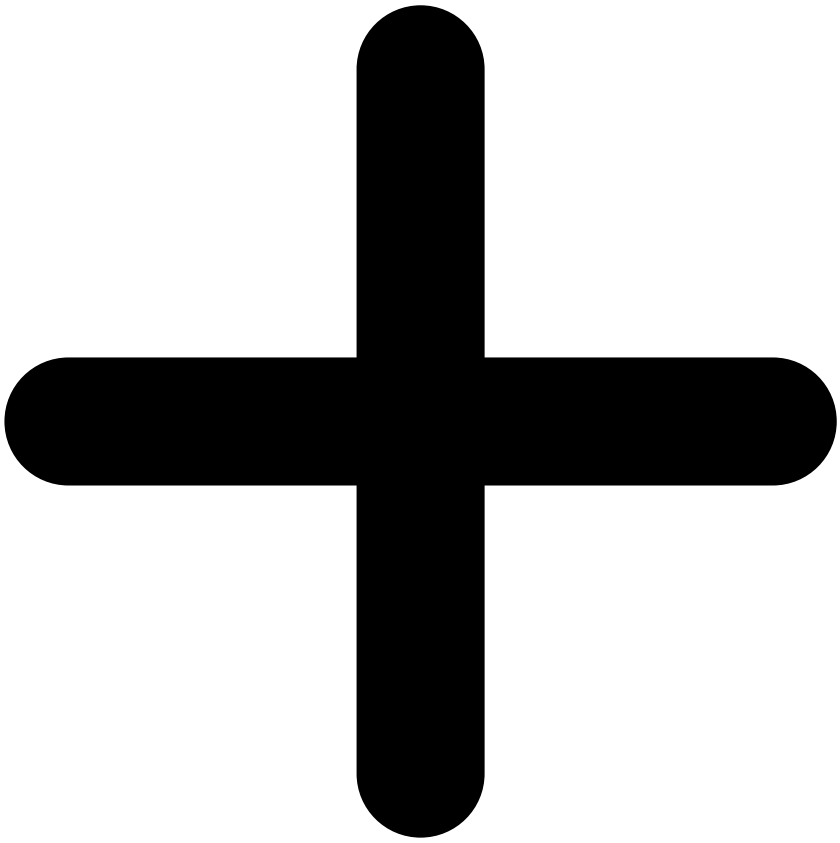
12. What are the trumpet and bowl judgments? They refer to the two major aspects of the Day of the Lord (Rev. 8-9, 16). First, seven trumpet judgments begin during the 2nd half of Daniel's 70th week. The first six speak of hail, fire, and blood thrown to the earth; part of the world being burned up; seas, rivers, and springs being polluted with blood; demonized locusts inflicting tormenting pain on the people; and a third of mankind being killed. It will be a most dreadful, devastating, and deadly time. At the end of this 7-year week, the 7th trumpet is blown, and voices in heaven proclaim, *"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ"* (Rev. 11:15). It is at this time that Jesus Christ becomes King of the world. Psalm 47, Zechariah 14:9

Second, seven bowl judgments begin just after the end of Daniel's 70th week and the blowing of the 7th trumpet. Unbelievers are covered with ugly and malignant sores; the seas, rivers, and springs become blood, and all living things in them die; the unrepentant are scorched with fierce heat, and the Antichrist's kingdom becomes totally dark (the sinners *"did not repent of their deeds"* (Rev. 16:11). The 6th bowl prepares the world for the climactic judgment of the nations and the Antichrist at the battle of Armageddon. The 7th bowl results in the greatest earthquake ever, and huge hailstones pounding the people on earth – and they still *"blasphemed God."* And so *"it is done"* (Rev. 16:17) – the day of the Lord is over, and the righteous, catastrophic wrath of God is completed.

Never forget what God says about the day of the Lord. People have all kinds of wrong thoughts about the future – but now you know what God says about this coming wrath, the day of the Lord. Wake up, be sober, and don't live for yourself, live for God! It won't be long before Christ comes back to rapture the church and pour out His wrath upon this evil world. Make sure you tell your saved friends about the day of the Lord. And again, warn the unsaved about this end-of-the age, world-ending wrath. Tell them to repent of their sins and believe in Jesus

before it’s too late. Again, be very thankful that you won’t be here for the day of the Lord, but instead, will be in heaven with Jesus and all the believers, and in a brand-new body. *“Surely, goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”* Psalm 23:6

P.S. You have been reading about the coming wrath of God, but you also need to be reading and thinking about hope, that you have a most glorious inheritance, and will be in heaven with Jesus and all your Christian friends. I encourage you to read these two posts – *“You Need Hope to Get Through Life”*, and *“HOPE: The Who, What, When, How and Why.”*





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