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The Day of the LORD - God's Righteous Wrath



By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #254 ~

The whole world will be judged! That's what God tells us, that's what she deserves, and that's what's going to happen! Isaiah and Paul call it the *"Day of the Lord"* (Isaiah 13:6, 1 Thess. 5:2). John the Baptist says it's the *"wrath to come"* (Luke 3:7). And this wrath won't be a super volcano, global flooding, a nuclear war, EMP's, or any combination of these things, but rather a series of disastrous, God-planned events specifically described in Revelation 8-9, 16.

Most people don't know about this, don't have even a clue of the catastrophic events that will soon devastate this earth. Or if they have heard about it, they don't believe it's going to happen – they are judgment deniers. (2 Peter 3:3-7). They don't believe life on earth will be radically different, that this world, as we know it, will soon come to

an end. Thinking that everything is going to stay the same, they will be eating, drinking, marrying, buying, selling, planting, and building. (Luke 17:24-28). Will they ever be shocked when God's righteous hand suddenly strikes this earth.

Why is God going to punish this world? Because He's perfectly holy. Rev. 4:8 sets the stage for this end-of-the-age wrath when it says, *"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come."* The Judge is sitting on His throne, and He has already told us His verdict, that this world is guilty of grave sins and a great many sins, and there must be justice, there must be divine retribution. *"You have sat on the throne judging righteously, You have rebuked the nations, You have destroyed the wicked; You have blotted out their name forever and ever. The enemy has come to an end in perpetual ruins."* Psalm 9:4-8

The vast majority of people don't understand God's holiness, that He demands perfection from every single person. Even in our own courts, a person shown to be guilty for one crime is pronounced guilty by the judge for that crime and must be punished (James 2:10). But that's on a human level – here is God, the divine Judge, and He examines an individual's entire life, and He knows all their evil thoughts, words, and actions, each one being utterly offensive to Him. (Hab. 1:13). Those who have not repented of their sins, not trusted in Christ, not believed He died to pay the penalty for their sins, will be guilty forever, and therefore perish, be punished forever. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life"* John 3:16; Mark 1:15; Matt. 25:46

God cannot ignore sin, He cannot say it's no big deal, He cannot forget it! God cannot excuse sin, not even one! Because God is altogether righteous, He has no choice but to pour out His wrath upon sinful people, and upon this entire world. The Bible gives us story after story about God judging individuals, families, cities, nations, and the world. Sinful Cain was a vagrant and a wanderer upon the earth (Gen. 4:12).

The great, global flood destroyed an extremely wicked world in the time of Noah (Gen. 7). Fire and brimstone rained down upon those two evil cities, Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:24-25). There were 10 punishing plagues poured out upon rebellious Egypt (Exodus 7-11). There was all Israel stoning and burning Achan's family (Josh. 7:25). And look at the hundreds of warnings by the prophets! God's word continually, clearly, and conclusively testifies to the holiness of God in history past. Might we learn from them, and be holy. Romans 15:4

It's quite obvious to spiritually minded Christians that sin is rapidly increasing in the United States and all over the world. Grievous sin is running rampant, corrupting countries and polluting the entire planet (Lev. 18:24-25). This was predicted in Matt. 24, the most important end-times' chapter – *"lawlessness is increased"* (Matt. 24:12, 2 Thess. 2:7-12, 2 Tim. 3:1-4). God must and will punish the whole world, and very soon. *"Near is the great day of the Lord, near and coming very quickly… a day of wrath is that day, a day of trouble and distress, a day of destruction and desolation, a day of darkness and gloom."* Zephaniah 1:14-15

The day of the Lord was prophesied in many places – Isaiah 13:6-13; Joel 2:30-32; Amos 5:18-22; Obadiah 1:15; Zeph. 1:1-3, 14-18; Acts 2:19-21; 1 Thess. 5:1-4. These predictions, plus many other references to this final cataclysmic judgment are to warn the unbelieving world about what will be taking place. God is alerting believers as well, for we should be living holy lives, especially in these few and final years leading up to the coming of Christ. 1 Thess. 5:5-8, 1 Peter 1:13-16

It's now relatively calm in this world compared to the catastrophic judgments to come, the deserved and dreadful wrath of God that will be poured out upon this earth – hail, fire, blood, demonic locusts, malignant sores, extreme torment, scorching heat, darkness, and death (Rev. 8-9, 16). It's calm because God is being patient with the lost (2 Pet. 3:9), wanting Christians to lovingly and urgently share the gospel with them before it's too late, warning them of the destruction and

death to come, begging them to be reconciled to God, to turn from their sin and turn to Christ, to receive His eternal life and love. 2 Cor. 5:21, James 5:7-11

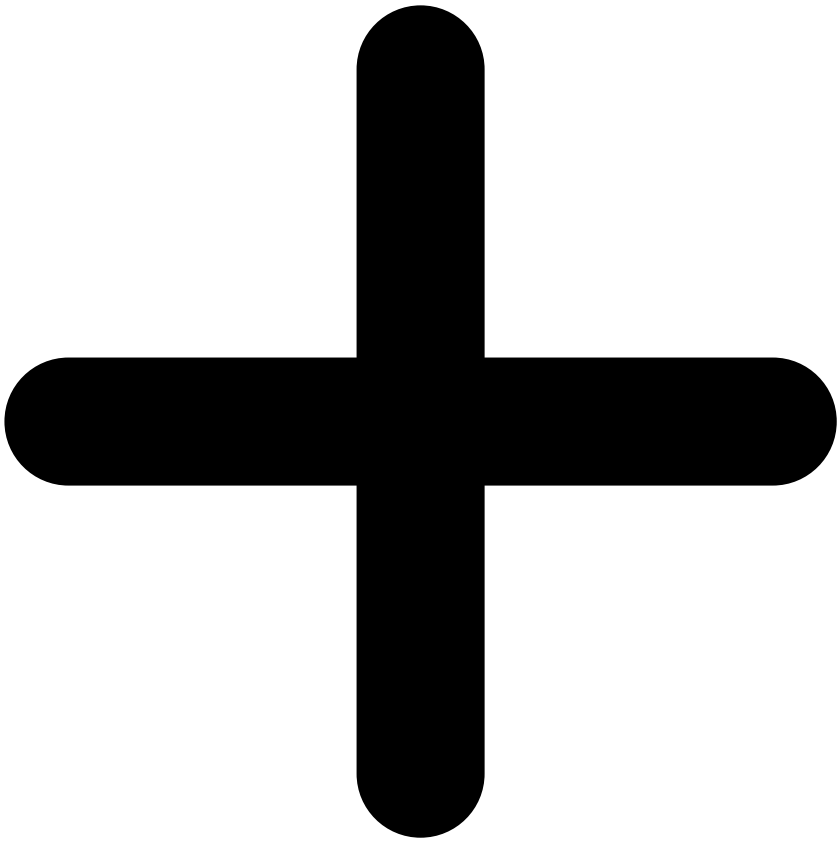
If sinners remain unrepentant and are still alive on earth when Christ returns, not only will they go through the fiery day of the Lord, but they will also go to hell, first to Hades for 1000 years, and then to the lake of fire for all eternity. *"Depart from me accursed ones into the eternal fire"* (Matt. 25:41, Rev. 20:11-14). I hope you are seeing the big picture, the powerful, painful, and punishing wrath that evil unbelievers will experience forever and ever, and rightfully so. *"Upon the wicked He will rain snares; fire and brimstone and burning wind will be the portion of their cup. The Lord is righteous. He loves righteousness. The upright will behold His face."* Psalm 11:6-7

Jesus Christ is returning to this earth to reign as King, but first, He must be a Judge and eradicate sin by punishing this evil world and casting out sinners. God is perfectly holy, and He has to clean house, He must purify this place – then Christ can begin reigning and ruling over this world. *"He will judge the world in righteousness; He will execute judgment for the peoples with equity"* (Ps. 9:8). Then we will all declare, *"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory."* Isaiah 6:3

Jesus Christ is also returning to rapture all Christians living on earth at that time (Hallelujah!), and this occurs just before God pours out His wrath. *"You turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven… who rescues us from the wrath to come"* (1 Thess. 1:9-10, 4:15-17). *"God has not destined us for wrath"* (1 Thess. 5:9). I cannot wait for this to happen! *"'Behold, I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."* Revelation 22:20

P.S. This is a most sobering subject, and you need to learn from it and be holy. And be thankful for God's mercy on your soul, that He saved

you from the wrath to come, and from an eternal hell. I encourage you to read these three other posts – *“The Day of the LORD, the Wrath of God on Earth”*, *“What About the Unrepentant Unbeliever in the End-Times?”*, and *“Rescued from the Punishing Day of the Lord.”*



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