

THE DAY OF THE LORD

The earth is about to be plunged into a period of darkness, distress and devastation which will affect every living soul in every nation under the sun, but only a very tiny proportion of the inhabitants on earth understand what God has proposed to do in a matter of months. Retrospectively, if what was prophesied by God comes to pass exactly as He has said through His servants, the prophets in the Holy Scriptures, we should be very nervous and petrified of what God has proposed will befall our generation of people. We have been given ample amount of time to amend our ways: to repent and heed the words of God our Creator. This period of time is called the acceptable year of the Lord and it is coming to an end. On the heels of the acceptable year of the Lord is a period of time called the Day of the Lord. Consider this passage of Scripture from the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Isaiah 61:1-2 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ²To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,

The Lord Jesus Christ fulfilled this prophecy when He walked the earth and proclaimed the period of time known as the acceptable year of the Lord:

Luke 4:18-19 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”

When we consider the prophecy in the book of the prophet Isaiah, and its fulfilment in the gospel of Luke, we realise that the Lord stopped in the middle of a sentence after declaring the acceptable year of the Lord. From that day until today we have been living in a period of time called the acceptable year of the Lord. What comes next in God’s well-orchestrated master plan of the salvation of His creation is the subject of this study: the Day of the Lord.

We have to conceive in our minds that God has already spoken and given us His word which has integrity and is the truth. God is the Creator and we are living in His plan. This is not subject to change and cannot be compared with anything that we can imagine in our limited

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minds. It is imperative that we believe in the word He has given us because, at the moment, God is not speaking to any of us about His intentions for the world and its inhabitants as He has already spoken it to us through His prophets. He has promised to send us a prophet before the Day of the Lord whom we should listen to. This is what God has said:

Isaiah 55:10-11 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁰ "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, ¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Since rain and snow can only fall in one direction, downwards, so too are the words which have come out of the mouth of God. His words will not return to Him void except once they have accomplished their purpose. The Lord Jesus Christ validated this truth when He said:

Luke 21:30-33 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁰ When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. ³¹ So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

The Lord Jesus Christ made this statement after He had just given a description of what will happen on earth during the period of time referred to as the Day of the Lord. Be assured that what the Lord has said is the reality of what will happen on earth. The vast majority of people, including those who profess to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, will still not believe this truth because the Lord said through the prophet Hosea:

Hosea 4:4-10 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴ "Now let no man contend, or rebuke another; For your people are like those who contend with the priest. ⁵ Therefore you shall stumble in the day; The prophet also shall stumble with you in the night; And I will destroy your mother.

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⁶My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

⁷“The more they increased, The more they sinned against Me; I will change their glory into shame. ⁸They eat up the sin of My people; They set their heart on their iniquity. ⁹And it shall be: like people, like priest. So I will punish them for their ways, And reward them for their deeds. ¹⁰For they shall eat, but not have enough; They shall commit harlotry, but not increase; Because they have ceased obeying the LORD.

The mother in this prophecy refers to the thousands of churches that house the people of God. A mother is tasked with the responsibility of bringing up her children. But if the mother does not understand the requirements of God and rejects the truth - how can the children come to the knowledge of the truth?

Our incontinency, which is firmly rooted in disobedience to the laws and commandments of God, is empowering our grapple with the truth. Our ministers are not exempt from this struggle, hence, we are all stumbling. God has said His people are destroyed because they lack knowledge. Ironically, many that come to the knowledge of truth, then reject the truth because they have forgotten the laws and commandments of their God. God in turn will change their glory to shame. Because the people of God are transgressing the laws and commandments of God and have rejected the truth, God has promised to punish them at the appointed time. This time of punishment should not be confused with the Great White Throne Judgement which will come after the thousand-year reign of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Saints on earth.

MISCONCEPTIONS

Many have been led to believe that the Day of the Lord is a day of worship. For them this day is every Sunday. What ignorance. The Lord gave us His day of rest, the Sabbath day, which is every Saturday. The Sabbaths of the Lord also includes His feast days, with specific instructions on what to do on these days. These are the days we have been told to set aside and worship, putting the word of God at the front of our minds. Some quote this passage of

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Scripture - claiming the apostle John was in the spirit on the Lord's Day (which they refer to as Sunday):

Revelation 1:9-11 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. ¹⁰I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, ¹¹saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

The apostle John was not in the spirit on Sunday - as some might be led to believe. On the contrary, the apostle John was translated from the island of Patmos into heaven in the spirit and given the task of a scribe to record for us the word of God and the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ of what will happen during the period of time called the Lord's Day (or rather the Day of the Lord). The emphasis is not on a day of the week or the Sabbath day. The visions John saw were of the events that will overtake the earth during the Day of the Lord.

Some profess that the Day of the Lord is, in one sense, the year preceding the return of Christ. In another sense, they profess that it continues on through the millennium to eternity. How can this be? If the Day of the Lord is characterised by death, deceit, famine and wars - would it continue when the Lord returns to govern the earth? How can His government be identified by peace? Have we not been told that nations will not fight against nations and spears will become pruning hooks? When we examine the events that were presented to the apostle John, we realise it covers the majority of the book of Revelation - but it has a distinct beginning and a defined end. Consider this passage of Scripture:

Revelation 11:1-3 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. ²But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months. ³And I will give power to my

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two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

One thousand two hundred and sixty days is more than a year. This period of time spans the duration of the great tribulation. It is imperative we notice that there will be a temple of God in the holy city of God, which we all know is Jerusalem. We have to be clear on the fact that it will take some time for the temple of God to be built in Jerusalem. Moreover, it will be the people of God, scattered in all the nations of the world, who will return to Jerusalem and build the temple of God. It will be the Lord who will lay the foundation of His temple. Hopefully at the end of this study - the length of the Day of the Lord will be unveiled in accordance with Scripture.

Some are under the impression that the Day of the Lord is the period of time in which the Lord will deal with His people (Israel) and not the church. This belief is firmly rooted in the falsification that the church will have been raptured into heaven at this stage. A good understanding of the true meaning of the rapture should diffuse this misconception. The rapture is the resurrection of the dead and, according to Scripture, the resurrection of the dead is an event that has been prophesied to occur on the last day of this age, which will be after the great tribulation. This fact eradicates the misconception that the rapture cannot occur at any time.

The Lord Jesus Christ was born an Israelite of the tribe of Judah. This made Him a Jew. Moreover, the Lord said that He will create His church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. This has great bearing on this passage of Scripture:

Revelation 12:1-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. ²Then being with child, she cried out in labour and in pain to give birth.

³And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. ⁴His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. ⁵She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His

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throne. ⁶Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

This passage of Scripture is addressing the church, which the Lord Jesus Christ created, whose origin is firmly rooted in the laws and commandments that the Lord gave to the children of Israel through His servant Moses. As was mentioned earlier in this study, the woman has the responsibility to teach the children the laws, commandments and principles of the house. It is of paramount importance that we understand that it is not about the people but the precepts and statutes of God which the Lord also opened to those who have ears to hear. The woman in this passage of Scripture represents the church of God (which comprises of house of Israel: the people of God). She has been instructed to flee into the wilderness, to a place that God has already prepared. There she will be nourished for the duration of the great tribulation. This place will be on earth according to the above passage of Scripture.

THE BEGINNING OF THE DAY OF THE LORD

There is a particular event which will characterise the beginning of the Day of the Lord. As mentioned earlier, God has already spoken through His servants the prophets. Every event prophesied to occur at the end of the age, and the time frame of their occurrence, has already been given to us. It is vital for us to gain understanding of this information.

The day of the Lord has a distinct event that will mark its beginning. Before that beginning, there are other prophesied events, the knowledge of which should send shivers down the spines of anyone who has a vague understanding of the truth. The majority of Bible prophecy scholars are under the impression that the Lord Jesus Christ has already opened the Seals of the book of Revelation. Those Seals are still intact at the moment because the effects of those Seals are quite devastating in comparison to what is happening on earth at the moment. The apostle John was shown a vision of what will happen at the appointed time. This should not be confused with the reality of when it will actually happen.

The beginning of the Day of the Lord will start in earnest when the Lord opens the first Seal of the scroll that He took from the hand of God.

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Revelation 5:1-5 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁵And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ²Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" ³And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

⁴So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. ⁵But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

Only one man has been found worthy to take the scroll from the hand of God the Father to open its Seals. The Seals of the scrolls depicts events that mark the different stages of the Day of the Lord. It begins with the first Seal:

Revelation 6:1-2 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." ²And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

This Seal, commonly known as the white horse, is closely associated with the four horsemen of the book of Revelation. It has a deeper meaning than what it has been interpreted to be in many quarters. The first meaning, which many have rightly associated it with, is deception about a false Christ which will become very prevalent amongst the people of God. This includes everyone who professes to believe in the true God who created the heavens and the earth. Secondly, the opening of this Seal will be a time of separation. Consider this passage of Scripture:

Ezekiel 34:11-16 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹For thus says the Lord GOD: "Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. ¹²As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep, so will I seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day. ¹³And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land; I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴I will feed them in good

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pasture, and their fold shall be on the high mountains of Israel. There they shall lie down in a good fold and feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I will feed My flock, and I will make them lie down," says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶ "I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick; but I will destroy the fat and the strong, and feed them in judgment."

The Lord has spoken about what He will do at the appointed time. The above passage of Scripture is self-explanatory. Just before this stage the Lord will send His prophet in the spirit of Elijah, as He did before with John the Baptist, to return His people who have gone astray back to Him. Unfortunately, many will not believe the words of this prophet because their hearts are bent on a false Christ:

Malachi 4:4-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴ "Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments. ⁵ Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. ⁶ And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

What the vast majority of professing believers fail to understand is that the Lord has promised to bring back the captivity of His people before the beginning of the Day of the Lord in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem:

Joel 2:30-32 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁰ "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. ³¹ The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. ³² And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the Lord calls."

Not everyone who professes to believe in God will make it to the land of Israel where there will be salvation from the Day of the Lord; only the remnants who the Lord shall call. It will take faith, the knowledge of what God has said and the willingness to be obedient to His servant - the prophet He has promised to send. The promise to show wonders in the

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heavens will only come after the first Seal has been opened and the people of God are in the safety of the land of Israel. This will mark the beginning of the Day of the Lord.

THE END OF THE DAY OF THE LORD

We live an age that includes death: the end of life on earth. Just as everything which has a beginning also has an end, the Day of the Lord will come to an end at the appointed time when God begins the process of restoring the earth to the intent of His heart. This will involve removing everything that offends, which includes the wicked. The Lord Jesus Christ made a statement which portrays the gravity of what will happen during the Day of the Lord when He said:

Matthew 24:21-22 New King James Version (NKJV)

²¹ For 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. ²² And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

This period of time will make all the wars that have ever been fought in the world look like a melee in a kindergarten playground. The end will come in two separate chapters for two different sets of people - but it will happen simultaneously. For the people of God (the elect) it will come at the time of the rapture when they will be taken to heaven to receive their crowns:

Revelation 14:14-16 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁴ Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. ¹⁵ And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." ¹⁶ So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

It is at this stage that the two witnesses will be called up to heaven:

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Revelation 11:11-12 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹ Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. ¹² And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.

This will come to pass at the last trumpet, the seventh trumpet:

Revelation 11:15-18 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁵ Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" ¹⁶ And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying:

"We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.

¹⁸ The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth."

As for the wicked, the end will come when the Lord treads the winepress of the wrath of God almighty

Revelation 14:17-20 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁷ Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. ¹⁸ And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe." ¹⁹ So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. ²⁰ And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.

This is will happen when the seventh angel pours out his bowl in the air:

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Revelation 16:17-21 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁷ Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" ¹⁸ And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. ¹⁹ Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. ²⁰ Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. ²¹ And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.

Those who survive the great winepress of the wrath of God, which will include the Anti-Christ and the false prophet, will witness the return of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Saints. The Anti-Christ and the false prophet will be taken and thrown into the lake of fire at this stage.

Revelation 19:19-21 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁹ And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. ²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. ²¹ And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

The rest of those who were not of the house of Israel, which include the ten kings, will have their lives spared for a good reason:

Daniel 7:11-12 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹ "I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. ¹² As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

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These people whose lives will be spared, who are not of the house of Israel, will repopulate the generation of Satan's people who he will lead to rebel against God and the Lord Jesus Christ after the thousand-year reign of the Lord Jesus Christ on earth.

Revelation 20:7-10 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁷Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. ⁹They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

It will be at this stage that all rebellion against God, which includes all traces of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (including death), will be removed from the earth and thrown into the lake of fire.

THE DURATION OF THE DAY OF THE LORD

To find the duration of the Day of the Lord we have to examine a prophecy that underpins the time frame of all other prophecies in the Holy Scriptures. As mentioned earlier, there are certain events that have been prophesied to occur before the Day of the Lord. One of these events is the Lord returning the captivity of His people. In the book of the prophet Daniel, the Lord sent angel Gabriel to give the Prophet Daniel this prophecy:

Daniel 9:24-27 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁴“Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.

²⁵“Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.

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²⁶ “And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

²⁷ Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.”

The first sixty-two weeks of this prophecy have been spent. The end of this period came at the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ in His first coming. It is imperative that we understand the cut-off point for each of these three sets of weeks. Not two as some have been led to believe will occur, after which the Lord Jesus Christ will return on earth. Yes - the Lord Jesus Christ will return on earth to complete the work God the Father has set before Him on three separate occasions but the second coming will be alien to the majority of professing believers. It is for this simple reason why the return of the Lord will come as a thief in the night to many who profess to believe in the Lord. The second coming will not be with His Saints - since they will still be on earth or asleep. The Lord will return to do His strange work during the period of time called the Day of the Lord.

We are at the end of the second prophesised set of weeks (the seven-week period). The final week, which is also the last week of this age, is the subject of this study:

Daniel 9:27 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁷ Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.”

From the book of Daniel chapter twelve - we learn that the abomination of desolation will be the trigger of the great tribulation. This has a duration of three and a half years or one thousand two hundred and ninety days:

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Daniel 12:11-12 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹ *“And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.¹² Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.*

The covenant of the ten kings will be for one week and in the middle of that week the abomination of desolation, which marks the start of the great tribulation, will be set up in the temple of God. This implies that the first half of that week is equivalent to three and a half years (one thousand two hundred and ninety days). In other words, a biblical week comprises of seven years.

The duration of the Day of the Lord will be seven years. This means that the Day of the Lord is the last seven years of this age. As for the people of God, the first half of that period of time will be spent building the temple of God in Jerusalem while the rest of the world will be stricken by one calamity after another.

WHAT IS THE DAY OF THE LORD

Before we tackle the true meaning of the Day of the Lord - it is critical to reiterate that God has already spoken. The Holy Scriptures are the words of God and they are not for anyone's private interpretation. The word of God interprets itself. Interpretation of the Holy Scripture comes when the Lord opening our understanding to what has already been written by the servants of God: the prophets and the apostles who were inspired by God to document His word.

2 Peter 1:16-21 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁶ *For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.¹⁷ For He received from God the Father honour and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”¹⁸ And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.*

¹⁹ *And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;*

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²⁰knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

Moreover, we have to be adamant of the fact that God is not slack about His promises:

2 Peter 3:1-10 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), ²that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Saviour, ³knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, ⁴and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." ⁵For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, ⁶by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. ⁷but the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

⁸But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

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

Anyone who is of the opinion that the word of God will not come to pass as God has already spoken is doing so at their peril. Why will the Day of the Lord come as a thief in the night to many who profess to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ? What is the Day of the Lord? This is God's meaning of the Day of the Lord:

Isaiah 61:1-2 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the

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captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ² To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,

The Lord, in His first coming, fulfilled this prophecy up to the point when He proclaimed the acceptable year of the Lord. The next agenda in God's master plan is the vengeance of our God. This is the period of time God Has appointed in which to punish all those who hate Him. The prophet Isaiah was inspired to write:

Isaiah 24:21-22 New King James Version (NKJV)

²¹ It shall come to pass in that day That the LORD will punish on high the host of exalted ones, And on the earth the kings of the earth. ²² They will be gathered together, As prisoners are gathered in the pit, And will be shut up in the prison; After many days they will be punished.

No one will escape the Day of the Lord. The Lord will punish the host of the exalted ones: the fallen angels, their master (Satan the devil) and the rulers of the present age who have completely eroded the laws and commandments of God from the nations. We have to remember that Satan is the god of this age for a good reason and it is he who has appointed the governors of the nations.

Isaiah 13:9-16 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹ Behold, the day of the LORD comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it. ¹⁰ For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not give their light; The sun will be darkened in its going forth, And the moon will not cause its light to shine. ¹¹ "I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. ¹² I will make a mortal more rare than fine gold, A man more than the golden wedge of Ophir. ¹³ Therefore I will shake the heavens, And the earth will move out of her place, In the wrath of the LORD of hosts And in the day of His fierce anger. ¹⁴ It shall be as the hunted gazelle, And as a sheep that no man takes up; Every man will turn to his own people, And everyone will flee to his own land. ¹⁵ Everyone who is found will be thrust through, And everyone who is captured will fall by the sword. ¹⁶ Their children also will be dashed to pieces before their eyes; Their houses will be plundered And their wives ravished.

The Day of the Lord is a time in which the Lord will punish the world for its evil and the wicked for their iniquity. It will be a time in which children will be dashed to pieces before

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the eyes of their parents and women will be ravished while men will perish in wars. The Lord was bold with His words when He inspired the prophet Zephaniah to write:

Zephaniah 1:14-18 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁴ The great day of the LORD is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out. ¹⁵ That day is a day of wrath, A day of trouble and distress, A day of devastation and desolation, A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶ A day of trumpet and alarm Against the fortified cities And against the high towers. ¹⁷ "I will bring distress upon men, And they shall walk like blind men, Because they have sinned against the LORD; Their blood shall be poured out like dust, And their flesh like refuse." ¹⁸ Neither their silver nor their gold Shall be able to deliver them In the day of the LORD's wrath; But the whole land shall be devoured By the fire of His jealousy, For He will make speedy riddance Of all those who dwell in the land.

If the mighty men on earth will cry out for help but there will be none coming forth, what will become of the weak and feeble? This is the part of the day of the Lord that many have not considered. It will not cross the minds of many because they are of the belief that the Old Testament has been made redundant:

Joel 2:1-5 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹ Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the LORD is coming, For it is at hand: ² A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong, The like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any such after them, Even for many successive generations. ³ A fire devours before them, And behind them a flame burns; The land is like the Garden of Eden before them, And behind them a desolate wilderness; Surely nothing shall escape them. ⁴ Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like swift steeds, so they run. ⁵ With a noise like chariots Over mountaintops they leap, Like the noise of a flaming fire that devours the stubble, Like a strong people set in battle array.

The Day of the Lord is a day of darkness and gloominess. The Lord will raise up a group of people to inflict His indignation on the inhabitants of the earth. The identity of these people

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is a subject of another study. These people have never been and they will never appear again on earth.

We have to understand that the Day of the Lord is not man trying to destroy the earth. On the contrary it is the Lord destroying those who will not repent from their evil ways:

Isaiah 13:4-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴ The noise of a multitude in the mountains, Like that of many people! A tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together! The LORD of hosts musters The army for battle.

⁵ They come from a far country, From the end of heaven— The LORD and His weapons of indignation, To destroy the whole land. ⁶ Wail, for the day of the LORD is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty.

Just as the Lord has determined to bring a fierce people from the end of heaven to destroy the land, the Lord has proposed to gather the inhabitants of the world for a war by the river Euphrates:

Jeremiah 46:10 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁰ For this is the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, A day of vengeance, That He may avenge Himself on His adversaries. The sword shall devour; It shall be satiated and made drunk with their blood; For the Lord GOD of hosts has a sacrifice In the north country by the River Euphrates.

Nothing will escape the Day of the Lord. A fire will devour the vegetation and there will be severe shortage of food throughout the world:

Joel 1:15-20 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁵ Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is at hand; It shall come as destruction from the Almighty. ¹⁶ Is not the food cut off before our eyes, Joy and gladness from the house of our God? ¹⁷ The seed shrivels under the clods, Storehouses are in shambles; Barns are broken down, For the grain has withered. ¹⁸ How the animals groan! The herds of cattle are restless, Because they have no pasture; Even the flocks of sheep suffer punishment. ¹⁹ O LORD, to You I cry out; For fire has devoured the open pastures, And a flame has burned all the trees of the field. ²⁰ The beasts of the field also cry out to You, For the water brooks are dried up, And fire has devoured the open pastures.

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There is another side to the Day of the Lord. The Lord has promised to protect His people at the end of the age during the Day of the Lord:

Zephaniah 3:8-20 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁸ *“Therefore wait for Me,” says the LORD, “Until the day I rise up for plunder; My determination is to gather the nations To My assembly of kingdoms, To pour on them My indignation, All My fierce anger; All the earth shall be devoured With the fire of My jealousy.*

⁹ *“For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, That they all may call on the name of the LORD, To serve Him with one accord. ¹⁰From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshipers, The daughter of My dispersed ones, Shall bring My offering. ¹¹In that day you shall not be shamed for any of your deeds In which you transgress against Me; For then I will take away from your midst Those who rejoice in your pride, And you shall no longer be haughty In My holy mountain. ¹²I will leave in your midst A meek and humble people, And they shall trust in the name of the LORD. ¹³The remnant of Israel shall do no unrighteousness And speak no lies, Nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; For they shall feed their flocks and lie down, And no one shall make them afraid.”*

¹⁴ *Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away your judgments, He has cast out your enemy. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; You shall see disaster no more. ¹⁶In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Do not fear; Zion, let not your hands be weak.*

¹⁷ *The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.” ¹⁸“I will gather those who sorrow over the appointed assembly, Who are among you, To whom its reproach is a burden. ¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal with all who afflict you; I will save the lame, And gather those who were driven out; I will appoint them for praise and fame In every land where they were put to shame. ²⁰At that time I will bring you back, Even at the time I gather you; For I will give you fame and praise Among all the peoples of the earth, When I return your captives before your eyes,” Says the LORD.*

Ironically, today there are many denominations and churches. The Lord is only seeking those who worship God the Father in spirit and truth. When the Lord brings back the captivity of His people, everyone will be expected to worship the Lord and God the Father in one

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accord. The Lord has said more about the Day of the Lord than any other subject in the Holy Scriptures and it is critical that we realise the majority of the information in the Holy Scriptures is directed to this generation at the end of this age (which is us). Understanding comes from the Spirit of God. Today, the majority of those who are in leadership positions: the pastors, teachers and the self-acclaimed prophets have not been sent by God and they do not have the Spirit of God. Therefore, they certainly will not have the understanding that comes from the Lord. Take heed that no one deceives you.

On considering the above passages of Scripture which detail some of what God has said about the Day of the Lord, we can define the Day of the Lord as a period of time the Lord has appointed in which to establish the kingdom of God on earth and for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Just as new wine cannot be put in old wine skins, the kingdom of light cannot co-exist with the kingdom of darkness. The tree of life cannot exist with the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Before the Lord can establish the kingdom of God throughout creation, He has to first remove everything that offends. Consider this passage of Scripture:

Daniel 2:44-45 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴⁴And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. ⁴⁵Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”

The stone that is not cut by hand is the Lord Jesus Christ, who will return to the earth - not as King of kings and Lord of lords to begin with - but in His second coming as a thief in the night. Not many people see thieves when they come to plunder their goods; they only see the results of what they have done. The Lord will totally consume every trace of the kingdoms of this world along with their rulers and the spirit that empowers the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He will then return as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish the kingdom of God on earth. If a farmer cannot sow his seeds on a plot of land that has not been first prepared, so too the kingdom of God cannot be established on the

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earth without first removing those whose hearts are bent on disobeying the laws and commandments of God.

The return of the Lord Jesus Christ - to root out the tree of the knowledge of good and evil - is at hand. The Lord has said on numerous occasions that He will come as a thief in the night - this has been given to us in the Holy Scripture. God the Father seeks those who must worship Him in spirit and truth. We still have a little window of opportunity before the Lord can no longer be found. Repent and believe God for it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Seek the Lord while He can be found with all your heart.