

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ -

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FUNDAMENTALS OF JESUS AND HIS IMMINENT RETURN - PART THREE

THE DAY OF THE LORD!

Exactly what is meant by the term, the Day of the Lord? This is a term that pops up throughout Scripture, and even in places where it is not specifically stated, there are Scriptures describing this important time.

But is it just a day? Or a longer period? The answer is yes to both these questions. So let's look at some facts. As we do, we will see that the "Day of the Lord" includes quite a bit. As a general overall statement, let me say that it refers to that time of God's judgment on the world and the eventual return of Christ in victory over God's enemies and the beginning of his rule on earth. It occurs at the end of the so-called church age, the time we have been living in since Jesus was first on earth. It's time is very near. While books have and could be written about this time, we only have space here for a few key aspects of this extraordinarily important moment:

- **THE GATHERING OF THE BELIEVERS** - At some point in the future the Lord will come in the clouds with a loud command, the voice of the archangel, and the trumpet call of God. Then all of the true believers in Jesus Christ, the members of his CHURCH, will join him in the air. This is referred to by some as the rapture. It is clearly described in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, and you can read about it elsewhere as well (1 Corinthians 15:51-54). While this certainly could be considered as part of the general Day of the Lord, it could happen anytime. There is nothing that has to happen, no prophecy that has to be fulfilled, before the Lord comes to do this. This gathering of his people could be done by Christ right now, while you are reading this sentence.
- **THE TRIBULATION** - At some point in the future there is a seven year period known as the Tribulation, a time of God's judgment on the world. The last half of this period is a time of especially great judgment, and is referred to by some as the Great Tribulation. All indications are that this seven year period will begin quickly at some point after the signing of a peace agreement with the people of Israel that clearly indicates to the Israelis they will be at peace. You can read about this in Daniel 9:27. Now, you and I can see daily on the television news all the efforts of politicians to bring this about, with various outside negotiators frequently meeting with the Palestinians and the Israelis. But it does not appear to me we are close to any peace agreement that the citizens of Israel would truly believe is bringing peace.

A second interpretation of the original words of Daniel 9:27 refers to a confirming of a covenant rather than signing an agreement such as a peace agreement. Under this interpretation, it may be possible that some major body such as the United Nations could suddenly confirm Israel's right to its land, in effect

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confirming God's gift of the land to Israel. In doing so, that would declare that the world and its countries recognize Israel's right to the land. While clearly unlikely, if that happened, that might bring a sense of peace to Israel.

Why do I mention that after such an agreement or confirmation, the citizens of Israel would have a real sense of peace? Because in chapter 38 of the book of Ezekiel we read of an attack on Israel from the north (led by Russia?) involving also Iran and Libya, and we read there that at the time the Israelis are all living in unwallled villages – unwallled! They don't fear any threat. They are at peace.

This entire seven year Tribulation period can be referred to as the Day of the Lord, the time of God's judgment on the world, the time of God's pouring out his wrath on the world.

This seven year period is one of increasingly terrible actions and events on earth, as you can read in the book of Revelation. There are all sorts of horrors and the people who remain on the earth suffer horribly. But they still have the opportunity to come to Jesus. Some surely will have been shocked by the disappearance of people gathered away by Jesus. Don't you think that some might try hard to seek for the truth using the Bible and whatever videos and books they can find? And so come to Jesus even then? The book of Revelation refers to such people as Tribulation saints.

- **THE FALLING AWAY FROM GOD, THE ANTI-CHRIST, AND THE FALSE**

PROPHET - Now consider 2 Thessalonians 2:3, where Paul in talking about Jesus' return notes that won't happen until there is a great falling away from God, an apostasy, and the man of lawlessness is revealed. I would suggest to you there already is a great falling away from God in the United States and many nations of the world. Surely you can see that, in actions of political leaders, entertainers, news media, and just ordinary people around you. The man of lawlessness is the anti-christ, the evil leader during the Tribulation period who operates under the guidance of the devil.

Many are killed during the Tribulation. The earth itself suffers greatly. All sorts of physical and supernatural bad things happen. About at the middle of the period the anti-christ evidently takes up residence in Jerusalem in the temple and proceeds to engage in horrible sacrilegious behavior, referred to as the abomination that causes desolation. You can read about that in Daniel 9:27. Jesus refers to this abomination in Matthew 24:15. In Revelation 13 you can see how people on the earth at this time worship this anti-christ.

Accompanying the anti-christ in his efforts is a person called the false prophet, a world religious leader. He appears in Revelation chapter 13 and performs great and miraculous signs and does all sorts of evil things. So to put this into perspective, we have an evil leader the anti-christ who strives to rule the world and an evil false prophet who is a strong aide to the anti-christ. This is where you often hear about the coming one-world government and the one-world religion.

- **TIMING OF EVENTS** - My thought as to timing is that the peace agreement is signed (or the covenant is confirmed), the anti-christ is revealed, and the seven year Tribulation begins, all almost simultaneously. I expect the Lord to come in the clouds and gather all his believers either just before or just after this happens. There are several Scriptures that point out believers were not appointed to suffer wrath, that we will be saved from the wrath to come, and thus I expect believers to be gone from the earth before the horrors of the Tribulation commence. (1 Thessalonians 1:10, 1 Thessalonians 5:9, Luke 21:36, Revelation 3:10, Romans 5:9).

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- **ARMEGEDDON – THE SPECIFIC “DAY” OF THE LORD’S COMING TO EARTH - THE SPECIFIC DAY OF GOD’S JUDGING THE NATIONS** – All of this comes to a head at the end of the seven year period at a place called Armageddon in Israel. There the nations’ armies under the anti-christ meet the heavenly armies of the Lord, led by Jesus himself. You can imagine the result. The Lord destroys – kills completely – the armies of the antichrist with the sword that comes out of his mouth, with the word of the Lord. The anti-christ and the false prophet are thrown into a lake of fire, and the devil is seized by an angel from heaven, bound and thrown into an Abyss for a thousand years, which is locked and sealed over him. This day of the battle at Armeggedon and the aftermath is specifically called the Day of the Lord. You can read about this battle in Revelation 19. Also read Joel 3:1-3 and Zechariah 14.

MATERIALS AVAILABLE TO HELP

There are many places to read about all this. The Bible Gateway web site gives twenty-five different Scriptures that use the specific words “Day of the Lord,” from Isaiah 2:12 to 2 Peter 3:10. And most of those very clearly make the point of God pouring out his vengeance, his judgment. Some sections of Scripture that give a great deal of description about this time, not always including the phrase “day of the Lord,” are Isaiah chapters 24 - 35; Joel 2:28 – 3:21; Zechariah chapter 14; Revelation chapter 6 - 20:6; and Daniel 9:27, 11:36 - 12:13.

I suggest you request our CDs on this – *WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?, COMING IN THE CLOUDS, The IMPORTANCE OF ISRAEL, PROPHECIES FULFILLED* – and watch the videos on this subject on our web site. Our August 2013 newsletter contained many prophecies regarding the end times that are now fulfilled or being fulfilled. You can find it in the newsletter archives on the web site. You can always invite us through your church or directly to come and hold seminars on the return of the Lord in your area.

SO WHERE ARE WE IN TIME?

Jesus Christ is coming very soon. The national and international events that trouble most people are events playing out in the secular that line up with prophesies of the end times. Yes, there really are evil people working at a very high level to pull off this one-world government and one-world religion you hear so much about, to create some type of socialist organized state where the government will be king and individual freedoms will be few. You can see that happening, can you not, in the events of the day? I sent out in a newsletter several months ago pictures and words about the Georgia Guidestones, large granite monuments that mysteriously appeared in Georgia several years ago with guidance for the human race. One of the guidances is that the world population should be no more than half a billion, or in other words only about 7 % of the current population. I do not write of other such things because I focus on Jesus himself and his return, but I can say to you there are very troubling organizations and people working toward this one-world state.

As a preview, our next newsletter will present what is known from Scripture about each of the two desperate individuals in the Tribulation period – the anti-christ and the false prophet.

The time is short and Jesus’ return is imminent. He really is coming soon. I know that. It is true. I have it on high authority. You want to be ready...and alert. This is not a conspiracy theory or movie from Hollywood. It’s real life. And you are in it.

Be sure to keep your eyes on Jesus. He is the only hope you have.

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HOW TO GET URGENT WARNINGS AND ALERTS FROM THE MINISTRY REGARDING END TIME EVENTS!

In newsletters and television programs we have spoken at length about prophecies fulfilled and various signs and happenings concerning the approaching return of the Lord. As I think most can see today, things are happening rapidly as we move to that return – both in the Middle East and wherever you live.

Because of an obvious need to get really important news and information out to all of you quickly, we have put in place on the home page of our ministry web site a way to communicate instantly to all our partners, friends, and others who are interested. Here is how it works:

On the left side of the home page near the top, a block titled LATEST ARTICLES contains the titles of the three latest articles we have sent out. The article titles are in red. By clicking on any of these three you will be taken directly to the article in our blog, and you can read it there. **This is important: if anything occurs at any time that I see is very important for you to know – some physical happening or some decision somewhere by a government or some natural event or some word from God to me – I can write it up and post it immediately. Its title will appear in this block on the home page and you can click on it and read it immediately. So check this section frequently!**

Normally the articles listed in this section will just be the most recent of our articles. But when there is a need, the urgent article will be written and posted. The first word in the title for such a warning will be **ALERT:** followed by the title, so the word **ALERT:** will be a clue to you that there is something here you should read right now. We will also endeavor to send the **ALERT:** out by email to all on our email list.

Always remember to stay alert. The Lord really is coming soon. May you live in the blessings of God always.

John

Time to give us your email if you have not! You don't want to miss anything in these days!

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