

The Day of the Lord

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By [Nathan Jones](#)

Vic: Today's topic is the Day of the Lord. As we look at 2 Peter 3:10-14, I wanted to ask you, Nathan, if you would maybe read that passage for us?

Nathan: Sure thing. That's a fantastic passage about the Day of the Lord. It covers a lot information and is kind of a broad brush stroke about what the Day of the Lord is. I'll go ahead and read it and I'll be doing so in the New International Version, starting in verse 10.

"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with Him."

Vic: Man, what an incredible passage! Nathan, this is so good that we are going to be covering this passage, because there's a lot of confusion when it comes to the Day of the Lord. I want for you to clarify for us by maybe talking to us a little bit about this passage and especially the Day of the Lord.

Nathan: Certainly. The Day of the Lord is one of the most often spoken about topics in the Bible, especially in the Old Testament. You can find it in the prophetic books like Isaiah, Ezekiel, Joel, Amos, Zephaniah, Zechariah and Malachi. All these different prophets talked about the Day of the Lord. You can also find it all throughout the New Testament, too, and not just here in 2 Peter, but in Acts 2:20 and 1 Thessalonians 5:2 and Philippians 1:10. They all talk about the Day of the Lord.

Now, what is the Day of the Lord? Ezekiel 38 doesn't just call it the Day of the Lord, but the "later years" or the "last days." Jeremiah 30:7 calls it the "time of Jacob's trouble." So, we know that the Day of the Lord is the last years, the last days, before Jesus returns in His Second Coming.

Jesus promised that He would return, but before He returns the earth will face seven of the worst years in human history. Those seven years are the Day of the Lord. Another term for that is the Tribulation. So, going forward, Pastor Vic, I'll probably just call it the Tribulation because it's easier to say.

It is the seven year Tribulation that Daniel and the other prophets talked about where the Lord will pour down His wrath upon this world for its unceasing sin. Vic, it seems like the world is getting worse and worse and worse.

Vic: Yes, it is.

Nathan: People are crying out, "Lord, where are you? Why aren't you dealing with the murders and the deaths and the political corruption and the immorality that's growing and growing?" Well, the Lord has promised that He will deal with sin, because not only is He a God of love, but He is also a God of justice. So, the time is coming when the Lord will deal with that sin, and that's what the Tribulation is in part about.

The Lord also promises that He will take the Church — those of us who have accepted Jesus as Savior — that we will not have to face the wrath of God.

Vic: Amen!

Nathan: We will be taken out of here before the Tribulation. If you think of Noah, Noah and his family were taken out of this earth before God poured His wrath upon it and destroyed the world for its sin. The Tribulation — the Day of the Lord — is just like that time. The Tribulation is God's wrath upon the world, and the Christian is exempt from having to endure God's wrath.

The seven year Tribulation that's coming on the earth has three purposes.

One, the Lord needs to deal with sin. Sin cannot continue to go on increasing and multiplying and destroying people like it does.

Two, and this is why in Jeremiah 30:7 the Day of the Lord is called the "time of Jacob's trouble." God has done one of the greatest miracles in history, Vic. He has taken a people group — the Jews — who have been dispersed from the land for almost 2,000 years and He has brought them back into their own country. He has given them their land again. In a few short decades they have restored the desolate land, they've brought Hebrew back from the dead as a language, they have a military that is one of the top ten militaries in the world, and the Lord is gathering them back a second time, though in unbelief. The Jews still don't believe in God, morally 90% of them are pretty much humanist at this point and so they definitely don't accept Jesus — Yeshua — as their Savior.

Much about the Tribulation will concern the whole world fighting against the Jews. Today as we follow the news, we see that anti-Semitism — that hatred of the Jews — is growing and growing and growing, almost to the point where society was like before the Nazi Holocaust of the Jews. The Tribulation will sadly and terribly be a second holocaust of the Jews.

God has to bring people down to their knees before they'll call out to Him and ask for forgiveness and ask for salvation. And so, the second purpose of the Tribulation is to bring a remnant of the Jews, about one-third of the surviving Jews of the world who will be left by the end of the Tribulation, to salvation in Yeshua. There are about 12 million Jews alive today, but only one-third of them will be left to survive. They will call out to Jesus when He returns, "Blessed is He who comes in the name Lord." They'll call out, "Oh, Lord, you've come back and so we give our lives to you."

Many Gentiles during the Tribulation will accept Jesus as Savior as well as the Jewish remnant. And so, the third purpose of the Tribulation is so that Jesus can come back to rule and reign on this earth. He's going to abolish human government and set up His Millennial Kingdom for 1,000 years. The Day of the Lord is an end to human-led history.

The final human government will be really bad. All the world leaders will turn over control of their countries to a one-world leader whom the Bible calls the Antichrist. He will rule like the worst dictators of human history. The Bible reveals there will be a lot of death and destruction. That's why as we read in 2 Peter 3 where it talks about the destruction of the heavens and the fires and the elements melting.

But, we know that at the end of that Tribulation the Lord will restore the earth. Those who accepted Him as Savior during the Tribulation will live on into Jesus' Millennial Kingdom. We Christians who have been raptured will have our glorified, heavenly bodies and live there as well.

Vic: Hallelujah!

Nathan: Yes, hallelujah! I know I'm looking forward to an upgraded body. I really am.

Those verses which describe the Millennial Kingdom says that Jesus will rule from Jerusalem. King David will be restored to the throne. And, the whole world will know peace and righteousness and justice with Jesus as King. You and I, Pastor Vic, we're going to be administrators and teachers of the Word throughout the Millennial Kingdom. The world will know peace and righteousness like it has never known before.

If you've woken up in the morning just before the dawn, and you see how it is so dark at that time of day, the Tribulation is like that. It's like that darkest part of the night, the darkest before you get the morning dawn. The Tribulation is the darkest time in human history, but it happens just right before the dawn.

When Jesus returns, He'll defeat Satan. He'll defeat the Antichrist and his False Prophet. Jesus will defeat all the evil in the world and set up His Kingdom here on earth.

Vic: Amen, that's just super cool! Nathan, we share this passage here regarding the Day of the Lord, but the reality of it is that God also has a plan for humanity, right? There in 2 Peter 3:9 he says, *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise as some count slackness, but is long suffering towards us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."* So, there is still a window of opportunity, right, Nathan?

Nathan: Oh, definitely. I think 2 Peter 3:9 is the key verse for explaining why in the world it seems like God is just sitting on the sidelines watching, because He's not. Like verse nine says, the Lord is patient. The Lord wants to give every opportunity to people to ask for forgiveness of their rebellion against Him — their sin — and accept Jesus as their Savior. To be saved is to be saved from the punishment of eternal death, which is Hell, and that's why the Lord is holding out. We Christians as well don't want anyone to have to live into the Tribulation, for it is the worse time period in human history, and want everyone to come to Jesus for salvation.

There are 21 judgments that God is going to release upon the earth. I'll tell you, Vic, between the wars, the pestilence, the famine, the disease, the death and the suffering, just in the first

year half the human population will die. We're talking about 3.5 billion people dying during the Tribulation! The ecology of the world will be destroyed. The waters become by the end undrinkable. The nations of the world collapse, the systems collapse, and every evil is allowed because God's restraining hand is pulled back and people are allowed to live out any sin they want and suffer the consequences. It's going to be the worst time in human history.

So, sure, we don't want anyone to have to go through that time period. That's why the Lord is being patient. He's waiting to the very last second before His anger is so built up that He finally has to step in with justice and deal with sin.

Vic: That's right. And you know what, Nathan? What a wonderful word of encouragement, because maybe someone reading this is new to this concept of the Day of the Lord and they don't know the Lord, but there's still time for them to turn, repent, and call on the name of Jesus. Those who call on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Again, 2 Peter is a very important passage because the Bible also tells there that there are those who will be coming scoffing saying, "When is His coming?" Right, Nathan? There in verse 4, would you be able to read for us 2 Peter 3:4?

Nathan: Sure. *"Above all you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, 'Where is this coming He promised? Ever since our ancestors died everything goes on as it has been since the beginning of creation.'"*

That's the thing about Bible prophecy, Vic. Even though God tells us how history is going to end and how He's going to set up His Kingdom and rule and reign, people are all like, "Jesus was 2,000 years ago. It's been too long. He's not coming back." But, they forget this wonderful thing about God in that He keeps His promises 100% of the time.

Vic: We know that the Lord is coming back because He said He would. There has always been scoffers and people who keep on saying that Jesus will never return. But, the Word of God is true and it will come to pass.

Nathan: Yes, it will. There are nearly 500 verses in the Old Testament and one in every 25 verse in the New Testament which talk about Jesus' return. In the Bible, 109 specific prophecies were fulfilled by Jesus by His coming the first time. So, if we know that 100% of Jesus promises about His First Coming came true, we can be 100% sure that Jesus' Second Coming promises will also come true.

Vic: Amen, great point, Nathan. This is an incredible subject — The Day of the Lord. For some people it's a very scary subject for them because some people are not well versed in the Bible and some are thinking like, "Man, is this really going to happen?"

But, we are saying that there is still time for people to turn to the Lord. The doors are still open. God has a plan for humanity. He loves you. If you don't know the Lord personally, He wants you to call on the name of the Lord.

Nathan, for those who don't have a personal relationship with the Lord, they are likely a little bit fearful. How would you be able to encourage them to start their relationship with Jesus Christ?

Nathan: I would encourage them to surrender their life to Jesus Christ. If you want to know God, and you want to know true peace, and you want to get rid of the guilt from your sin, the Lord Jesus offers salvation. He did so by dying on the cross for you. He gave His life as payment for the punishment of your sins. You were the one who was supposed to die, and I was the one who was supposed to die, but Jesus died on our behalf. And, when we accept that gift and we believe it in faith, then Jesus' forgiveness comes on us and we are made new inside. The Holy Spirit comes to live in us and then we are guided by Christ.

We now become heirs of the promises that Jesus gave that we will be exempt from the wrath to come. When we are forgiven by the love of the Lord, we'll get to live with Him in Heaven, which will actually as 2 Peter reads the Lord will reform this earth and Heaven will come down to earth as the New Jerusalem. That will be the eternal city where we will live forever. I recommend to anybody who has accepted Jesus as Savior to read Revelation 21 and 22 to get to know what our future home is like.

You can have all these promises made by God by opening your heart and praying, "Dear, Jesus, please forgive me of my sins and be my Savior." The Lord will forgive you. He'll transform you, and you'll have a new life and relationship with Him.

Vic: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! What a wonderful word of encouragement, knowing that the Lord is coming soon.

I think once saved that we also notice that our lifestyle should change. We should live being Christ-like, just the way we read in 2 Peter 3:13. One of the encouragement there in verse 14 says, *"Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found in Him in peace without spot and without blame."*

Nathan: We have all been kids at one time. You probably remember either getting caught with your hand in the cookie jar, or like me breaking a window hammering bugs, or something like that. All of the sudden your parents walked in and they caught you in the act. You looked up like, "Oh, no!" You had that look on your face that every parent recognizes in their kid at some point.

Likewise, how is the Lord going to find you when He comes back? When He comes back to Rapture the Church, how will He find you? Will you be living a life that is blameless and spotless as 2 Peter says? Or, will He find you engaged in things that would just break His heart to find you destroying your life with different sins?

Give your life to Jesus Christ and in doing so make Him Lord of your life. Set Him up in charge so that He can help you live a life that pleases Him. That means staying away from sin. Get out of the pornography. Stop lying. Get out of the gambling halls. Don't do the things that will destroy your life, but do the things that please the Lord. And, while you're doing that, share the Gospel with as many people as possible because the Lord is coming back and we want people to accept Jesus and be saved and go to Heaven along with us.

Vic: What an excellent and wonderful word of encouragement! We as Christians are called to live lives that are pleasing to the Lord, especially as we see the Day of the Lord is approaching. What an encouragement for us to be found busy about the Lord's business.

Nathan, anything else you want to add as we talk about the Day of the Lord?

Nathan: One thing about being a believer in Christ is that we can grasp hold of the promise of 1 Thessalonians 5:4 which says, "But you brothers are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief." For the unbelieving world, when the Day of the Lord comes and the Rapture right before that, they are going to be very surprised. People will scream out. "What just happened?" But, as believers in Christ, we have the Bible which tells us that we don't have to fear the future, because we have a great future ahead of us. The Lord will take us up to Heaven. We'll spend eternity with Him, and that will be a wonderful thing.

So, get in your Bible and get to know God's Word, because His Word is a lamp to your life and it guides you so you understand the future, and that's what gives us hope. Christians have hope.

Vic: So true. As we look at the world around us and see all the terrible things that are happening, it's just tragic. All the sadness sometimes causes people lose hope. But, there's always hope, right Nathan, when one turns to Christ and to His Word?

Nathan: Oh, yes, Jesus Christ is all about giving hope and love. He died so that we would have hope and His love, and we should grab hold of that hope and accept it in faith and give our lives to Jesus Christ. That's the only way to have true life, and that's through Jesus Christ.

Vic: That's right. That is awesome! We have a wonderful promise there in 2 Peter 3 talking about the Lord. He promises that He is coming back. He is coming soon. We even see many signs all around us of His coming. So, I encourage people to get ready for Jesus' soon return.

Nathan, I know the Day of the Lord is a deep subject we're talking about here, that Tribulation period. But, you also shared with us how we may be able to escape that terrible coming time, and that's through starting a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Call-in Question

Caller: On the coming of the Lord, Jesus said He would come in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye. What does that verse mean?

Nathan: You asked about what "in the twinkling of an eye" means when the Lord returns? The event when this is happening it is called the Rapture of the Church. It occurs before the Tribulation comes on this world. At the Rapture, Jesus comes back in the clouds and takes everyone who has accepted Him as Savior, we'll call them the Church, everyone from Pentecost up to the day He returns, and He takes them off this earth and brings them up to Heaven.

That particular reference can be found in 1 Thessalonians 4 and 1 Corinthians 15, which reveals a lot about what the Rapture is like. When the Rapture comes, it's going to happen like a snap. It's going to be immediate, as fast as the twinkling of an eye. It happens so fast that you're here one second and then you're gone the next. It happens really quickly.

We know that as we are being raptured up to Heaven our bodies change. We'll get our eternal, glorified bodies. And, just before that happens, just in that twinkle of an eye, those who have died in Christ over the last 2,000 years, they will be resurrected and they too will receive their glorified bodies.

And so, we will be with Jesus up in Heaven during that whole Tribulation time period. We'll spend it with the Lord. He's then going to have a great party called the Wedding Supper of the Lamb. He's going to give out judgments based on our works here on earth so that we'll be rewarded for our works done while in this life. And, we'll be with Jesus as He prepares to come back at the end of the Tribulation for His Second Coming. We are the armies that follow Jesus back to this earth as Jesus conquers His enemies.

I recommend checking out 1 Thessalonians 4 and 1 Corinthians 15 to read up more on the Rapture, or go to website at lamblion.com. Just put "rapture" in the search box and you'll pull up a lot more information about the subject.

End of Program