

# A GREAT DAY COMING

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We often sing a song together that reminds us that there will be a Judgment Day, and that day is surely coming. Hebrews 9:27 declares that “it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.” The Lord warned us of scoffers who would deny this fact, “walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation” (2 Pet 3:3-4). But all things have *not* continued the same from the beginning, as these people are willingly ignorant of the Flood, when God destroyed this world by water (2 Pet 3:5-6). The same God who did that will one day bring this world to an end by fire, and then there will be a “day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men” (2 Pet 3:7). God has “*given assurance unto all men*” that Judgment Day is coming, by raising Christ from the dead (Acts 17:30-31).

## Being prepared

While a prisoner in Caesarea, the apostle Paul was called by a Roman official named Felix to teach him about “the faith in Christ” (Acts 24:24). “And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee” (Acts 24:25). Why did Felix tremble and send Paul away and try to put Judgment Day out of his mind? Clearly, Felix was not ready for that day. How should we prepare for Judgment Day? Christ says we must repent, or we will all perish (Luke 13:3,5). Repentance includes rejecting our own thoughts and ways so we can follow God’s. Isaiah 55:6-9 says, “Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: *let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.* For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Christ has taught us to put our own will and ways to death, so that we can ultimately live. “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. *For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.* For what is a man profited, if he

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(continued)

shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or *what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?* For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works” (Matt 16:24-27). We will all be judged by our works, and there is nothing in this world that is worth the price of our souls!

## **Come out from the world**

When foretelling the coming destruction of Bablyon, the prophet Jeremiah warned God’s children to come out of that wicked city in order to escape her judgment. “Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this is the time of the Lord’s vengeance; he will render unto her a recompense” (Jer 51:6). God had already warned His people not to learn the ways of the world (Jer 10:2). Sadly, they ignored the warning, and mixed themselves among those of the world (Hos 7:8). The Lord uses Babylon as a symbol to warn Christians today not to be of the world. Revelation 18:4-6 says, “*Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.*” In 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, we are taught: “*Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*” We are to be *in* this world, but not *of* this world (John 17:14-16). The doctrine of eternal judgment is part of the foundation principles of the doctrine of Christ (Heb 6:1-2). Nobody can change this fact by scoffing at it (2 Pet 3:3-4), being ignorant about it (2 Pet 3:8-10), or by trying to put it out of our minds until it is more “convenient” to think about (Acts 24:25). That day has been “appointed” by God (Acts 17:31), and that is an appointment we will all surely keep! Are we ready for that day to come?