

THE DAY OF THE LORD

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God has promised us that this physical world that we live in, along with the entire material universe, will one day come to an end. The end of this world will occur when Jesus Christ the Son of God returns. There are many passages in the New Testament that describe this great day, referred to in scripture as “the day of the Lord.”

The sights and sounds of that day

There are quite a few details given about what we will see and hear on the day the Lord returns. The coming of Christ will be like lightning (Matt 24:27; Luke 17:24). He will come in the clouds (Matt 24:30, 26:64; Mark 13:26; 14:62; Luke 21:27; Acts 1:9-11; Rev 1:7). There will be a great sound of a trumpet (Matt 24:31; 1 Thes 4:16). There will be a shout, with the voice of the archangel (1 Thes 4:16). When Christ comes, the earth will quake: the sun will be darkened; the moon will be like blood and stars will fail; the mountains and islands will be moved (Matt 24:29; Mark 13:24-25; Luke 21:25; Rev 6:12-13). The heavens will depart like a scroll (Rev 6:14). And Jesus will come with great power (Matt 24:30; Mark 13:26; Luke 21:27).

Without warning

Christ’s coming will be sudden and without warning. No “signs” will precede it that men will be able to discern. Rather, he will come like a thief in the night (1 Thes 5:2; 2 Pet 3:10). Matthew 24:42-44 says, *“Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.”* The day and hour is unknown except to the Father (Matt 24:36-25:14; Mark 13:32-37; Luke 12:35-48; 17:26-30; 21:34-36; 1 Thes 5:14; 2 Pet 3:10; Rev 3:3; 16:15). Christ’s coming will be like the days of Noah and the days of Lot (Matt 24:37-39). Then, the people continued to do their regular deeds up to the moment of destruction. They will be doing the same things when Christ returns. Luke 17:26-30 says, *“And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but*

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(continued)

the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.”

Who will accompany him

According to God’s word, Christ will not be alone when he comes back. Jesus will come in his own glory, in the glory of his Father and in the glory of his angels (Matt 16:27; 24:30; 25:31; Mark 8:38; 13:26; Luke 9:26, 21:27, Titus 2:13). He will come with all the holy angels (Matt 16:26-27; 25:3 1; Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26; 2 Thes 1:7). The angels will be sent to separate the wicked from the righteous (Matt 13:47-49; 24:31; Mark 13:27). They will gather the tares out of the kingdom (Matt 13:36-43). And Jesus will come with all the saints whose spirits will return to their bodies to be resurrected (1 Thes 3:13; 4:14; Jude 14-15). Hades, the unseen world where the dead go to await the resurrection, will give up all its dead (Rev 20:23). Those who are in Paradise will be with Christ as their spirits return to their bodies to be raised from the dead.

The day of the resurrection

The spirits of the wicked will also return to their bodies to be resurrected (Rev 20:13). Christ will speak and all will hear his voice and then the resurrection will occur (John 5:21,25,28-29; 1 Cor 15:12-58). The dead in Christ will rise first (John 5:25,28; 6:39-40,44,54; 1 Thes 4:14-17). They will be resurrected with glorious, spiritual bodies (1 Cor 15:20-23,42-54). The angels will separate the living righteous from the wicked (Matt 13:36-43,47-49; 24:31; Mark 13:27). The living faithful Christians will be transformed (Luke 21:28; 1 Cor 15:51-54, 1 Thes 4:15-17). The living wicked will run and try to hide (Rev 6:15-17). They will mourn (Matt 24:30) and wail (Rev 1:7) and be ashamed (1 John 2:28). All the saints will be caught up to meet Christ in the air (Matt 24:40-41; 1 Thes 4:17). The dead who are lost will be resurrected in preparation of their damnation (John 5:25-29). All eyes will see Jesus (Matt 24-30; Mark 13:26; 1 John 3:2; Rev 1:7). There will be this one single day, a singular resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust (Acts 24:15). On that day, the world will be destroyed by fire with great noise (2 Pet 3:7,10-12). After this, all men will go before Christ’s throne to be judged by him.