

Wednesday in the Word
Digging Deeper
August 4, 2021
2 Thessalonians 2:1-3
The Day of the Lord

Let it be said first that the majority of evangelical preachers and teachers understand passages like ours today in much the same way. The Day of the Lord will somehow commence with the coming of the Lord and our gathering to Him. Most agree on a 'pre-trib rapture' being the jumping off (or jumping up) point for this momentous time in history. That is the sudden catching up or snatching away of all saved believers to meet with Jesus and our believing, deceased loved ones. 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52. This will be followed by a 7 year period of tribulation or increasing pressure upon the inhabitants of the earth. First spoken of by Daniel in passages surrounding Daniel 7:25 and 9:27. Many other passages fill in the details. This period of time is collectively seen as the Day of the Lord. Understand that some Bible believing churches feel that while all these facts remain true, the timing of the events will differ. Today's text is one which raises questions among some saints as to that timing. We can state that there is a great apostasy or falling away from Christ today but we could question whether anti-christ will be revealed prior to God's Wrath and exactly where does Christ's coming and our rapture fit in? We however will not dispute the teaching of the pre-trib rapture as our local assembly is settled on the issue. Timing itself is trivial when compared to the intensity of the coming time and will be the focus of this lesson.

The Day of the Lord, also known as the Day of Christ and referred to under many variations as a Day of Wrath and fury, a great and terrible day, an awesome day and spoken of by its myriad of descriptions. It is referenced and described throughout the Word of God. Joel, Peter, Malachi, Amos, Isaiah, Zechariah, Matthew and many other books including and especially Revelation make it the focus of their writing. The letters to Corinth and Thessalonica fill in detail. The main theme of Holy Scripture has often been discussed and can accurately be declared as God's love, Sin and redemption, Instruction for life, Relationship and the full story of God's people and His Messiah. A running message through it all though can be seen as this Great and Terrible Day of the Lord. Obviously God wants us to comprehend the intentions of His heart. He mainly wants our relationship. He wants our worship. He wants our adoration and gratitude to be centered on Jesus Christ. Running through and around all this is the constant heaviness of God's Great Day. He has loved His creation from day one and mercifully planned and executed His redemptive action by placing Jesus on the cross that we deserved. Along with His great love however, came the caveat of punishment for those who reject Him. This has always been and still is a divisive issue among the people He loves. The very thought of punishing unbelievers stimulates dissention and rejection, bringing about God's Wrath. Mankind has hence instituted their own demise. A book written some 60 years ago speaks of mankind in amnesia. We as a species have suffered greatly in the past and collectively shunned that thought from our minds. The catastrophic events recorded in the Bible, such as the flood, the cosmic destruction of many cities and peoples and the supernatural physical disturbances of the earth have been recorded from antiquity by nations and empires all around the world. God has placed the subconscious memory of all this in us so that we experience a sense of impending doom even though we discount and discredit these thoughts as silly cultural manifestations. All of us.

Bible believers understand this to be the voice of the Almighty preparing us for that Great and Dreadful Day. Problem is, we believers will evade it through the promise of Christ but our unbelieving loved ones will experience it, thinking we're crazy for believing it. Humanity though is rife with allusions to a final destruction. Do we take God's Word seriously? Do we share this existential dread regardless of reaction?

Let's peer into some of the visionary moments that will one day be delivered upon the planet's inhabitants. First, a sampling of the preparation God would have us settle in our hearts and minds. Amos 5:16-20, Joel 2:1-3, 10-13, 3:12-16, Isaiah 13:4-13, Zephaniah 1:14-15, Obadiah 1:11-17. Now a bit of the detail of the horror of that Day. Joel 2:28-32, 2 Peter 3:9-11, Matthew 24:1-51 (another passage where timing may be confusing) , Zephaniah 1:7-18, Jeremiah 46:10, Isaiah 34:1-17, Revelation 6:12-17. God's Word is filled with this imagery for a reason. It is His will to carry out His plan though it breaks His heart to do so. His Word is a warning but few care to heed it. Finally brothers and sisters, listen to this warning; 1 John 2:17-18.