

“THE DAY OF THE LORD”

I. WHAT IS “THE DAY OF THE LORD”?

This phrase appears only once in the chapter (10), but it is the clear focal point.

- A. **2nd Peter 3:7** *“But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of **judgment** and perdition of ungodly men.”*

The Day of the Lord is Judgment Day.

- B. **Acts 17:31** *“He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”*

We are referring to the day when the resurrected One will judge the world.

- C. **Romans 2:16** *“The day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.”*

Under consideration is the day when God by Christ will judge men using the gospel.

II. WHEN WILL “THE DAY OF THE LORD” OCCUR?

The first half of the chapter is devoted to answering the question of When.

- A. **2nd Peter 3:3-6** *“Scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to 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 creation.’ For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by **which the world that then existed perished**, being flooded with water.”*

Peter gave the flood of Noah as an example that God has destroyed the earth before. He can do it again.

1. **Luke 17:27** *"They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all."*

When He sent the flood, people were caught unprepared.

2. **2nd Peter 2:5** *"Noah [was] a preacher of righteousness."*

They were warned, though, so they ought not to have been unaware.

- B. 2nd Peter 3:8** *"With the Lord **one day is as a thousand years**, and a thousand years as one day."*

God is not beholden to man, that He should abide by our schedules.

1. **Genesis 1:14** *"God said, 'Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years.'"*

Time was created by God and He put man inside of it.

2. **Isaiah 46:9-10** *"I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.'"*

He exists beyond the confines of His creation.

- C. 2nd Peter 3:9** *"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is **longsuffering** toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."*

All that is holding off the end of all things is God's abundant longsuffering.

1. **Romans 2:4** *"Do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?"*

His longsuffering is connected to His goodness and forbearance. He should be thanked for this mercy in delaying the final judgment.

2. **Genesis 15:16** *"The iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."*

God has been known to delay deserved punishment just to let the sinners thoroughly earn it.

3. **2nd Timothy 3:13** *“Evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.”*

Even now, God is letting them fill up their sins.

- D. **2nd Peter 3:10** *“But the day of the Lord will come **as a thief in the night.**”*

Thieves are not known to call ahead or make appointments. Stealth is essential to what they do. This day will happen suddenly.

1. **1st Thessalonians 5:1-4** *“But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, ‘Peace and safety!’ then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.”*

Those who take warning from the Lord concerning the eventual judgment will not be surprised.

2. **Matthew 25:1-13** *“Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in*

with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

When we know something will happen, but not when, we make appropriate preparations.

- E. **John 12:48** *"He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him — the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day."*

Judgment is set for the last day. Whenever it occurs will be the end of time.

III. WHERE WILL "THE DAY OF THE LORD" TAKE PLACE?

- A. **2nd Peter 3:7** *"The **heavens** and the **earth** which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."*

The material universe, including earth and heavens, will be destroyed.

Everything we see, hear, smell, taste, and touch is set for annihilation.

- B. **2nd Corinthians 12:2-4** *"I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago — whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows — such a one **was caught up to the third heaven**. And I know such a man — whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows — how he was **caught up into Paradise** and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter."*

It is important to understand what is meant by "heavens", plural, when Peter refers to the destruction of the material universe. The third heaven is Paradise.

- 1. **Luke 23:43** *"[The thief] said to Jesus, 'Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.' And Jesus said to him, 'Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in **Paradise**.'"*

Paradise is the immediate destination of the blessed dead.

2. **Revelation 2:7** *“To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the **Paradise** of God.”*

Paradise is the place where the reward of life unending is bestowed.

This is not the heaven that will be destroyed with fire.

- C. **Psalms 8:3-4** *“When I consider Your **heavens**, the work of Your fingers, the **moon** and the **stars**, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?”*

The heaven where the moon and stars exist would be the second heaven.

That heaven will cease to be. Yes, even outer space will be gone.

- D. **Job 35:5** *“Look to the **heavens** and see; and behold the **clouds**.”*
Genesis 1:20 *“Let **birds fly** above the earth across the face of the firmament of the **heavens**.”*

The heaven where clouds and birds are is the lowest of heavens, within the earth's atmosphere. That heaven will become nothing.

- E. **Psalms 102:25-27** *“Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, and the **heavens** are the work of Your hands. **They will perish**, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will change them, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will have no end.”*

The durability of the heavens and of the earth is set in stark contrast to the everlasting nature of God who made them. God is unending; His creation, not so much.

IV. HOW WILL “THE DAY OF THE LORD” HAPPEN?

- A. **2nd Peter 3:10** *“The heavens will pass away with a great **noise**.”*

The physical world will not end quietly.

1. **Genesis 1:3** *“God **said**, ‘Let there be light’; and there **was** light.”*

Genesis 1:7 *“Then God **said**, ‘Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear’; and it was **so**.”*

All that is was brought into existence with the sound of God’s voice. Likewise, noise will mark its termination.

2. **1st Corinthians 15:52** *“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed — in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last **trumpet**. For the **trumpet** will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”*

Much as the bugle calls soldiers to action, so the trumpet of the Lord will sound the end of the material realm.

3. **1st Thessalonians 4:16** *“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a **shout**, with the **voice of an archangel**, and with the **trumpet of God**. And the dead in Christ will rise first.”*

Besides the trumpet, there will be shouting.

- B. **2nd Peter 3:10** *“The elements will **melt** with **fervent heat**; both the earth and the works that are in it will be **burned up**.”*

2nd Peter 3:12 *“The heavens will be **dissolved**, being on **fire**, and the elements will **melt** with **fervent heat**?”*

Everything that is physical will face heat, not just heat, but fervent heat, being on fire and burning up. The very elements, as in the periodic table of elements – the building blocks of all matter, will melt and be dissolved. This will be annihilation.

V. WHY WILL “THE DAY OF THE LORD” HAPPEN?

- A. **2nd Peter 3:13** *“We, according to His promise, look **for new heavens and a new earth** in which righteousness dwells.”*

It will happen because God has something better in store for us! A new land with new skies awaits us.

- B.** **John 14:2-3** *“In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. **I go to prepare a place for you.** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”*

Jesus departed earth, unto the heavenly Father’s home, to get this place ready for us. That means the new heavens and earth are not a refurbished material universe. It is all off-world.

VI. WHO WILL BE PRESENT FOR “THE DAY OF THE LORD”?

- A.** **2nd Peter 3:7** *“But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of **judgment** and **perdition of ungodly men.**”*

The ungodly will be present to receive their judgment, resulting in perdition.

- 1.** **Jude 14-15** *“Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, ‘Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute **judgment** on all, to convict all who are **ungodly** among them of all their **ungodly** deeds which they have committed in an **ungodly** way, and of all the harsh things which **ungodly** sinners have spoken against Him.’”*

Well over 3,000 years before Peter foretold this coming Day of the Lord, Enoch had prophesied the same thing. In fact, he did so within the first millennia, perhaps as early as 650 years, after creation. God has been sending warnings about this day forever.

- 2.** **2nd Peter 2:9-10** *“The Lord **knows how** to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority.”*

God has the know-how to make this happen. Despite what some would say about Him being too loving to eternally punish sinners, this is exactly within His character.

- B.** **2nd Peter 3:11-13** *“What manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, **looking for and hastening** the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, **look for new heavens and a new earth** in which righteousness dwells.”*

Those who are holy and godly will be present, as we have been hastening, that is eagerly awaiting, this day.

- 1.** **Philippians 1:21-24** *“For to me, to live is Christ, and **to die is gain**. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having **a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better**. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.”*

Whether a Christian simply dies or the entire world ends, the Christian sees it as the greatest of all blessings, the realization of hope, the final fulfillment of God’s promises!

- 2.** **2nd Corinthians 5:1-8** *“For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, **we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens**. For in this we **groan**, earnestly desiring to be clothed with **our habitation which is from heaven**, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent **groan**, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we*

walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord."

We groan for what is made by God, made without hands, eternal, and heavenly.

- C. **John 5:28-29** *"The hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth — those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation."*

Jesus said very plainly that good and evil alike will face the resurrection either to receive life or to receive condemnation.

CONCLUSION

- A. **2nd Peter 3:11** *"Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in **holy conduct and godliness?**"*

2nd Peter 3:14 *"Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, **without spot and blameless.**"*

In view of the coming Day of the Lord, we must put forth serious effort to be holy and godly, spotless and blameless – that is, morally clean.

1st John 3:2-3 *"Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."*

Looking forward to being with Jesus is great motivation for spiritual purity.

- B. **2nd Peter 3:15-16** *"Consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation — as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people **twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.**"*

Scripture can be twisted, so great care must be taken to use it correctly.

2nd Timothy 2:15 *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

Make sure to use God’s word the way He intended.

- C. **2nd Peter 3:17** *“You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, **beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness**, being led away with the error of the wicked.”*

Saved souls can stray from Christ and are so warned to avoid falling.

2nd Corinthians 11:3-4 *“I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted — you may well put up with it!”*

Eve lived in Paradise, walking with God, and she succumbed to temptation, so don’t think you are untouchable.

- D. **2nd Peter 3:18** *“But **grow in the grace and knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.”*

1st Peter 2:1-3 *“Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.”*

Growth in grace depends on continual learning from the word of the Lord.