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The Unbeliever And The Day Of Wrath

1 Thess. 5:3

The unbeliever mocks at the thought at the concept of the Rapture as well as the time of God's wrath during the Great-Tribulation but it does not alter the facts that these events will take place.

We want to focus on the tragic character of The Day of The Lord. vs. 3

1. The subject of the first three verses is a contrast between the believer and the non-believer.
 - a. The contrast is obvious and clear by the word "but". 5:1, 4
 - b. Paul has just comforted the Thessalonians about the concern over their dead love ones by telling them that they will miss out on nothing at the Lord's coming for His church, in fact they will meet them in the air with the Lord. 4:13-18
 - c. Paul now tells the Thessalonians who are alive, that they need not be concerned about the Day of the Lord, for it is appointed for the unbeliever, they will miss it, due to the fact that the Lord would snatch them up in the air. 5:1-4
2. The time, method and character of His coming for His church, is in contrast and clearly distinct

from, the time, method and character of His coming in "The Day of The Lord". 5:1-3, 4:16-17

- a. The coming for His church is a day of joy due to being reunited with our love one who have gone to be with the Lord and the Lord Himself. 4:17
- b. The coming of the "Day of the Lord" is a day of judgment and God's wrath. 5:9
- c. The unbeliever will be caught off guards as when a thief in the night comes, being unawares, but the believer will not be overtaken as a thief, he need not be concerned as to the day. 5:1, 4
- d. The Thessalonians who had believer in Christ had no need for Paul to write to them any other things about the "Day of The Lord". vs. 1-2
- e. The pronouns "them" and "they" in verse three are in contrast to "you", "we" and "us". vs. 4-6

Having said all this, we want to focus our study on verse three, which describes for us the tragic character of "The Day of The Lord" that will affect the unbelievers who are left after the removal of His church.

- I. The day will be characterized by deceit.
- II. The day will be characterized by doom.
- III. The day will be characterized by damnation.

**I. The day will be characterized by deceit. vs.
3-a-b**

* "For when they say "peace and safety."

A. The key individual will be the false Messiah who will appear as a man of peace, "The Antichrist".

* The spirit of Antichrist has been in the world but the person is yet to come. 1Jn. 4:3

1. He will appear in the beginning of the seven years of tribulation and great tribulation period, as he confirms a seven year covenant with Israel. Dan. 9:27

* This will begin the 70th week of Daniel, the final seven years of God's prophetic time clock.

2. He will appear as a man of peace coming on a white horse having a bow but no arrows, conquering and crowned with a kingly crown. Rev. 6:2

a. He will conquer through diplomacy.

b. He will be received in the place or instead of Christ, even as Jesus declared to the Jews. Jn. 5:43

3. He will be an intellectual genius, "a horn with eyes, understanding dark sentences or sinister schemes". Dan. 7:20, 8:23

4. He will be an orator speaking "great things or pompous words." Dan. 7:20

5. He will be a political wizard "coming in peaceably and seize the kingdom by intrigue". Dan. 11:21

6. He will be a commercial giant controlling the money and tightening up on losses by the number system. Dan. 8:25, 11:43, Rev. 13:17

7. He will be a military genius, "destroy the mighty" they will say "who is able to make war with him?" Dan. 8:24, Rev. 13:4

8. He will be a governmental head as he leads the ten nation confederacy and they give their allegiance to him. Dan. 7:7, Rev. 13:1-2, 17:17

9. He will be a religious movement as he declares himself to be God and demand all to worship him. Matt. 24:15, 2Thess. 2:4, Rev. 13:3, 14-15

B. The agent will be the false prophet who will appear with the Anti-Christ. Rev. 13:11-18

* Just as Jesus had a forerunner, John the Baptist, so the Antichrist will have the P.R. man.

1. He is the second beast coming out of the earth with two horns "like" a lamb but speaks like a lion. vs. 11

* He is identified as the first beast and imitates the appearance of a lamb,

falsehood, as the Antichrist imitates Christ.

2. He is equal in authority as the first beast and promotes the worship of the Antichrist, who survives an assassination attempt. vs. 12
 3. He performs miracles causing fire to come down from heaven. vs. 13
 4. He deceives the earth dwellers by certain signs and is able to coerce people to make an image of the beast. vs. 14
 5. He will be granted power to give life to the image and to kill whoever does not worship the image. vs. 15
 6. He institutes the mark of the beast for commercial buying and selling. But it will be a sign of association and ownership. vs. 16-18
- C. The channel will be the false church, who will be one with the Anti-christ. Rev. 17
1. She is identified as a harlot and the Great Mother of harlots. 17:1-2, 4-5
 - a. Babylon being the counterfeit of the true church, marked by spiritual unfaithfulness. Gen. 11
 - b. A mother not only as the source but one who reproduces herself.
 - c. A woman is always used as a type for religion in Scripture. Matt. 13:33, Rev. 2:20

2. She is one with the beast and the ten nation confederacy. 17:3-6
 - a. She sits on the beast who rules the ten nations. vs. 3
 - b. She is wealthy, brash and the source of all spiritual fornication and abominations on the earth, the Mother of Harlots. vs. 4-5
 - c. She is equally responsible for the death of the saints and the martyrs of Jesus. vs. 6
3. She, the beast and the ten nation confederacy are interpreted and identified clearly as being of one mind to make war with the lamb. vs. 7-14
 - a. She is the instrument by which the Anti-Christ rises to world prominence in the ten nation confederacy. vs. 7
 - b. She sits on seven mountains, the seven Hills of Rome. vs. 9
4. She will be destroyed by the Antichrist in the middle of the seven years, for he cannot stand completion and also accomplishing the fulfillment of God's will and purpose. vs. 15-18
 - a. This is when he will officiate the "against Christ" personality.
 - b. The abomination of desolation is 1290 days. Dan. 12:11-12, Matt 24:15

Illustration

When a young lady is deceived by a man and seduced sexually, it is a gradual advance that is carefully thought out and planned. But the advance is very progressive, arriving at his goal of conquest and then moving on. Her response is unbelief that she could of been so foolish, but the method was slow and progressively, believing that all he was saying and all he was doing was out of love for her, rather than love for himself!

* That is why we call it deception and seduction!

Application

1. Look at the amount of deception that is going on in our day, that is preparing the way for the Anti-christ, beginning with spiritual deception.

- a.** There is the New Age movement that declares that you can tap into your inner self and channelers for direction, wisdom and spiritual energy, while all along a person is opening themselves to demons and trusting self.
- b.** The actress Shirley Maclain is one of her greatest gurus.
- c.** The New Age is nothing more than revived “Hinduism” in modern west dress.

2. Look at the religious movement of ecumenicalism that wants everyone to come together under the banner of love, putting away all doctrinal differences.

- a.** The Pope and the Vatican has made it perfectly clear that “the Roman Catholic

Church” is the rallying point for all religions.

- b.** The Pope is being pressured to embrace Islam as a viable way to heaven and he is in India, even at the present, to bring about the unity of all religions.
 - c.** The movement should not shock us for this is exactly what the Bible tells us, God gave her time to repent, sending many, including Martin Luther but she did not repent, in the message to the church of Thyatira. Rev. 2:21
- 3.** Look at the social and political deception that is going on in our day, it is a foreshadow of the Anti-Christ.
- a.** The man who holds the highest office of the land, President Clinton asked the American public if he could lie to the nation and still remain the President and the American public said, yes!
 - b.** The entire climate of our day is tolerance and acceptance, abstaining from any form of critical judgment regarding right or wrong, moral or immoral, ethical or unethical.
 - c.** The American society, as well as the rest of the world is being conditioned to be a non-thinking people, who will accept anything and everything, for the sake of unity and prosperity.

The day will be characterized by deceit!

II. The day will be characterized by doom. vs. 3c-d

* Then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. (Is. 13:6-8, 26:16-19-19)

A. The judgments first comes by a series of seven seals. Rev. 6

* The manner of the day catches them unaware, due to the fact that they did not believe the word, “Then sudden destruction comes upon them”.

1. The first seal introduces the Antichrist and false peace. vs. 1-2
2. The second seal introduces the red horse, war, “It was given him to take peace from the earth”. vs. 4
3. The third seal introduces the black horse, famine always follows war. vs. 5-6
 - * One quart of wheat is given for a days wages, but the olive and wine, the luxuries are not affected.
4. The forth seal introduces the pale horse, death, 1/4 of the population, which should be about one-billion to 1 1/2 billion by 2000 A. D. vs. 7-8
 - * Notice authority was given again, God is in control!
5. The fifth seal introduces the saints slain for the word of God. vs. 9-11
 - * There would be many more to die.

6. The sixth seal introduces a great earthquake, the sun, moon, stars and the heavens are affected as God’s wrath is poured out and they cry out for the mountains to fall on them. vs. 12-17
 - a. Notice they don’t repent and it is the wrath of the Lamb!
 - b. Jesus said these were only the beginning of sorrows. Matt 24:21
7. The seventh seal introduces the seven trumpet judgments, there being silence in heaven for half hour and a censer of fire is cast on the earth. 8:1-6

B. The seven seal judgments are followed by the seven trumpet judgments. 8:7-9:21

- * The nature of the destruction is certain, illustrated, “As labor pains upon a pregnant woman”.
1. The first trumpet destroys 1/3 of the vegetation by hale and fire mingled with blood. 8:7
 2. The second trumpet results in 1/3 of the sun turns it to blood and 1/3 of the sea life dies, also 1/3 of the ships are destroyed. 8:8-9
 3. The third trumpet affects the fresh water in rivers and springs, they will be poisoned as wormwood and many die. 8:10-11

4. The fourth trumpet causes 1/3 of the sun, moon and stars were darkened. vs. 12-13
* The angel pronounces three woes for the remaining three trumpets which become progressively more severe..
5. The fifth trumpet introduces satanic and demonic activity as the key to the abyss is given to Satan, the shaft to loosen these demons. 9:1-12
 - a. Notice power was given once again to him. 9:3
 - b. They torment those who are not God's for five months, as that of a scorpion unable to die. 9:4-6
 - c. They are as a locust, horse-like, long haired lion who follow Satan. 9:7-12
6. The sixth trumpet releases four angels bound in the Euphrates River, an army of 200 million demons will come. 9:13-21
 - a. There will be 1/3 of man killed, under sixth seal, 1 billion have already died, therefore 1/2 of the earth's population is dead. vs. 18
 - b. Man did not repent of his sins. vs. 20-21
7. The seventh trumpet brings us to the end of the seven years of Tribulation and Great Tribulation, ushering in the Kingdom. 11:15-19
* God's wrath marked the time. vs. 18a-b

- C. The seven trumpet judgment is followed by the seven bowl judgments. Rev. 16
* 15:1 declares that these last seven complete God's wrath on the earth. 16:1
 1. The first bowl brings about foul and loathsome sores that come on all who took the mark of the beast. 16:2
 2. The second bowl turns the sea into blood and all dies. 16:3
 3. The third bowl results in the remainder of rivers and springs of water to become blood. 16:4
* Notice their judgment is their just due. vs. 6
 4. The fourth bowl results in the sun scorching men with fire. 16:8-9
* God is in control over these plagues and men do not repent!
 5. The fifth bowl brings darkness over the throne of the beast and his kingdom. 16:10-11
* They blaspheme God for their pain but do not repent!
 6. The sixth bowl causes the Euphrates to dry up for the kings of the east and the nations under demon activity gather for the Battle of Armageddon. 16:12-16
 - a. Jesus says, "I am coming as a thief." vs. 15
 - b. Those who have not taken the mark are to watch!

7. The seventh bowl, brings a great earthquake like no other, which divides Babylon into three parts, removes every island and mountain and hale of 100 pounds fall on men. 16:17-21
 * But the result is that men only blaspheme God!

Illustration

There have been many avalanches, flash floods that have caught people unaware and individuals who have jumped out of a plane and their shuts have failed to open, all of these individuals did not escape with their lives.

* Nor will anyone who excepts the mark of the Beast!

Application

1. We have our own plagues today of sexually transmitted diseases and people do not repent of their life-style.
- a. The estimated annual incidence of new gonorrhea and syphilis infections in the U.S. alone average out to a new infection every ten seconds.
 - b. More than anything, what has left researchers stupefied is the astronomical growth of new types of diseases previously unknown to the scientific community, such as genital herpes, chlamydia and AIDS.

- * Sexually transmitted diseases are at an epidemic level today!
- c. The projections of new AIDS victims, that were projected by “The Centers for Disease Control” is scary. They projected 33,000 new cases in 1988; 45,000 cases in 1989; 54,000 cases in 1990; and 74,000 victims in 1991. (pp.34)
 * They projected that 50-100 million will die from AIDS by the end of the century. (Why Wait- pp.207)
 - d. Gonorrhea is so prevalent, that fifty percent of reported cases are among those under twenty-five years of age. In fact, between ten and twenty percent of American students will contract gonorrhea or another S.T. D. before they graduate from high school. More than one million new cases of gonorrhea are reported each year and experts estimate the true number is much higher. (pp.30)
 * In spite of the fact that gonorrhea may be treated, 80,000 to 100,000 women per year are sterilized by damage due to the infection. Less frequently in advanced cases, the gonorrhea organisms will migrate through the bloodstream to cause a crippling form of arthritis, meningitis of the brain, inflammation of the heart or damage to other body parts. (pp.31)
2. We have the Ibola disease that has caused the horrible death of so many in Africa.

3. We have the flesh-eating disease that has been introduced to our own nation.
 4. We live under the fear of biological-chemical warfare, not to mention the amount of violence and drive by shootings.
- * All this is nothing compared to the Day of The Lord, Jesus said, “Unless those days were shortened no flesh would survive!”

The day will be characterized by doom!

III. The day will be characterized by damnation. vs. 3e

* “And they shall not escape”.

- A. Those who have accepted the mark of the beast shall drink of God’s wrath in full strength. Rev. 14:9-13
 1. There is no turning back.
 2. There is no removing it.
 3. There is no repenting.
- B. Those who are at Armageddon to fight against Jesus will be destroyed. Rev. 19:11-18, 21
 1. It is a posture of rebellion against God.
 2. It is a purposeful intent to stop Jesus from setting up His Kingdom.
 3. It is a fearful thing to fall under the hands of the Living God. Heb. 10:31

- C. The false prophet and the Beast are cast into the Lake of Fire. Rev. 19:20
 1. The Lake of Fire was made for no one but Satan and his angels. Matt. 25:41
 2. The Lake of Fire is also called Gehenna.
 3. The Lake of Fire or Gehenna is the place of eternal torment, day and night.
 4. The Lake of Fire does not offer a second chance to anyone.
- D. The Devil is bound for one thousand years and loosed at the end to lead the last rebellion then cast into the Lake of Fire. Rev. 20:1-3, 7-10
 1. He is the one that deceived the nations.
 2. He is under God’s control, he was created by God.
 3. He is set on his threats of the past and lead his last rebellion. Is. 14, Ezk. 28
 4. He is cast into the Lake of Fire also.
- E. The unbeliever will be judged at the end of the thousand year reign and cast into the Lake of Fire. Rev. 20:11-15
 1. This is the second death, eternal damnation, separated from God for all eternity. vs. 14
 2. The torment is said to be in the presence of the the holy angels and the Lamb forever and ever. 14:10-11, 20:10

Illustration

There is clearly consciousness and awareness after death as well as regret as Jesus told about the rich man and Lazarus the beggar. Lk. 16

Application

1. Remember back on all your guilt, shame and regret before you received Jesus as your Lord and Savior, think if you had not been able to repent, now magnify it one-hundred times for all eternity, this is eternally without Salvation! Jn. 3:36

* To the church of Sardis, the dead church, He said, “Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.” Rev. 3:2

2. Reliably the Bible tells us that there will be different levels of punishment in eternity, to the one who did wrong not knowing the Master’s will, will be beaten with fewer stripes but to the one who knew his Masters will and did not do, will be beaten with more stripes. Lk. 12:48

3. Resoundly there will be no such thing as annihilation, the teaching that a person simply ceases to exist. Heb. 9:27

* Peter says, “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up”. 2Pet. 3:10

The day will be characterized by damnation!

Conclusion

The tragic character of The Day of The Lord will be marked by:

- I.** Deceit!
- II.** Doom!
- III.** Damnation!