

Prophecy

When Does The Day of The LORD Begin?

Introduction

As has been previously shown, the expression “Day of the LORD” is found in both the Old and New Testament. In the Old Testament it was in the form of a trajectory, that is, having an immediate fulfilment during the Old Testament and also having a fulfilment in a deeper, more dreadful way in the New Testament.

The words “is at hand” in the Thessalonian epistle (2 Thess. 2:2) does not mean that it was happening at that time. The Greek word translated “at hand” is used seven times in the New Testament and in every case it indicates that which was happening right then. The references are: translated “present” (Rom. 8:38; 1 Cor. 3:22; 7:26; Gal. 1:4; 2 Thess. 2:2 Heb. 9:9; and translated “come” (2 Tim. 3:1). So when Paul wrote, he clearly said the day of the Lord was not presently happening at that time.

There seems to be a distinction between “The day of the LORD” and the “Great day of His wrath” (Rev. 6:17). The great day of His wrath is, to my understanding, on or immediately prior to the Lord coming to earth. It will be observed that the signs and time pointers in the Olivet Discourse make it very clear that there are an undisclosed number of days after the tribulation ends before the Lord comes. During that time there will be catastrophic happenings in the heavens. Note Matthew’s words:

- a) “Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. . . . and THEN shall appear the sign of the Son of man in Heaven (Matt. 24:29-30).
- b) Again, “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory” (Mk. 13:24-26).
- c) Again, “And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory” (Lk. 21:24-27).

Many say that the Day of the Lord begins with or just after the 6th seal and with that we are in agreement, but where we change course is when does the 6th seal take place? Almost if not all commentators intimate that it comes at the mid junction of the 70th week and after it comes the 7th seal, the 7 trumpets and the 7 vials. This I judge to be a serious error for several reasons:

- a) It takes the book of Revelation as a chronological ordering of future things and Revelation is not chronological. For instance:
 - ii) Rev. 14:8, “And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”
 - iii) Rev. 18:1-3, There followed another angel, “saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen . . . For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” If this is chronological, at what point did Babylon fall?
- d) If we take the Lord as the Divine Interpreter of future events, then Matthew chapter 24 furnishes us with the explanation of the timing of the seals and how the trumpets etc. work, which has nothing to do with us.

What are the signs that will signal the imminency of the Day of the LORD?

God is exceedingly gracious and before acting in righteous judgment He always gives time for repentance after ample warning. The following are some of the scriptures indicating when the day of the Lord shall begin.

- a) “That day shall not come, except there come a falling away first”, (better, “the” falling away”). This apostasy will provide the spiritual condition suitable for the man of sin to come to the fore (2 Thess. 2:2-12). That which we see today in rioting and evilness developing, is without a doubt the preparing the

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platform for the man of sin. Then, after the little parenthesis in 2 Thess. 2:4-5, Paul speaks of a second indicator, the Restrainer / Withholder who is the Holy Spirit and He will be taken away, “And then shall that Wicked be revealed” (2 Thess. 2:7-8). Thus the chronological order is:

- i) The falling away while the Restrainer/ Withholder is still here. How long that will last is an unknown duration.
- ii) The Restrainer / Withholder (see the next paragraph) is taken away and the church is raptured.
- iii) The man of sin is revealed:
 1. By the man of sin being empowered by Satan doing many signs and lying wonders (2 Thess. 2:9) many are deceived, and because of their rejection and not the love of the truth, “God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a (better “the lie”) lie” (2 Thess. 2:10-12).
- iv) As seen above, the powers of the Heaven shall be shaken, but during Daniels 70th week the writing of Joel will be fulfilled. “The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come” (Joel 2:31, Zeph. 1:14).
- v) “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD” (Mal. 4:5). This is quite complicated for we are not in the time frame when it happens. There is a variety of thoughts on what it means so what I am doing is giving my understanding of it.
 1. There was Elijah the Tishbite, the prophet (1 Kgs. 17:1)
 2. In Matt. 17:10 the Lord spoke of Elias coming and then in Matt. 17:12 He said Elias had come already. This then meant there is Elijah the prophet and John Baptist who came in the power of Elias (Lk. 1:17) and then a yet future Elias.
 3. This future Elias will come as the ancient prophet and as John Baptist with convicting power, standing against the idolatrous population and priests (1 Kgs. 18:22).
- vi) Joel writes, “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my Spirit” (Joel 2:28-30).
- vii) Humanity will be so taken up with an imagined peace saying, “Peace and safety” (1 Thess. 5:3) and are not expecting any divine intervention for, “The day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night”, that is, when least expected (1 Thess. 5:2); illustrated by the parable the Lord told (Matt. 24:42-44, Lk. 12:38-40). Humanity is moving swiftly toward a One world government and One world religion. State control is slowly coming to the fore as socialism and Communism rise. As these are seen to rise to dominance, there is and will continue to be the rejection of God and the Scriptures. This will not happen overnight, but to the unsuspecting little by little until it is too late to recover.

Who is the Withholder/Restrainer, or the “he” in the “He who now letteth will let?” (2 Thess. 2:7)

There is an easily missed observation. There are two tenses used regarding the restrainer. In Greek there are three lines of consideration. There is masculine, feminine and neuter. A piece of paper is neuter. In 2 Thess. 2:6 the word “withholdeth” is neuter whereas in verse seven it is masculine. That is, in verse six it indicates something restraining, but in verse seven it is the person who is restraining. It is my understanding that the restraining in verse six is the Holy Spirit’s influence and in verse seven it is the Holy Spirit Himself.

Another observation is that the Holy Spirit is said to be “taken out of the way”. It is not that the Holy Spirit is taken out of this world when the church is raptured, for He must be here to “convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment to come”, that is, He is necessary for the work of salvation. Thousands will be saved after the Lord takes His bride home. However, those who have heard not just the gospel but have understood it and refused to accept it, they will be the recipients of the strong delusion sent by the Lord. At this time the Holy Spirit is restraining the full flow of wickedness, but bad as things are, they are not as bad as it will get. I saw someone with a poster and on it was written, “If Jesus was here today we will kill Him again”. On Friday, 31st

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July 2020, rioters in one of the cities of the USA lit a fire and burned bibles. The Holy Spirit is letting them have their way but He is restraining the full expression of their spiritual darkness and hatred against God. Only today (2nd August 2020), there was a woman on Facebook who spoke of herself going around churches so that she could put in a complaint and have them closed.

When the Restrainer no longer restrains evil, then the gates of lawlessness will open as a flood of evil. Humanity will rejoice in that they are breaking the bands of God (Psa. 2:2-3), that is, God's laws and morality. Today we see very clearly the spirit of demonic darkness in the belief of atheism, that proports since there is no God there is no Absolute, consequently everyone can do what is right in their own reasoning. The rioters in the US cities at this time (March - August 2020) have said, "The taking of the property of others is their right, they are owed it". They live in an imagined freedom, for a time.

The word "let". When the word is clearly understood it is the best English word for the context. I acknowledge it seems somewhat strange, "He who now letteth, *will let*, until He be taken out of the way". Simply put, the Holy Spirit is letting humanity continue their spiritually downward slope until He no longer hinders them.

From the above writings it is evident that the Day of the Lord will come:

- (a) AFTER the apostasy and revealing of the man of lawlessness
- (b) AFTER the persecution of Antichrist (Great Tribulation)
- (c) AFTER the opening of the 6th Seal
- (d) AFTER the rapture of the church
- (e) AFTER the coming of Elijah

From this it will be seen that, "The Day of the LORD" begins when or immediately after the coming of the Lord to the earth.

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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