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"What is the Coming Day of the Lord?"

2 Peter 3:1-18

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Why does Hollywood love to make apocalyptic movies about the end of the world? Believer and unbeliever alike understand that our time on earth will eventually come to an end! The Bible describes this great and awesome day as the "Coming Day of the Lord," or simply, "That Day." But what exactly is this "Day" all about and when will it happen? In this study from Pastor Austin, we will answer these questions and consider how we should live while we await Jesus' return.

1. **2 Peter 3:1-18** – *"Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, knowing this first: that 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. 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. But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 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. 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. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, 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. Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; and 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. 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; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.”

2. What is the “Coming Day of the Lord?”

- a. Following the rapture and seven years of tribulation, Jesus will come back to the earth with His angels and saints to judge wickedness and set up His Kingdom
 - i. **2 Thessalonians 1:7b-10a** - *“This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed.”* (NIV)
 - ii. **1 Thessalonians 3:13** - *“...so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.”*
 - iii. **Matthew 16:27** - *“For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.”*
- b. It will be a day of wrath and judgment on disobedient unbelievers
 - i. **2 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.”*
 - ii. **2 Thessalonians 1:8-9** - *“...in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.”*
- c. It will be a day of anticipation and celebration for Believers
 - i. **2 Peter 3:14** - *“Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless.”*
 - ii. **2 Thessalonians 1:10** - *“...when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.”*

- d. The current heaven and earth will be destroyed
 - i. **2 Peter 3:7-12** - *"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. But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 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. 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. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, 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?"*
- e. There will be a new heaven and earth filled with righteousness
 - i. **2 Peter 3:13** - *"Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."*
 - ii. **Isaiah 65:17** - *"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind."*
 - iii. **Revelation 21:1** - *"Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away."*

3. How will the Day of the Lord happen?

- a. Like a thief in the night; unexpectedly
 - i. **2 Peter 3:10a** - *"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night..."*
 - ii. **1 Thessalonians 5:2** - *"For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night."*

4. When will the Day of the Lord happen?

- a. After the "falling away"
 - i. The Bible says there will be a great worldwide rebellion against the truth
- b. After the Antichrist is revealed
 - i. The Antichrist will lead the worldwide rebellion
- c. **2 Thessalonians 2:3-4** - *"Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God."*

5. How should we live while we wait for the Day of the Lord?
 - a. Prepare to be mocked
 - i. When Satan cannot get you to disobey the Lord, he will try to discourage you
 1. **2 Peter 3:3** - *"...knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts."*
 - b. Grieve over your sin and repent
 - i. The heart of the Father is that all would be saved
 1. **2 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."*
 2. **Revelation 3:20** - *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."*
 - c. Go after holy living
 - i. Do not worry about the materialistic world—surrender fully to the Lord
 1. **2 Peter 3:11** - *"Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness."*
 - d. Get excited about His return!
 - i. **2 Peter 3:14a** - *"Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things..."*
 1. In the Greek, *looking forward* is translated **prosdokaō**, which means, "to wait in great anticipation and expectation"
 - e. Grow in the Lord through His Word
 - i. Allow the Lord to mature you by spending time in His Word
 1. **2 Peter 3:18a** - *"but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*

Discussion Questions

1. Read **2 Peter 3:1-18** to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.
2. What is the "Day of the Lord?" (see #2 above)
3. Should we fear the Day of the Lord? Why or why not? (See #2b and #2c above)
4. How will the Day of the Lord happen? What might this be like? (See #3a above)
5. When will the Day of the Lord happen? (See #4a and #4b above)
6. Why should we "prepare to be mocked?" (See #5a-i above)

7. What is the importance of repentance? (See #5b above)
8. Why should we seek to live holy lives? (See #5c above)
9. What type of attitude should we have regarding Christ's return? (See #5d above)
10. What can we do to grow in our relationship with the Lord? (See #5e above)
11. Close your meeting by allowing the Holy Spirit to lead your time of prayer.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version (NKJV)