

The Day of the Lord That Worthy Day 2 Thessalonians 1.5-12

[In this passage our focus is drawn to the second advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, rather than to the rapture of the Church addressed in first Thessalonians chapters four and five. Paul draws our attention to this particular event to deal with the sense of justice that is tugging at the heart strings of these persecuted Christians. These saints have been enduring severe persecution and must be wondering when the Lord will deal with those who have ruthlessly abused them.]

[Our sense of justice provides strength to endure the trials that come across our pathway. It gives us hope in the presence of our trials and tribulations to know that all will be made manifest one day. Our ability to persevere and endure is largely dependent upon our understanding that we are not enduring for naught. There is coming a day when everything will be revealed, and justice will be rewarded.]

In addressing the Second Advent Paul reveals Three Destinies,

- A. A Destiny of Revelation (vs 7-8)** [*– And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall **be revealed** from heaven with his mighty angels, ⁸In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: - The manifestation of Jesus Christ. **The Day of the Lord** – The Second Advent of our lord Jesus Christ. This is when Christ will return and be seen of all who then live upon the face of the earth.]*

The Day of the Lord spoken of here is,

- 1. Distinct from the Rapture (1 Thess 4.17).** It is distinct from the Rapture spoken of in 1 Thessalonians 4 & 5 and 1 Corinthians 15 because:

In the rapture born again believers are taken up to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thess 4.17)

1 Thessalonians 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

In the rapture The Lord does not return to the earth at that time, but meets His bride in the clouds, takes them to the judgment seat (Bema) of Christ, and the marriage supper of the Lamb.

With the exception of the removal of the Bride of Christ there is no physical manifestation of the return of Christ with the rapture.

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- A. **A Destiny of Revelation** – The Day of the Lord is,
1. Distinct from the Rapture
 2. Declared in Scripture

2. Declared in Scripture - Things that will mark the second Advent of Christ include:

Rev 6.12

- **A Supernatural Manifestation (Revelation 6.12-17)** [– This manifestation will be marked by,]

- 1) [A great earthquake (vs 12)]
- 2) [The darkening of the sun and a blood red moon (vs 12)]
- 3) [The falling of the stars (vs 13) – perhaps a great meteor shower.]
- 4) [The rolling back of the heavens as a scroll (vs 14)]
- 5) [The moving of the mountains and Islands (vs 14) – The greatness of the earthquake mentioned in verse 12.]
- 6) [Evident to all mankind (vs 15-17) – They will see it and will know exactly what is occurring.]

Rev 19.11

- **A Supernatural Formation (Revelation 19.11-16)**

[**The head of this formation is identified** – Unlike the deceiver of Revelation 3, this Lord and King is undeniably identified.]

- [He is called faithful and true (vs 11)]
- [On his head are many crowns (vs 12)]
- [His name is called The Word of God (vs 13)]
- [He is King of Kings, and Lord of Lords (vs 16)]

[The hoard of this formation that follows him consists of all the armies of heaven (vs 14)]

- **A Supernatural Dispensation** (Rev 20.1-6; cf. Zech 14.4; Matt 24.27-31)[– The Millennial Reign of Christ.]

[Christ will live and reign with the martyred saints for a thousand years physically upon the face of the earth.]

[Zechariah reveals the physical presence of Christ upon the Mount of Olives.]

[Zechariah 14:4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.]

[Christ himself promised the undeniable physical manifestation of this event and the millennial reign (Matt 24.27-31)]

[Matthew 24:27-31 ²⁷ For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. ²⁸ For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together. ²⁹ 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: ³⁰ And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.]

The Day of His Physical revelation and manifestation (2 Thess 1.7) [– There are those in our day who claim that the day of the Lord has already

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occurred, that the revelation of Christ was spiritual in nature rather than physical in nature. They would have to discount the scriptures that declare a physical manifestation of our Lord. Paul said to these saints:]

*[2 Thessalonians 1:7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, **when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,**]*

[Jesus is destined for a physical revelation and that day is sure to come.]

B. A Destiny of Recompense (vs 8-9) – “In flaming fire taking vengeance** on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: ⁹ Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;” - The Righteous Judgment of God.**

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 3. A Supernatural Dispensation

[Illustration - No Hiding from God by C.H. Spurgeon - It was said of the Roman Empire under the Caesars that the whole world was only one great prison for Caesar, for if any man offended the emperor it was impossible for him to escape. If he crossed the Alps, could not Caesar find him out in Gaul? If he sought to hide himself in the Indies, even the swarthy monarchs there knew the power of the Roman arms, so that they could give no shelter to a man who had incurred imperial vengeance. And yet, perhaps, a fugitive from Rome might have prolonged his miserable life by hiding in the dens and caves of the earth. **But, oh, sinner, there is no hiding from God.** —C. H. Spurgeon —Bible Illustrations]

When Christ returns He will come,

Isa 13.9

1. **In Flaming fire (vs 8; Isaiah 13.8-13)** [– This speaks of the wrath that will accompany our Lord Jesus Christ when He returns. Few desire to grapple with the idea of **the Wrath of God** in our day, but it is well recorded in the Word of God. Isaiah spoke of this wrathful day, he wrote:]

*[Isaiah 13:9-13 ⁹ Behold, **the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger,** to lay the land desolate: and **he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.** ¹⁰ For the stars of heaven and the constellations*

thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. ¹¹ **And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity;** and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. ¹² I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir. ¹³ Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, **in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.**]

[Confirmation of Revelation 6]

2. **Taking Vengeance (vs 8; Deut 3.35, 41-42; Isaiah 62.1-6)** [- Perhaps you have thought that you have gotten away with your sinfulness. Make no mistake about it, God is keeping an account and He will not be mocked. He will come taking vengeance out upon all who have trampled underfoot the blood of His precious Son the Lord Jesus Christ.]

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- A. A Destiny of Revelation**
 - 1. Distinct from the Rapture
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 - 3. Day of His Physical Revelation
- B. A Destiny of Recompense**
 - 1. In Flaming Fire

[Deuteronomy 32:35 To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.]

[Deuteronomy 32:41-42 If I whet my glittering sword, and mine hand take hold on judgment; I will render vengeance to mine enemies, and will reward them that hate me. ⁴² I will make mine arrows drunk with blood, and my sword shall devour flesh; and that with the blood of the slain and of the captives, from the beginning of revenges upon the enemy.]

[Illustration - Heart-Breaking Justice - Two sons of an officer of the Atlanta police force were convicted of burglary on their father's evidence and sentenced to two years in the penitentiary. The two boys were arrested by their father in the act of burglarizing a store, and he appeared in court as prosecutor.]

[The father, in giving evidence, said: "I tried to raise my boys right, and it nearly killed me when I found them trying to rob the store, but I feel it my duty under my oath as an officer to arrest them and prosecute. I told them they were guilty and they must take their punishment."]

["There is indeed a real man," said the Judge when the father had finished speaking, "and an officer who has the highest possible regard for his oath. He deserves to rank with the old Roman judge who condemned his own son."]

[Our heavenly Father is not only compassionate, but just. Love must yield where disobedience calls for justice. —Bible Illustrations]

3. **With Punishment** (vs 8-9; **Matthew 25.46; Hebrews 10.27**) [– “. . . *on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:* **Who shall be punished** with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.” - He will recompense them for their disobedience.]

Heb 10.27

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- B. A Destiny of Recompense**
1. In Flaming Fire
 2. God Taking Vengeance

[Matthew 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.]

[Hebrews 10:27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.]

[Illustration - Judgment Day by D.L. Moody - It was my sad lot to be in the Chicago fire. As the flames rolled down our streets, destroying everything in their onward march, I saw the great and the honorable, the learned and the wise, fleeing before the fire with the beggar and the thief and the harlot. All were alike. As the flames swept through the city, it was like the judgment day. The Mayor, nor the mighty men, nor the wise men could stop these flames. They were all on a level then, and many who were worth hundreds of thousands were left paupers that night. **When the day of judgment comes there will be no difference.** When the Deluge came there was no difference; Noah's ark was worth more than all the world. The day before it was the world's laughing-stock, and if it had been put up to auction you could not have gotten anybody to buy it except for firewood. But the Deluge came, and then it was worth more than all the world together. And **when the day of judgment comes Christ will be worth more than all**

this world—more than ten thousand worlds. —D. L. Moody —Bible Illustrations]

[Almighty God will punish those who trampled under foot His dear Son.]

C. A Destiny of Reward (vs 10-12) [– The Glorious Reward bestowed.] There are two glories in this passage:

1. The Glorification of Christ (vs 10-12) [– “When he shall come to be glorified** in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day. ¹¹ Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: ¹² **That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, . . .**” As Christians endure trials and tribulation in the name of Jesus Christ, Christ is distinctly glorified in them.]**

2. The Glorification of Christians (vs 12) [– “. . . **and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”- When Christ returns at the Second Advent all that endured for Him will be glorified in Christ. The saints raptured out prior to the tribulation will return in the New Jerusalem, which will hover for a thousand years over the old Jerusalem (Rev 21.23-27). The nations that Christ and the martyred saints will reign over will bring their glory and honor to its gate, and will see our honor for trusting, living, and enduring for our Lord.]**

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