

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 13

THE DAY OF THE LORD

Scripture Text: 2 Peter 3:1-14



A day is coming when the earth will be destroyed and people judged and separated, some to Heaven and some to hell. Our preparation is to be always blameless before God.

A great event is described in this lesson. In all the great events of earth, none can compare with it except the Creation. Why do people look upon it as they do? Some fear. Others look with longing toward the hour of Christ's coming, the time of **the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body**. They say with John, **Even so, come, Lord Jesus (Romans 8:23; Revelation 22:20)**.

Another essential of this day will be the Day of Judgment (**2 Peter 3:7; Matthew 25:31-34**). What will be done with those judged? Our Scripture readings contain the answer to this.

MEMORY VERSE: *Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.*

—*Matthew 24:42*

What Scoffers Say

2 Peter 3:1-4 Peter, because of his great love for those that have obtained the same precious faith through Jesus Christ (**2 Peter 1:1**), wrote this letter of warning to stir up their carefulness.

Scoffers always have been. Some disbelieved Jesus at His First Coming. Now others disbelieve He will come again. God foretold this of **the last days**. Scoffers will increase as Christ's coming draws nearer and is preached more. The scoffers are a sign of the truth of God's Word. They scoff because they are **walking after their own lusts**. Not wanting to be disturbed, they deny what they fear. They argue that as the world has been, it will continue to be.

By the Word of God

2 Peter 3:5-7 The scoffers are **willingly . . . ignorant** (the worst kind of ignorance) of the power of **the word of God**. They stubbornly or carelessly close their eyes. Here is stated (1) God's creation of the heavens and earth, **by the word of God**—this is true creation, making them out of nothing by the pure act of His will, (2) His bringing of the Flood, by which He **overflowed** the world **with water**, (3) the coming destruction of the heavens and earth by fire, (4) the Judgment, (5) the punishment of the ungodly. God's acts in the past are evidence that He will do in the future as He promises.

God's Time Is Different Than Man's

2 Peter 3:8-9 **Beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing . . .** God is not governed by the time as we are. A thousand years or a day mean all the same to Him. He is waiting only to give us a chance to be saved. He is **longsuffering to us-ward** because He is **not willing that any should perish**. This shows that salvation is provided for ALL, not just a chosen class. He desires **that all should come to repentance**. That not all are saved is only because not all repent and believe on Christ. Notice **2 Peter 3:15**: The Lord's delay is **salvation**; it is a space in time providing man an opportunity to repent and get ready for the day of His coming.

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Will It Be Secret?

2 Peter 3:10 The day of the Lord is one day, not two or several. **The hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice. And shall come forth . . .** These are both the good and the evildoers, all resurrected at the same hour (**John 5:28-29**). **As a thief in the night**—is at an unexpected time. **But of that day and hour knoweth no man . . . Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come** (**Matthew 24:36, Matthew 24:42**). Although that day will be unexpected, it need not catch us unawares. **But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light . . . but let us watch and be sober** (**1 Thessalonians 5:4-6**).

What will there be? **Great noise . . . fervent heat.** Both will be intense. The **heavens, the elements, the earth** and its **works** will be destroyed, burned up, not burned over.

Have you heard that Jesus will secretly catch away the church someday, unknown to the unsaved who will be left on earth? They call this teaching "the rapture". There is no Bible Scripture supporting this teaching. Consider these: (1) Both wise and foolish virgins went together for the marriage (**Matthew 25**). (2) In the same hour ALL in the graves will come forth in resurrection. (3) In the parable, the **tares** or **things that offend** will be gathered together first before the wheat (**Matthew 13**). (4) **And every eye shall see him** (**Revelation 1:7**). To have a secret coming would necessitate more than one coming. There is no such coming mentioned in the Bible.

What Preparation Must We Make?

2 Peter 3:11-14 **All things shall be dissolved.** No possessions left, no material to trust in. When all material things are gone, one really needs the right spiritual resources. What we are now is building the foundation we will stand on then. To have a solid one, our lives must be **in all holy conversation**—right conduct in all ways; **and godliness**—like God Who lives within. This covers both one's outward and inward life. If we are thus, we will be **looking for and hasting unto** His coming. Our affections will be set on things above. If we are to love His appearing, we must be **diligent**—it takes care, desire and determined watchfulness that Christ will find us ready. **In peace**—the peace Jesus said He gives (**John 14:27**). **Without spot**—with a pure heart unspotted by sin or the world (**Matthew 5:8; James 1:27**). **Blameless**—with no unforgiven sins. In and out, we must be clean for God's eye. Only He can make us clean. He will if we come to Him in repentance and trust (**1 John 1:9**).

Nevertheless . . . Even though this is the end of the earth and heavens that we see and the dispensation in which we now live, yet it is not the end of God's dealings with us and provision for us. God's plan for His people is **life eternal**. The wicked **shall go away into everlasting punishment** (**Matthew 25:46**). All people are in one group or the other—righteous or wicked.

We are told, in part, what hell will be like, but of Heaven we know little. We do know that righteousness dwelleth in it, and it will not be ruined by sin. Sinners will not be there to spoil it. But whatever is in the hands of God will be good.

JUST A THOUGHT

Footprints on the sands of time were not made sitting down.

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