

THE DAY OF THE LORD

Scripture Reference: Revelation 6:17

Last session we looked at the opening of the Six Seals and compared that account of John in Revelation 6-7 with the words of Jesus in Matthew 24.

QUESTION?	From last session, how closely did the words of Jesus coincide with the vision of John?

At the end of last session, we had looked at the opening of the sixth seal. This seal unveils three things God accomplishes in order to prepare for the unleashing of His wrath.

QUESTION?	What were these three preparatory acts?

As we discussed, these three acts consisted of the 1) cosmic disturbances, 2) the sealing of the 144,000 Jews, and 3) the rapture of the believers.

Before we begin to deal with the wrath of God, we must identify and define the Day His wrath is unleashed – known in Scripture as the “Day of the Lord.”

Read **Isaiah 13:9-13**. Here Isaiah the prophet speaks of the events concerning the Day of the LORD.

QUESTION?	What events and actions are connected with the Day of the LORD?

According to Isaiah, this “Day of the LORD” is the day God unleashes His wrath and fierce anger against the sinful and unrepentant humanity. Interestingly, what sign(s) predicate this fearsome day? _____

Now let’s read **Joel 2:10-11** and **2:31**. According to the prophet Joel, what sign(s) accompany the great and terrible “Day of the LORD?” _____

Now read **Joel 3:1-2, 12-17**. Again, the “Day of the LORD” is linked with what sign(s)? _____

But we also see here that there is something else that takes place just prior to the Day of the LORD. What is this major event? _____

This passage discusses how God will gather the surrounding nations of Israel to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. As seen in this passage, this battle will begin when, “the Day of the LORD is near.” (vs. 14). There is no historical valley called “the Valley of Jehoshaphat” so we are left to research and make educated guesses as to its location. There are two possible locations to this “Valley of Jehoshaphat.”

- 1) Most scholars hold that it is the Kidron Valley which borders Jerusalem on the east. “Jehoshaphat” means “Jehovah judges” and is a very appropriate name for this valley.
- 2) Another possibility is the Valley of Beracah located about six miles southwest of Bethlehem, where King Jehoshaphat of Judah defeated the forces of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir. (2 Chronicles 20:20-26).¹

Regardless of the exact location, the Lord will defeat these arrogant and ungodly nations.

Read **Zechariah 12:4-6**. Here the prophet Zechariah gives us a little more insight into this battle. According to this passage, who wins this battle? _____

¹ Van Kampen, Robert. *The Sign* (Crossway Books: Wheaton, IL, 1992) pg. 289-290.

The importance of this Battle in the Valley of Jehoshaphat for the purpose of this session is to understand the leader of these ungodly forces is Antichrist and the battle will begin just prior to the Day of the LORD being unleashed upon the earth.

So now, let's talk more about this **Day of the LORD**.

One writer says, "The importance of this day cannot be overstated. It is the focal point of the end times."² Read again **Revelation 6:17**. This takes place in the sixth seal that involves the cosmic disturbances, the rapture of the church, and the sealing of the 144,000. Here John states, "the great *day* of His wrath has come..." We see here that the coming of Christ will simultaneously involve the rescue of the faithful and begin God's judgment on the wicked.

So, what will all this mean for the inhabitants of the earth who remain? Read **Zephaniah 1:14-18** and then read **2 Peter 3:10**.

QUESTION?	What are some of the various images that stand out to you?

Jesus also teaches on these times Himself in **Luke 17:26-30**. He uses two illustrations from the Old Testament to help us understand this Day.

QUESTION?	What were these two illustrations and what do we learn from them?

Here we see that Jesus used the destruction of the world by the worldwide flood in the days of Noah and the eradication of Sodom and Gomorrah by fire and brimstone. The Flood was a judgment by water (which God promised He would never again do) and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah was by fire. This latter example is even more descriptive of the end. Read **2 Peter 3:7**. For what is His word preserving "the present heavens and earth?" _____

² Van Kampen, 348.

Look up and read the following passages:

- ✠ **Isaiah 66:15-16**
- ✠ **Joel 2:1,3**
- ✠ **Zephaniah 3:8**
- ✠ **Matthew 3:12**
- ✠ **Matthew 13:39-40**
- ✠ **Luke 12:49**
- ✠ **2 Thessalonians 1:7**

What do all these passages have in common? _____

THE SEVENTH SEAL:

Read **Revelation 8:1**. This passage begins with the opening of the seventh seal. Keep in mind Who is opening the seals. What takes place in heaven when this final seal is opened according to verse 1? _____

The text says that just prior to the preparations of the angels to sound their trumpets, there was silence in heaven for “half an hour.” Then, in complete agreement with other texts, a trumpet is given to each of the “seven angels who stand before God.” We also continue to see the significance of fire as “another angel” comes with a “censer” or bowl and fills it with the fire from the altar and then hurls it (the fire) to the earth. As we will see in our next session, all but two of the trumpet judgments involves fire.

Thus begins the Day of the LORD. We must deal with one final question in regards to the Day of the LORD. *What is God’s purpose in the Day of the LORD?*

We will look at each purpose one at a time.

Purpose 1: To judge the ungodly

In order for God to be “just”, the wicked must be punished. Throughout Scripture, we know “wicked” to refer to those who have not repented and trusted Christ’s faithfulness to satisfy the wrath of God. The Day of the LORD, therefore, is the righteous consequence of God’s character of love and holiness.

Purpose 2: To purge and purify Israel

Another purpose of the Day of the LORD is to further purge and purify Israel, discarding those who have compromised with Antichrist and refining that part of Israel that will soon come into a saving relationship with Messiah Jesus. Read **Isaiah 1:24-28**. Here we see the restoration and the redemption of many and the destruction of others.

Now read **Ezekiel 7:19-20** and **Amos 5:18-19**. What are these two prophets describing?

Now read **Malachi 3:2-3**.

QUESTION?	According to Malachi, what will God be doing on the Day of the LORD?

Read **Zechariah 13:8-9**. According to this passage, what percentage of Israel will be restored and what percentage will be destroyed? _____

67% of Israel will be destroyed, either by the hands of Antichrist during the tribulation or by the wrath of God on the Day of the LORD.

Next session, we will hear the blasts of the trumpets and see God's wrath unleashed one trumpet at a time.