

## Oh What A Day II Peter 3:10

Growing up I was at times the recipient of the Board of education to the seat of knowledge. Generally if there was an infraction of the house rules mom was never reluctant to apply some measure of pain befitting the occasion. However, there were a few times when we had pushed her beyond a level of exasperation where she pulled out her trump card and would say, "You just wait till your father gets home."

One such time came when she was very pregnant and very sick and we had defied her orders to stay in the yard and play. Joining up with other neighborhood kids we headed down to the pump house to play dodgeball. It was a small building with a flat roof that we could access from a mound on one side of the building. Those who were it climbed onto the roof while everyone else tried to pommel you with dodgeballs. The last one standing was the winner.

Mom was not happy walking the ¼ mile down to get us and less so walking back with her three captives. If she were a dragon smoke would have been billowing out her nostrils. But being sick she uttered those eight fearful words. "You just wait till your father gets home." Knowing what was to come, we could wait days on end.

How many of you have been there?

That's the crux of our passage. Peter has issued a warning. It's a warning to those who foolishly have rejected the patience of God, which we looked at last week in verses 8-9, and have snubbed the invitation of God to repent so they not perish.

God is long suffering not wanting anyone to perish to have everlasting life. We found in Ezekiel that He does not delight in punishing the wicked. He is giving people plenty of time to repent, but we see in our passage today that His patience has a limit. His long suffering nature has a time table for the

wicked.

Let's read our verse and then discuss its implication and application.

II Peter 3:10

This morning we'll look at the day of the Lord. We'll consider the what, the when, and the why unwrapping four truths about this event.

The day of the Lord is a factual day

The day of the Lord is a future day

The day of the Lord is a fearful day

The day of the Lord is a fateful day

### I. THE DAY OF THE FACTUAL DAY

Notice that Peter begins with a conjunction bridging verses 8-9 with verse 10. Verse 10 stands in stark contrast to verses 8-9.

Where verses 8-9 speak of God's great patience, verse 10 speaks of God's great punishment.

Where verses 8-9 speak of man's repentance, verse 10 speaks of man's retribution.

Where verses 8-9 speak of God's slowness, verse 10 speaks of God's swiftness.

Now before we go any further it would be good to identify or discuss what is meant by the day of the Lord. But in order to do that we need to distinguish the day of the Lord from another day called the day of Christ or the day of Jesus Christ or the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Simply put, the day of Christ is a day that is reserved for believers when Christ comes for them as He promised. It is always referred to as a day of blessing and reward. The term day of Christ appears in a number of passages.

I Corinthians 1:8

II Corinthians 1:14

Philippians 1:6, 10

Philippians 2:16

That the day of Christ is meant solely for the Church comprised of those who have believed by faith in Christ.

Jesus spoke of that day in John 14:1-4.

The angels spoke of that day in Acts 1:11.

Paul spoke of that day in I Corinthians 15:51-57 and in I Thessalonians 4:16-17.

If you read through I Thessalonians you will note that at the end of each chapter he refers to the coming of Christ for His saints and especially the end of chapter 1 where he says we will be rescued from the wrath to come.

He wrote his second letter to the Thessalonians to refute false teachers who were claiming that Christ had already come again.

The day of Christ is reserved specifically and only for believers while the day of the Lord is a day reserved for the unbeliever. It is a day of.

The day of the Lord is factual. Let me give you four reasons.

#### A. It's Factual Because Of Prophecy Completed

If we want to affirm the facts of any future event or events in Scripture all we need to do is look at the events that were promised and that happened.

When it comes to prophecy, the Bible is 100% accurate. Not one has failed to take place.

God promised He would destroy the world with a global flood and spare any who entered the Ark. The floods came and Noah and his family survived. God promised Abraham an heir. Even in his old age at 100, 25 years after the promise, that promise was fulfilled.

God stated that His people would be led to a nation and live there 400 years after which they would be delivered. Moses fulfilled that promise.

God stated that for its sins, Israel would be led away captive by Assyria.

God stated that for its sins, Judah would be led away captive by Babylon.

Through Daniel the promise of successive nations would rise to rule – the Persian empire, the Greek empire and the Roman empire.

Through Isaiah God promised the Messiah would arrive. 600 years Christ was born.

Through Micah God provided the birthplace of the Messiah.

We can talk about all the promises of the Old Testament that were given and their fulfillment. Prophetic history is an accurate barometer of the future day of the Lord. The day of the Lord is factual because of prophecy that has been completed.

#### B. It's Factual Because Of The Person Of Christ

The person of Christ Himself bears testimony to the reality of a day coming of unimaginable wrath. The sinless Son of Man, God Himself does not lie. He who has been tempted in every way that we are yet without sin can be trusted. His word is truth. He who is the Lamb of God without blemish or spot, the righteous one who died for the unrighteous always and only speaks the truth. Because of who He is we can know for certain that what He says is true. His character bears testimony of Him and therefore we can trust the fact of the day of the Lord because of the person of Christ. So we can believe the promise of Christ because of His character.

#### C. It's Factual Because Of The Promise Of Christ

In Matthew 23 just openly and vehemently attacked the religious establishment for their spiritual blindness, for their resistance to the truth that He was the Messiah. He unleashed a series of woes on them and called them snakes and hypocrites.

Following this verbal tongue lashing Jesus and His disciples left the temple. They made a comment about the buildings that made up the Temple. Jesus warned them that everything they were holding in such awe would be torn down stone by stone.

Traveling on the Mt. of Olives they asked Jesus to explain the signs that would come ushering in the end of the age. Matthew 24 is a description of the day of the Lord. Jesus spoke about it in a way that indicated an event that was yet future, but one that

would surely take place. In verse 35 He says “Heaven and earth may pass away, but My words will never pass away.” Now notice verse 36: “No one knows about that day or hour, even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” In the verses that follow He says that in the end it will be just like the days of Noah. People will be living their lives without a care in the world, never giving a second thought that the end is near or that their demise is coming. They will give no second thought to eternity.

The day of the Lord is factual because of Christ’s promise. He said it would happen.

#### D. It’s Factual Because Of The Power Of Christ

People have made lots of promises they couldn’t keep.

I could promise you a million dollars but you won’t get it, because I don’t have it.

We have some folks in Scripture who made some promises they couldn’t keep.

One such example was the promise made by King Sennacherib of Assyria. He had conquered many of the nations surrounding him and boasted his military prowess. He marched on Jerusalem, surrounded the city. His military leaders taunted the city’s leaders to surrender. They claimed that none of the gods of the other surrounding nations were able to save them so what made Jerusalem think that their God could spare them from the inevitable. When they heard that the king of Egypt was marching on them they left vowing to return which they did. King Hezekiah earnestly prayed for God’s deliverance. God heard his prayer and gave a reply through Isaiah. We read about it in Isaiah 37. In the end of that chapter it says that the Lord sent His angel throughout the Assyrian army and put to death 180,000 soldiers. When they woke the next morning and found all those dead bodies that had no recourse but to break camp and head back to Assyria totally crushed. The next day Sennacherib was put to death by two of his sons.

Christ who spoke and brought the worlds into existence has the power to do what He says.

Christ who spoke and healed many, who blessed fish and bread and fed thousands, who spoke and demons fled, who spoke and raised the dead has the power to do what He says.

The day of the Lord is factual because of the power of Christ.

The day of the Lord is a factual day.

The day of the Lord is a future day.

## II. THE DAY OF THE LORD IS A FUTURE DAY

“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief.”

The day of the Lord will come just like a thief.

When does a thief come? It happens when you least expect it. It happens when you aren’t prepared.

They don’t announce they’re arrival.

They don’t send a note telling you the day or time.

They make it a total surprise.

Again, Jesus said that no one knows the day or hour. Even the disciples just before the ascension of Jesus wanted to know and He told them it wasn’t for them to know.

People need to stop trying to guess because they are always wrong.

In A.D. 500 Three Christian theologians speculated that Jesus would return that year based on the dimensions of the Ark. While the ark floated, that theory sunk.

Beatus of Liebana, a Spanish monk told a crowd Christ would return April 6, 793.

Pope Sylvester II predicted it would happen January 1, 1000, a thousand years after Jesus’s birth. When that past other theorists predicted it would be 1033 or one thousand years after His death.

Astrologer Johann Stoffler predicted it would happen February 20, 1524 based on the planetary alignment of Pisces.

Mathematician Michael Stifel said it would happen at 8:00 a.m., October 19, 1533.

John Wesley predicted the Lord’s return in 1836.

There are many more who have made predictions including Isaac Watts and Jerry Falwell. Others have falsely predicted dates they say will happen in the future.

That our passage says the day of the Lord will come is not only a prediction that it is still in the future, and every day is a day closer to it happening, that phrase is also a promise that it will happen.

Here's what Scripture has to say.

Isaiah 13:6 "Wail, for the day of the Lord is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty."

Ezekiel 30:2-3 "Wail and say, 'Alas for that day!' For the day is near, the day of the Lord is near – a day of clouds, a time of doom for the nations."

Joel 1:15 "Alas for that day! For the day of the Lord is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty."

Joel 2:30-31 "I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord."

Joel 3:14 "Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision."

Zechariah 14:1

Malachi 4:1, 5

In the Old Testament it is called the day of doom six times.

In the New Testament it is called the day of wrath; the day of visitation; the great day of God, the Almighty (Revelation 16:14).

In the Old Testament a prophecy may be a double prophecy meaning that there is a near and far prophecy in the same verse. That means the prophet was giving a word that would happen to the nation then but would also happen in the future. He could be referring to a nation's destruction in the near

future and at the same time be speaking about destruction that would happen along ways off. The book of Joel is such a prophecy speaking both of the destruction of Judah for its sins and then prophetically speaking of what is still yet future in the day of the Lord that hasn't happened yet.

The day of the Lord is a future day. It will happen because it has been decreed to happen. Nothing will alter God's plans or purpose.

The day of the Lord is a fearful day.

### III. THE DAY OF THE LORD IS A FEARFUL DAY

Let's look at our verse again.

"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare."

There is some disagreement among scholars as to what Peter means here.

Keep in mind why Peter has written this letter. In chapter 1 Peter told them that they have everything they need to live a godly life including all the great and precious promises that make it possible to live for Christ. In chapter 2 he issued a warning to the believers that there would be false teachers among them and tells them what to look for so they can be prepared and stand strong in their faith. He reminded them about things they would teach. They would deny and despise Christ. He reminded them about their character that their motivation was about seducing people weak in the faith to milk them of their money and to engage in immoral activity with others all in the name of faith. Then in chapter 3 Peter told them what would happen to those false teachers and any who reject Christ. Judgment is coming. Until that day, God continues to exhibit patience in order for people to repent. Unfortunately, many will continue to reject His offer of salvation and so a day has been established when He will unleash His wrath.

John MacArthur describes it as a day in which God will completely destroy His enemies, vindicate His name, reveal His glory and establish His kingdom.

Peter gives us a simple yet powerful picture of what that day will look like. To sum it all up he says it will be a day of total destruction. Peter is attempting to spare new believers from being carried away by false teachers by telling them what will happen. Essentially everything the false teachers and really anyone without Christ is pinning their hopes on, working to build some little kingdom of their own here on earth, all of that will be destroyed. It will be exposed for what it is, it will be laid bare and it will be obliterated. Build your house on the rock and your house will survive. Build it on sand and it will be destroyed.

Peter is simply saying that everything these false teachers loved was going to burn up. It's a warning to anyone and everyone not to give yourself to the world's pleasures or to the accumulation of money or building a monument to yourself. It's all going to be destroyed. Nothing will remain.

The Eiffel tower – gone

The Statue of Liberty – gone

The Empire State building – gone

The Great pyramids – gone

Stock portfolios – gone

Bank accounts – gone

Gold reserves – gone

Anything and everything – gone

On July 16, 1945 at 5:20 a.m. the first atomic bomb exploded at an experimental site in the New Mexico wilderness. An enormous tower with 10" rails weighing 90 lbs. per foot was built from which to drop the bomb. When it exploded the tower was vaporized and its debris tossed seven miles into the sky. Where the tower stood was a hole 60 feet deep and 5,000 feet wide. For 18,000 feet in all directions the ground was boiled, fused or melted into glass.

On August 6, 1945 the first bomb was dropped on

Hiroshima, Japan. A city of 350,000 people was completely leveled.

On August 9 the second bomb, a plutonium bomb, was dropped on Nagasaki with the same results.

In 1949 the hydrogen bomb was tested on an isolated island in the Pacific, which ripped the one mile island right out of the water leaving a 175 foot crater in the ocean floor big enough to hold fourteen Pentagon buildings.

Peter briefly describes this event as causing the heavens to disappear with a roar or with a loud noise. That word in the Greek is onomatopoeic meaning that the word itself describes it. It's like the word buzz. Say it and you automatically think of the buzzing sound a bee makes.

When the first atomic bomb was tested, those who witnessed it described hearing a whizzing and cracking sound. The Greek word was used to describe the rapid sound of a bird's wings in flight or the noise of thunder.

Peter says that the earth's elements will be destroyed by fire. Most scholars believe it is referring to the celestial bodies. Other scholars take their view from what the Greeks believed comprised the four main elements: earth, air, water and fire that make up the universe. Still others believe it speaks of the compound elements that make up everything like hydrogen and atoms or the basic atomic components.

There are a lot of passages we could look at which describe in detail what the day of the Lord will look like and for a full description you can read Revelation 4-19. But let's turn to three Old Testament passages.

Amos 5:18-20

Joel 2:1-11, 30-31

Zephaniah 1:14-18

It will be a nightmarish event the likes of which mankind has never seen, a time in which God will pour out His fury because of the indifference to His patient waiting and warnings to repent.

It will be a time after which God will create a new heaven and a new earth for the old will cease to exist. Some scholars believe that II Peter 3:10 and even Revelation 21:1 isn't referring to an actual newly created heaven and earth, but a refurbishing of what currently exists, sort of like taking an old car and fixing it up with some new parts and paint. God will use the basic building blocks and just put a new paint job on the surface.

I take it to mean that new means new not refurbished.

Let me just say here four things about the day of the Lord.

The day of the Lord is clear.

The day of the Lord is catastrophic.

The day of the Lord is climactic.

The day of the Lord is condemnatory.

The description alone throughout the pages of Scripture should be compelling enough for people to repent and avoid such a horrific and catastrophic event. But sadly many will continue on as in the days of Noah completely ignoring all the warnings. That leads us to our final point.

The day of the Lord is a fateful day.

#### IV. THE DAY OF THE LORD IS A FATEFUL DAY

It is a fateful day because it marks the climax of God's redemptive plan in history. An unbelieving world will feel the wrath of God and it will culminate in the judgment of God finding their names absent from the Lambs book of life as they are cast into the lake of fire for eternity. Final judgment will be rendered and the gavel's echoing sound will ominously ring from the Judge's bench declaring them guilty as charged as their sentence is not only given, it is carried out. There will never be another opportunity for them to repent. Enough warning has been given.

Now is the day to repent.

Now is the day to call on the name of the Lord.

Joel 2:12-13 "'Even now,' declares the Lord, 'return to Me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.' Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity."

Joel 2:32 "And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Joel 3:16b "But the Lord will be a refuge for His people..."

The day of the Lord isn't here yet, but that doesn't mean a decision to repent should be delayed. That day can come unexpectedly, like a thief, so if you haven't yet, call on the name of the Lord to be saved. If you have, give the Lord thanks that you'll miss that terrible day, but then be urgently telling others about that fearful day of the Lord. God is patiently waiting for more to repent and not perish.