



The **day** of the **Lord**

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Alive Ministries South Africa

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Dear friends,

Oh happy day, oh happy day, when Jesus washed my sins away! The beautiful song about the victory of Jesus at the mighty cross with His first coming. Psalm 118 is confirming this: *I will praise You, for You have answered me, and have become my salvation. The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing; It is marvelous in our eyes. **This is the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it** (Psalm 118:21-24).* It is party time, you know it is the day of my Lord, you know, the risen Christ, my Savior, my Prince of Peace, my King sitting on the throne of David since 2000 years (Acts 2:29-34). Endless grace to be a child of THE MOST HIGH, THE NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES, THE GREAT I AM. It is worthwhile to celebrate this each Sunday, on the day of my Lord, the day the Lord has made!! **Let us rejoice and be glad!**

The day of the Lord, reflecting God's program for the end of ages. It is very important to define '**the end of ages**'. *But now, once **at the end of the ages**, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself (Hebrews 9:26). But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: And it shall come to pass **in the last days**, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh (Acts 2:16-17). But when **the fullness of the time had come**, God sent forth His Son (Galatians 4: 4).* The Bible teaches us that the 'end of time' has begun at the beginning of our era, actually all mentioned verses happened 2000 years ago, in the first century. The day of the Lord is also strongly related with judgment with Jesus first and second coming.

The day of the Lord with Jesus first coming.

The whole Old Testament is pointing to Jesus first coming, the day of the Lord. One of this well know phrases regarding the big day of the Lord is coming from the prophet Malachi: ¹ *"For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, ⁵ Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD (Malachi 4: 1, 5).* Matthew is confirming the fulfillment of these prophesy of Malachi with Jesus first coming, 2000 years ago: ¹⁰ *And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" ¹¹ Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. ¹² **But I say to you that Elijah has come already**, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands." ¹³ **Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist (Matthew 17:11-13).** The prophet Malachi was speaking about John the Baptist, who certainly came before Jesus first coming, before the great day of the Lord, 2000 years ago.*

Well, what happened at these day of the Lord with Jesus first coming:

- *Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life (Romans 5:18). **Jesus, the Christ, our Mediator has been judged**, resulting in justification for us. Amazing he, the writer is mentioning this work of Jesus: a righteous act and a free gift. Thank you Jesus! That is real love.*
- *Jesus predicts His death on the cross: Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. ³² And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself. " ³³ This He said, signifying by what death He would die (John 12:31-32). When Jesus took the victory at Calvary, **Satan was cut down to the ground**, not able to accuse us anymore. *And when He (the Holy Spirit) has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹ of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹ of **judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged** (John 16:8-11). Jesus is very clear: **now, 2000 years ago is the judgment of this world, the big day of the Lord** and John is confirming why: "because the ruler of this world is judged". That's it!! Don't forget: ... the everlasting fire is prepared for the devil and his angels**

(Matthew 25:41), and not intended for the humans. **God's judgments guaranties the absence of sin and evil on the new heaven and earth!**

- ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, ¹⁹ **by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison (Hades),** ²⁰ **who formerly were disobedient**, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water (1 Peter 3: 18-20). **A final offer of salvation with Jesus first coming for those who did not accept Jesus (the law) during their life on earth in the Old Testament!** See also: Ephesians 4: 7-10 and: *You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive; You have received gifts among men, even from the rebellious, that the LORD God might dwell there (Psalm 68: 18).*
- **Jesus released His ones** (from the whole Old Testament) out of the good side of the Hades (Luke 16:23-26) as written: *I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades (Revelation 1: 18).* As a result Jesus brought His ones, with His first coming into the heavenly places: *And raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:6).* At the same time satan was banned out of heaven and put in his own dark dominion and not able to release his dark ones and his companions are gazing at him, saying: ***Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms,*** ¹⁷ ***Who made the world as a wilderness And destroyed its cities, Who did not open the house of his prisoners?*** (Isaiah 14: 15-17). Satan securely chained in his own dark dominion since Jesus took the victory with His first coming as also written: *And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day (Jude 1:6).* *For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment (2 Peter 2:4).*

What will happen in the meantime, the whole NT period?

- Gods (the Father's) anger (wrath) has been fully satisfied, 2000 years ago, by the mighty cross of Christ, and He transferred everything to Jesus: *For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son (John 5:22).*
- ⁶ *Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—* ⁷ *saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water (Revelation 14:6-7).* With Jesus first coming the hour of His judgment has come, and it is a process of preaching the gospel during the whole NT period! The angels are having an important role here in preaching the gospel as also written: *And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other (Matthew 24: 31).*
- **Christians are not coming into the great white throne judgment and are citizens of heaven, while living here on earth:** *Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.* ²⁵ *Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live (John 5:24-25).* He **has delivered us** from the power of darkness and **conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son** of His love (Colossians 1:13). *And raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:6).* It's amazing, but our dwelling, while living in our earthly body is the same as the saints, the angels and Jesus: *Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household (angels) of God (Ephesians 2: 19).* See also Hebrews 12:22-24.

- There will be no judgment for unbelievers during the whole NT, even not after their death, however only on the last day and only according to their works: ⁴⁶ *I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.* ⁴⁷ *And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, **I do not judge him**; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.* ⁴⁸ *He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has **that which judges him—the word** that I have spoken will judge him **in the last day** (John 12:46-48).*
- *In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ² **Preach the word** of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching (2 Timothy 4:1-2). Gods judgments starts **when He appears to set up His Kingdom**. This happened more than 2000 years ago as written: *But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely **the kingdom of God has come upon you** (Matthew 12:28)! And what is our role? **Preach the Word!** With Jesus second coming His work is finished and He will hand over the Kingdom to the Father: *Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power (1 Corinthians 15:24).***
- Those who die in Christ before His second coming will receive the end of their faith – the salvation of their souls (1 Peter 1:9).

The day of the Lord with Jesus **second** coming.

- Oh, what a day, for those who are in Christ: we are not coming into judgment (John 5:24-25), the rapture, we will judge the world with Him as written: *Do you not know that **the saints will judge the world?** (1 Corinthians 6:2a), forever in His presence, And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away (1 Peter 5:4). **The Kingdom visible and in its full glory!***
- *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 (2 Peter 3:7). Thank you Lord for judging the heavens and the earth and purifying it from evil and suffering.*
- Those who are in Christ are not coming into **the great white throne judgment**. As a result the group standing there are those who didn't accept Jesus in their very life on earth. This is confirmed: *All the nations (Greek = foreign nations not worshipping the true God, pagans) will be gathered (Matthew 25:32), And I saw the dead (Greek = the last in a row, which are about to finally die), small and great, standing before God, and books were opened (Revelation 20:12). And the **dead were judged according to their works**, by the things which were written in the books (Revelation 20:12b). The goats (those who didn't accept Jesus in their life on earth and didn't do good works) are going direct to the eternal lake of fire (Matthew 25:41). The sheep (those who didn't accept Jesus in their life, but have done good works) are judged fairly and will receive the invitation to enter the Kingdom for the first time, on the very last day, to finally bow down for Jesus the Christ, and going through the gate, which is Jesus, as written: ³⁴ *Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty ... (Matthew 25:34-35).* As we have seen a final offer of salvation with Jesus first coming for those who were formerly disobedient, and hence, also with His second coming. Amazing grace!! Next verse is confirming the judgment (not this great white throne judgment) of the works of Christians: ¹¹ *For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.* ¹² *Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,* ¹³ *each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.* ¹⁴ *If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.* ¹⁵ *If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; **but he****

himself will be saved, yet so as through fire (1 Corinthians 3:11-15). No good works in this case means still saved, unlike the goats in the great white throne judgment who didn't bow for Jesus in their very lives.

- *Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death* (Revelation 20:14). Finally death and all evil will be banned from the new heaven and earth.

Final word.

Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! ⁴ Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested (Revelation 15:3-4). Come, sing along this beautiful song of Moses, the servant of God, the song of the Lamb.

¹⁶ *And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love* (1 John 4:16-18).

Worthy is the Lamb!

Yours in His service,

Kees

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