

THERE'S A GREAT DAY COMING

The Bible teaches that Jesus will “come again” (John 14:3) to receive those who have been faithful to Him. Jesus told His apostles that He would return “in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11). Jesus will not set foot on earth; everyone will be received “in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air” (1 The. 4:17). Gathered in the air, “every knee shall bow...and every tongue shall confess to God” (Rom. 14:11) and “He will judge the world in righteousness” (Acts 17:31). The prophet Joel referred to it as “the Great and the Terrible Day of the LORD” (Joel 2:31). According to Brown, Driver, & Briggs Hebrew Lexicon, the Day of Judgement will be great in regards to magnitude and extent, in intensity, in sound, and in importance. The Last Day will be terrible in the sense that the events will inspire reverence, astonishment, and awe in some, while in others, it will instill fear and dread. There’s a Great Day coming, and the Bible gives us insight into what will make it so “great.”

IT WILL BE “GREAT” IN GRANDEUR.

The inspired Paul states, “the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 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” (1 The. 4:16-17). The eyes of man have never seen the grand spectacle that awaits us on the Last Day. It is a day that is circled on no one’s calendar, for it will “come as a thief in the night” (2 Pet. 3:10). Those who are in the grave will be resurrected and those who are yet alive will have their bodies changed “in the twinkling of an eye” (1 Cor. 15:52). Every eye will see Jesus in the clouds and every ear will hear the trump of God. No doubt, it will be the greatest event ever witnessed by man.

IT WILL BE “GREAT” IN SCOPE.

God says that, “we must *all* appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that *every one* may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (2 Cor. 5:10, emphasis B.G.). Every human who has ever lived will participate in this Great and Terrible Day. No other event in history can compare to the greatness in scope of the Great Day of Judgment. Not only will all humans be involved, the earth and all else that remains will be affected as well. We are told that “the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (2 Pet. 3:10). Without controversy, this will also add to the grandeur of that Great Day. On this Day, everything will change and all that exists will be affected.

IT WILL BE “GREAT” IN JOY, IF WE HAVE BEEN OBEDIENT.

No greater joy can exist than that of knowing that we will spend the rest of eternity in Heaven with God, His Christ, the Holy Spirit, and every faithful saint who has ever lived. The joy that awaits the faithful Christian is expressed by Jesus, “blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth...that they may rest from their labours” (Rev. 14:3). What greater joy can one imagine than that of receiving “a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing” (2 Tim. 4:8)? Those who love God and keep His commands (John 14:15), will hear Jesus say, “well done, thou good and faithful servant...enter thou into the *joy* of thy Lord” (Mat. 25:21, emphasis B.G.).

IT WILL BE “GREAT” IN TERROR FOR THE DISOBEDIENT.

Sadly, for those who “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” (2 The. 1:8-9), it shall be a most dreadful Day. As joyful as the Great Day of the Lord will be for the faithful few (cf. Mat. 7:13-14), it will be just as terrible and frightening for those who are not obedient to God.

The “Great and the Terrible Day of the LORD” is coming. When? No one on earth knows. Heaven is a place prepared by Jesus for those who are willing to prepare themselves to go (John 14:1-3; 2 Pet. 1:10). “Are you ready for that Day to come?”

- *Brad Green*