

## THE LAST DAY OF HISTORY

Matt. 24:27-31

II Pet. 3:3-14

Matt. 25:31-46

### I. THERE ARE THREE PRIMARY DIVISIONS OF TIME:

1. Past - Present - Future.
2. When the Future shall have been exhausted and all that remains is the Present, this will be The Last Day of History.
3. The Christian Religion is a Time-Conscious Religion.
  - A. It recognizes the significance of the Past.
  - B. It is challenged by the decisiveness of the Present.
  - C. It places great stress on the Future.

NOTE: If there be no last day - no final work of consummation - all else sinks into utter insignificance.

- D. Since man began to speculate about creation, he began to wonder how it would end and when.

### II. THE DAY OF THE LORD IS EQUATED WITH THE LAST DAY OF HISTORY.

1. 2 Thess. 2:1-2: "Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come."
2. 1 Thess. 5:1-2: "But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night."
3. John 6:40: "And this is the will of Him who sent me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."
4. 2 Pet. 3:10-: "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth also and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be

in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?"

### III. WHAT EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE ON THIS AWESOME DAY?

1. CHRIST WILL RETURN. "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 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." (Matt. 24:30-31)
2. THE DEAD WILL BE RAISED. "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth." (John 5:28-29)
3. THE LIVING WILL BE CHANGED. "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord." (1 Thess. 4:16-17)

"Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." (1 Cor. 15:51-52)

4. DEATH WILL BE CONQUERED. "So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory." (1 Cor. 15:54-55)

"And Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." (Rev. 20:14)

"And God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall be no more death." (Rev. 21.4)

5. THE POWER OF SATAN WILL BE CRUSHED. "And the devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone,

where the beast and the false prophet are, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever." (Rev. 20:10)

6. HEAVENS, ELEMENTS, EARTH TO BE DESTROYED. "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat, both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up." (2 Pet. 3:10)
7. WILL BE NEW HEAVENS AND NEW EARTH. "Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells." (2 Pet. 3:13)

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." (Rev. 21:1-2)

8. KINGDOM OR CHURCH DELIVERED UP TO GOD. "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 Cor. 15:24)
9. THE LAST JUDGMENT WILL TAKE PLACE. "So then each of us shall give account of himself to God." (Rom. 14:12)

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ: that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." (2 Cor. 5:10)

"Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead which were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." (Rev. 20:11-14)

10. THE WICKED WILL BE CONSIGNED TO HELL. "And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." (Rev. 20:15)

"But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." (Rev. 21:8)

"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'" (Matt. 25:41)

11. THE FAITHFUL WILL INHERIT HEAVEN. "Then the King 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.'" (Matt. 25:34)

"Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city." (Rev. 22:14)

12. GOD'S GREAT PURPOSE IN ALL THE AGES SHALL HAVE BEEN FULFILLED.

- A. He has had the superintendence of the world in His hands from the beginning.
- B. History is Nothing but an Unfolding of God's Purpose in all the ages.
- C. In the Great Providence of God, it is moving towards a desired end today.
  - (1) When the trumpet is sounded and time shall be no more, then His great purpose shall have been consummated.

#### IV. WILL THIS DAY BE ONLY TWENTY-FOUR HOURS IN LENGTH?

- 1. Some Facts Seem to Indicate That It Will:
  - A. First: The Day is Called the Last Day.
    - (1) This implies other days of same kind preceding.
  - B. Second: Events are said to transpire with the Greatest of Speed.
    - (1) "As lightning that cometh out of the East ..."

(2) "The dead raised at the sound of a trumpet ..."

(3) Living are transformed "in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye."

C. Thirdly: The Twenty-Four Hour Day Was Promised Until the Earth Was Destroyed.

(1) "While earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat ... (Gen. 8:22)

D. God has lengthened a Day for Man to Accomplish Man's Purpose.

(1) Joshua's battle with the Amorites.

(2) There is no indication that He needs to lengthen the day to accomplish His divine purpose. He could shorten or lengthen it.

2. Actually, We Do Not Know.

V. A PROPER ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE DOCTRINE OF THE LAST THINGS WILL:

1. Reduce our affection for this world.

2. Enhance our Longing for Heaven.

3. Provide Incentive for Perseverance and Constancy in Christian Living. (1 Cor. 15:58)

4. Provide Motivation for Holy Living.

5. Offers an Unfailing Resource of Comfort.

6. Increases our Zeal in preaching the Gospel.

7. Doctrine of the Last Things is the Greatest Stimulant to Christians by Inspiration.

VI. THE TIME WE HAVE TO PREPARE FOR THE LAST DAY. (2 Cor. 6:2)

1. Christ Gave Man the Immediate Present.

A. Luke 9:59-62: "Let the dead bury the dead..."

2. The Holy Spirit said Today is the Time. (Heb. 4:7)
3. Paul admonished his hearers "Today". (Acts 13:44-46; 18:5-6)
4. Every Case of New Testament Conversion Was the Same Day.
5. The Bible Records Only Two Men Who Asked for More Time.
  - A. Felix - (Acts 24:25-)
  - B. Agrippa - (Acts 26:28)
6. To Know and Obey Not Is Sin. (James 4:17)
  - A. This is the Unpardonable Sin in Matt. 12:3-32)
  - B. It is the Sin Unto Death.
7. There is no Second Chance After Death. (Heb. (9:27; 2 Cor. 6:2; Lk. 16:19)

**VII. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY GREAT DAYS IN BIBLE HISTORY.**

1. When God created the World and made Man.
2. When Man fell.
3. When the Flood came.
4. When the Israelites crossed the Red Sea.
5. When the Law of Moses was given on Mount Sinai.
6. When Christ was born in Bethlehem.
7. When Jesus died on Calvary.
8. When Christ rose victorious from the dead.
9. When He ascended to Heaven and began His reign.
10. But the Greatest of all days will be the Last Day.

## WHAT THEN

When all the great plants of our cities have turned  
their last finished work,  
When our merchants have sold their last yard of silk  
and dismissed the tired weary clerks;  
When our banks have taken in the last dollar and declared  
the last dividend,  
When the judge of the world says, "Closed for the night"  
and asks for the balance -

What Then?

When the people of sung their last anthem, and the preacher  
has led his last prayer;  
When the people have heard their last sermon, and the sound  
has died out on the air;  
When the Bible lies closed, on the altar, and the pews are  
all empty of men;  
When we all stand facing the record, and the great  
book is opened -

What Then?

When the actor has placed his last drama, and the mimic has  
made his last fun,  
When the film has flashed its last picture, and the billboard  
displayed its last run;  
When the crowds seeking pleasure have vanished and gone out  
into the darkness of sin;  
When the trumpet of all ages is sounded and we all  
stand before God -

What Then?

When the bugle's last call sinks in silence and the long  
marching columns stand still,  
When the captain has given his last orders and they have  
captured the last fort and hill.  
When the flag has been hauled from the masthead and all wounded  
soldiers have checked in,  
When a world that rejected its Saviour is asked for a  
reason -

What Then?

You cannot escape that question. After the great resurrection and judgment,  
what then? You will have to answer that question.

"Life is real, life is earnest,  
And the grave is not its goal.  
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,  
Was not spoken of the soul."