

There's A Great Day Coming - Part 1

Sermon by Mark S. Aites

TEXT: 1 THESS. 4:13-18

INTRODUCTION:

1. Daniel Webster was once asked: "What is the most serious thought that ever occupied your mind?" He replied, "My individual responsibility to God."
2. Song by J.H. Stanley, "Careless soul, O heed the warning, for your life will soon be gone; O how sad to face the judgment unprepared to meet thy God."
3. *"For 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).*
4. Song: "There's a great day coming, a great day coming, There's a great day coming by and by, when the saints and sinners will be parted right and left, Are you ready for that day to come?"
5. When Paul stood on Mar's Hill, he declared that God *"hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead" (Acts 17:31).*
6. What we want to do in this lesson, and the next, is to study the events that will happen on that final day. (There's A Great Day Coming!)

DISCUSSION:

I. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.

- A. *"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:3).*
- B. The angels told the disciples, *"Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).*
- C. Paul told the church at Thessalonica that the Lord would, *"descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God" (1 Thess 4:16).*
- D. In the 2nd letter, he told them that the Lord would, *"be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels" (2 Thess.1:7).*
- E. *"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen" (Rev. 1:7).*
- F. The Lord's return is going to lead the events on the great day of the Lord; a day in which we do not know when it will be.
 1. *"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only" (Matt.24:36).*
 2. *"Watch therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come" (Matt. 24:42).*
- G. Jesus described His return to take place on an ordinary day, a day in which people were getting married, eating, drinking, and working (**Matt.24:37-39**).
 1. In fact, He paralleled it to the days of Noah, when men did not know when the flood was coming, despite Noah's warnings.
 2. Notice that no cataclysm will signify His return; only that it His return would be like a thief in the night (**Matt. 24:43**).
 3. "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man

cometh" (**Matt.24:44**).

H. And with His glorious return, comes the sounding of the trump of God.

1. *"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God" (1 Thess. 4:16).*
2. In **1 Cor. 15:52**, Paul speaks of the sounding of *"the last trumpet."*

II. THE DEAD WILL BE RAISED.

- A. *"For 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" (1 Thess. 4:16).*
- B. Here is going to be one of the most awesome displays of the power of God (which reminds me of the valley of dry bones, **Ezek. 37**).
 1. The Lord told Ezekiel that He resurrect the bodies of those slain on that great field.
 2. In **Ezek. 37:7-10**, Ezekiel watched as sinews and flesh came upon the dry bones, and as breath was breathed into them.
 3. Nothing is beyond the power of God, if it is in His will.
- C. *"So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body" (1 Cor. 15:42-44).*
- D. *"...for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible..." (1 Cor. 15:52).*
- E. *"And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works" (Rev. 20:13).*
- F. *"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:28-29).*

III. THE LIVING WILL BE CHANGED.

- A. *"Behold, I shew 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 trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality" (1 Cor. 15:51-53).*
- B. No more will men know death as we have known it --the separation of body and spirit.
- C. *"Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule, and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death" (1 Cor.15:24-26).*
- D. In the great day of which we often sing, the last enemy will be destroyed; and those resurrected, those alive at the time of this event, will be changed.
- E. *"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2).*

IV. THE JUDGMENT.

- A. This is the appointment that none of us can break (*"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ"...* **2 Cor. 5:10**)
- B. Matthew sets the time frame for us: *"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left"* (**Matt. 25:31-33**).
 - 1. The expression, "all nations," is a reference to all mankind.
 - 2. *"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened . . . and they were judged every man according to their works"* (**Rev. 20:12,13**).
- C. Brother William Woodson states: "Instead of the elaborate scheme of premillennialism, with a multiplicity of resurrections & judgments, the Bible teaches the general resurrection & judgment of all men at the same time & this is to be at the time of the second coming of Christ."
- D. The standard is the Word of God: *"He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day"* (**John 12:48**). (Here is the measuring rod to determine our eternal destiny.)
- E. *"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works"* (**Rev. 20:12**).
 - 1. It is frightful to consider that nothing will be withheld from God's scrutiny.
 - 2. *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil"* (**Eccl. 12:13-14**).

CONCLUSION: Are you ready for the Judgment Day?