

There's A Great Day Coming - Part 2

Sermon by Mark S. Aites

TEXT: 1 THESS. 4:13-18

INTRODUCTION:

1. In our previous lesson we noted that God has appointed a day in which He will judge the world by Christ (**Acts 17:31**).
2. In this final day, a number of events will take place, beginning with the second coming of Christ.
 - 1) *"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that's where I am, there ye may be also"* (**John 14:3**).
 - 2) 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).
3. Along with His return, the dead will then be raised (**John 5:28-29**).
4. Those that are alive at the Lord's return will be changed. *"For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality"* (1 Cor. 15:53).
5. Then comes the judgment: *"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**).
6. In this lesson, we then want to pick up with the events on that great day.

DISCUSSION:

I. REWARDS.

- A. For the wicked a horrifying reward is given.
 1. *"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal"* (**Matt. 25:46**).
 2. As Jesus returns with His angels, Paul describes it: *"In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that 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; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day"* (**2 Thess. 1:8-10**).
- B. Even in the church, a division is going to be made of the sheep & the goats: *"The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear"* (**Matt. 13:38-43**).
 1. Here we learn that the reaping of the earth is done by the angels of God.
 2. The manner of judgment is not a difficult one; but left to humans, it would be an impossible task.
- C. For the faithful, it will be the greatest of all rewards.
 1. *"For we know that, if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a*

building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (2 Cor. 5:1).

2. *"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Fathers house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 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 14:1-3).*
3. It is hard to imagine the excitement and joy in that which is to come. Even as Paul was preparing to part this life, he said: *"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me 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. 4:6-8).*

II. DESTRUCTION.

- A. The day of judgment will come with destruction, the destruction of the world.
- B. The apostle Peter dealt with those who scoffed at such words: *"For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men" (2 Pet. 3:5-7).*
- C. Then follows the clear words of prophesy: *"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which 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).*
- D. All that is of this world will be gone.
 1. Everything will melt with fervent heat.
 2. Now we better understand Jesus' words: *"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:19-21).*
 3. *"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matt. 16:26).*
- E. And now the sobering words of Peter: *"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?" (2 Pet. 3:11-12).*

III. HEAVEN & HELL.

- A. Let's remember that in our previous lessons on Death, Hell, and Heaven, that we noted that Heaven and Hell are future realities.
- B. We previously studied the account of the rich man and Lazarus (**Luke 16:19-31**).
 1. Both went to the Hadean realm; one to paradise, the other to torment.
 2. Even Jesus, when He died on the cross, went to the Hadean realm. *"He (David),*

foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. "This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses" (Acts 2: 31-32, NKJV).

3. We remember Jesus' statement: *"Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father" (John 20:17).*
- C. There are verses which indicate Heaven and Hell are future realities.
 1. In **John 14:1-3**, Jesus promised to prepare a place for the disciples, a future place made available when He comes again..
 2. In contrast, *"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matt. 25:41).*
(The word *prepared*, referring to something which is not yet ready.)

IV.FINAL THINGS.

- A. All things come to completion in these final things, as the Christ delivers up the kingdom of God to His Father. *"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" (1 Cor. 15:24).*
- B. Jesus has been given all authority (**Matt. 28:18**); at the Judgment (**John 5:22**), and to be head over the church (**Eph. 1:22-23**).
"And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all" (1 Cor. 15:28).

CONCLUSION:

1. *"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful" (Rev. 21:3-5).*
2. Contrast: *"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, NKJV).*
3. The choice is yours!
4. *"And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" (1 Pet. 4:18).*