**THE DAY OF THE LORD –**

**A DAY OF DARKNESS – GOD’S WRATH POURED OUT ON THE WICKED**

**Darkness**: 1) refers to the absence of light, illumination which scripturally implies of the lack of knowledge of the truth that produces righteousness, godliness and morality and holiness. 2) Darkness also refers to the overwhelming presence of evil, godlessness, wickedness, sin and immorality.

Very little commentary is needed here to deal with this topic; just consider what God’s Word has to say about the “Day of the Lord”; a day you don’t want to be here to experience.

Isaiah 13:6-11 – *Wail, for* ***the day of the Lord*** *is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. Therefore all hands will be limp, Every man’s heart will melt, And they will be afraid. Pangs and sorrows will take hold of them; They will be in pain as a woman in childbirth; They will be amazed at one another; Their faces will be like flames. Behold,* ***the******day of the Lord*** *comes Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it. For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not give their light; The sun will be darkened in its going forth, And the moon will not cause its light to shine. “I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.*

Jeremiah 46:10 – *For this is* ***the day of the Lord*** *GOD of hosts,* ***A day of vengeance****, That He may avenge Himself on His adversaries. The sword shall devour; It shall be satiated and made drunk with their blood;*

Joel 1:15 – *Alas for the day! For* ***the day of the Lord*** *is at hand; It shall come* ***as destruction*** *from the Almighty*.

Joel 2:1-2 – *Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain!*

*Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For* ***the day of the Lord*** *is coming,*

*For it is at hand:* ***A day of darkness*** *and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick*

*darkness, Like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come*

*great and strong, The like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any*

*such after them, Even for many successive generations.*

Joel 2:11-12 – *The Lord gives voice before His army, For His camp is very great;*

*For strong is the One who executes His word. For* ***the day of the Lord is great***

***And very terrible****; Who can endure it? “Now, therefore,” says the Lord, “Turn to*

*Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.”*

Joel 2:30-32 – *“And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood*

*and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon*

*into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.*

*And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be*

*saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the*

*Lord has said, Among the remnant whom the Lord calls.*

Joel 3:14-16 – *Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For* ***the day of the Lord*** *is near in the valley of decision. The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will diminish their brightness. The Lord also will roar from Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; The heavens and earth will shake* (Ref. Hebrews 12: )*; But the Lord will be a shelter for His people, and the strength of the children of Israel.*

Amos 5:18-20 – *Woe to you who desire* ***the day of the Lord****! For what good is the day of the Lord to you? It will be darkness, and not light. It will be as though a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him! Or as though he went into the house, leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him!* (this tells us that there is no escape from the catastrophes that will occur; flee from one and get hit by another even when you think you found refuge). *Is not* ***the day of the Lord darkness****, and not light? Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it?*

Zephaniah 1:7-18 – *Be silent in the presence of the Lord GOD; For* ***the day of the Lord*** *is at hand, For the Lord has prepared a sacrifice; He has invited His guests. “And it shall be, in the day of the Lord’S sacrifice, that I will punish the princes and the king’s children, and all such as are clothed with foreign apparel.*

*In the same day I will punish all those who leap over the threshold, who fill their*

*masters’ houses with violence and deceit* (lies)*. “And there shall be on that day,*

*”says the Lord, “The sound of a mournful cry from the Fish Gate, a wailing from*

*the Second Quarter, and a loud crashing from the hills. Wail, you inhabitants of*

*Maktesh! For all the merchant people are cut down; all those who handle money*

(deceitful bankers and merchants) *are cut off. “And it shall come to pass at that*

*time that I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and punish the men who are settled*

*in complacency, who say in their heart,‘The Lord will not do good, Nor will He do*

*evil* (judge us)*.’ Therefore their goods shall become booty, and their houses a*

*desolation; they shall build houses, but not inhabit them; they shall plant*

*vineyards, but not drink their wine.”* ***The great******day of the Lord*** *is near; It is near*

*and hastens quickly. The noise of* ***the******day of the Lord is bitter****; There the mighty*

*men shall cry out. That day is a day of* ***wrath****, a day of* ***trouble and distress****, a day*

*of* ***devastation and desolation****, A day of* ***darkness and gloominess****, a day of clouds*

*and thick darkness, A day of trumpet and alarm against the fortified cities and*

*against the high towers. “I will bring distress upon men, And they shall walk like*

*blind men,* ***Because they have sinned against the Lord****; Their blood shall be*

*poured out like dust, And their flesh like refuse.” Neither their silver nor their gold*

*Shall be able to deliver them*(they can’t buy their way out of God’s judgment),  *In*

*the* ***day of the Lord’S wrath****; But the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of*

*His jealousy, For He will make speedy riddance o*f all those who dwell in the land.

Zechariah 14:1-4 – *Behold,* ***the day of the Lord*** *is coming,*(speaking of the return of Christ),  *And your spoil will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then the Lord will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle*, (Armageddon)*. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east.*

*And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very*

*large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it*

*toward the south.*

Isaiah 34:8 – *For it is* ***the day of the Lord’S vengeance****, The year of recompense*

*for the cause of Zion.*

Acts 2:20-21 – *The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood,*

*Before the coming of* ***the great and awesome******day of the Lord****. And it shall come to pass That* *whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.’*

Romans 13:12-13 – *And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.*

Hebrews 12:25-28 – *See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, “Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.” 7Now this, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire* (of judgment)*.*

2 Peter 3:10-13 – *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. 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? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*

Luke 3:7-8 – *Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from* ***the wrath to come****? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance ….* (a warning by John the baptizer).

 Consider the works of darkness, which are the sinful works of the flesh that will be dealt with in the day of the Lord; these are described in:

Galatians 5:19-21 –*Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

 Now consider the works of righteousness which is by the Spirit of God, the new nature in those that have believed on and received Jesus Christ as Savoir and Lord as recorded in:

Galatians 5:22-24 – *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*

1 Peter 1:13-17 – *Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written,* *“Be holy, for I am holy.” And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.*

 Here is a description of what happens in the Day of the Lord:

Revelation 19:6-19 – *And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.” And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”*

*Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:*

***KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS***.

*Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, “Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great.”And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.*

 Our loving Heavenly Father provided for every soul on earth a means of escape from the judgment on sin coming in the Day of the Lord. That provision was God’s sacrifice for sin in the person of His Son, Jesus. Those who do not believe on Jesus for their redemption from sin end up paying the penalty for sin by themselves – their own blood will be shed in the day of the wrath of God. Note, God’s wrath is not on people, it is on SIN! It is on those who retain their sin and have not accepted God’s atonement for those sins.

John 3:16-20 –*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes I him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.*

Luke 21:34-36 *– “But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”*

 Since the Day of the Lord is darkness then it becomes quite obvious that there is no spiritual light present. This means that the saints, who are the light of the world (as declared and commissioned by Jesus), are not here. They have been taken out and escape the wrath of God in the Day of the Lord’s judgment on the wicked. True saints of God can see that day coming since Paul said it will not catch them by surprise.

1 Thessalonians 5:2-10 – *For you yourselves know perfectly that* ***the******day of the Lord*** *so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then* ***sudden destruction*** *comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But* ***you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief****.* ***You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness****. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For* ***God did not appoint us to wrath****,* ***but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ****,* ***who died for us****, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.*

Revelation 22:11-20 – *He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.” “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.” 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. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.” And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly. ”Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*