

A Great Day Is Coming

No. 141

Introduction.

- I. On one occasion **a war veteran was dying**. A preacher came to see him and asked him the question, “John, are you afraid to die?” The man raised up on his elbow, and said indignantly, “Sir, I have faced death on many bloody battlefields, and I was never afraid. I have faced it often since, and I am not scared. I am no coward. Why do you insult me at this dying hour?” He fell back upon the pillow, exhausted. Then the preacher said, “But John, are you prepared for what comes after death?” The man sighed and said, “Oh, sir, that is what frightens me. I am afraid of that which comes after death.
- II. The man who is not a Christian should have a fear of that which comes after death. There is a great day coming when he must stand before the judgment seat of the God he spurned in life.
 - A. Listen to what the word of God says on this subject. (Eccles. 12:13, 14; Matt. 16:27; Acts 17:30, 31; 2 Cor. 5:10; Heb. 9:27).
 - B. These verses exclaim a great day is coming. This day will be when Christ will come again to judge the world. The judgment will be a great day in many ways.
- I. **Day Of A Great Resurrection** - It will be a day of a great resurrection.
 - A. Every man, woman and child who has ever lived will be raised from the grave.
 - B. There will be no exceptions. (Jn. 5:28, 29; 1 Cor. 15:22).
- II. **Day Of Great Surprises** - The judgment day will be a day of great surprises.
 - A. Some will be **surprised that they day has even come**.
 1. Many people are of the opinion that Christ will not return to judge the world. They laugh and say, “After all, it has been nearly 2,000 years since Christ made the promise to come again. Perhaps He has forgotten His promise or perhaps He is not able to come. You know He’s getting pretty old by now.” Others say, “The concept of the second coming of Christ went out with the Model-T Ford.”
 2. We should not be alarmed or surprised that some scoff at the second coming and the judgment.
 - a. There were scoffers in the day of the apostles. These scoffers mocked saying that it had been a number of years since Christ had promised to return again. They charged that He would not keep His promise.
 - b. Peter answered their scoffing by saying that the passing of time means nothing to the Eternal God. A thousand years is but a day to God. (2 Pet. 3:8). He also said the delay of the Lord was due to His longsuffering, not His inability to come. (2 Pet. 3:9).
 - B. Those who believe the earth is going to be made **a paradise** will be greatly surprised. On that day the earth and all the works of man shall be destroyed. The earth will become a ball of fire. (2 Pet. 3:10).
 - C. Others will be surprised that the **day of judgment has come so quickly**.
 1. Christ will come to judge the world as a thief in the night. (1 Thess. 5:2). Many people will cry out, “I knew He was coming, but not so soon.” They will be unprepared for His return. They will try to hide, but this will not be possible. God can see even in the darkest and most secluded part of the earth.

2. The **story is told of a man** who, when he lay down to sleep at night, would draw aside the curtain and look up into the starry heavens and say, “Perhaps tonight, Lord.” In the morning, as he arose, his first movement was to draw aside the curtain and look out on the gray dawn and remark: “Perhaps today, Lord.”

3. This is the attitude that every person should have. We should be ready, at all times, for the Lord’s return.(Matt. 25:13).

III. **A Great Day Of Examination** - The judgment will be a great day of examination.

REV 20:11 And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. 14 And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

A. **At the judgment the books will be opened.**

1. Man will be judged according to the thing written in them. These books contain every unforgiven word we have ever uttered. They contain every unforgiven deed we have ever committed. They even contain every unforgiven thought we have ever entertained. Absolutely nothing escapes the all-knowing, all-seeing God.

2. Solomon said. (Prov. 15:3).

B. **At the judgment God will also open another book.**

1. This is the book of life. This book contains the names of all the faithful who have ever lived. Those who have their names written in this book will have a home with God in heaven.

2. Those who do not have their names written in the book of life will be cast into hell where they shall burn for all eternity. (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:15).

IV. **A Great Day Of Disappointments** - The judgment will be a great day of disappointments.

- Sometimes we sing, “There’s a sad day coming.” This is a scriptural thought. The judgment will be the saddest day ever known to man. There will be mourning and weeping throughout the world. Men will plea for mercy and then destruction.
- They will say to the mountains and rocks, “Fall of us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the day of his wrath is come; and will shall be able to stand?”

(Rev. 6:16, 17).

A. The **moralist** will be disappointed on that day.

1. He is the man who thinks he does not need Jesus. He thinks he will be saved by his goodness, by living a good moral life. He often exclaims, "Religion is for children and old ladies. A good moral life is the important thing. This is enough to get you in the pearly gates."
2. The moralist will find the way to heaven has been shut off to him. (Jn. 14:6).

B. **The one who has not done God's will** will be disappointed on that great day. (Matt. 7:21-23).

C. The **lukewarm Christian** will be disappointed.

1. He will find that the Lord will not save those who have only given the scraps of their time, service and money. He will say, "I know I did not work, I know I did not faithfully attend services of the church, but I was a member."
2. He will expect to squeeze into heaven on the basis of his church membership, but the Lord will say. (Matt. 25:30).

D. The **man with good intentions** will be disappointed.

1. He will say to himself a million times and then a million times more, "Why did I wait? Why did I wait? I meant to become a Christian and get ready for death. But I waited too long. Death slipped up on me before I was ready to die."
2. The words, "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth" will be his mind throughout eternity.

V. **A Great Day Of Joy** - The judgment will be a great day of joy for the Lord's people.

- It will be the happiest day they have ever known or could imagine.

A. On that day their faith will become reality. On that day they will be raised with glorious bodies. (1 Cor.15:53).

B. On that day the Lord will say. (Matt. 25:34).

1. Those who hear these words will ascend to be in heaven for all eternity. There they will enjoy presence of God, Christ and the Holy Spirit and there they shall enjoy all the good things God has prepared for those who love Him.
2. They will never know pain or sorrow or disease or death. Life is full of tears and troubles, but heaven will wash them all away. (Rev. 21:4).

Conclusion.

- I. There is nothing I want more in the whole world than for every one here to hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of the master," and then ascend to be with God. You will hear these wonderful words if you will believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be baptized. (Mk. 16:16). You will hear these words if you will commit your life to Jesus.

- II. I once read about **a boy who ran away from home** and went to a certain city. He soon fell into sinful ways and neglected even to write his mother. She longed to see her boy, so she went to the city and searched for him, but she could not find him. Then one day she was run over by an automobile. They took her to a hospital, where she died a few hours later. Before she died, she whispered to one of the nurses, “If you find my boy, tell him that there were two who never gave up on him. Tell him that God and his mother never gave up on him.”
- III. Beloved, even if our father and mother might forsake us, Jesus will never forsake us! He gave His life for us and He longs to save us.
- A. Won't you answer His call right now? (2 Cor. 6:2).
- B. There are only a few steps between you and the remission of your sins. Come as we stand and sing.