

THE DAY OF THE LORD

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I think most true Christians know we are nearing the Day of the Lord – the day of His return. But, unfortunately, it's *only* realized because of external events, world events and such, and not by spiritual perception and wisdom as it should be. People of the world realize this as well, although they recognize it as the “end of the world” and not the coming of the Lord.

This month I completed the rewrite of **Hebrews** and sent it to the printer. This commentary was the second book the Lord asked me to write following *Mysterious Secrets* and it's the only commentary on a book of the Bible I've written to date. I was quite surprised when He asked me to write this book. I have a number of commentaries in my library and they are of some value; however, most are scholarly works and not written by the Spirit under His anointing. People are always talking about the book of Revelation and such and such a commentary or theological position. I always tell them that most of what is in the commentaries on Revelation is wrong. The reason is because you must interpret Revelation by revelation. The Lord is building His church by revelation and we need spiritual revelation in order to restore the Kingdom to the glory the Lord desires on the earth.

Rereading and rewriting this commentary first published 10 years ago made me realize what a similar period of time we are living in to those Hebrew Christians to whom the epistle was sent in the first century A.D. Because of persecution and weariness there was a real temptation toward apostasy. Christians were being persecuted by Rome (as usual) under Nero and there was a tremendous temptation to return to Judaism. The writer to the Hebrews warns repeatedly against this apostasy and encourages them to continue on in the **Faith**. He uses many nautical terms to describe their being “adrift” like many if not most Christians here in America and Canada today.

We've heard for many years sermons preached from I Thessalonians about the rapture. Yet, I've never heard anyone preach Paul's follow up to obvious questions raised by I Thessalonians with the church in Thessalonica. This necessitated his letter of II Thessalonians. Notice the following verses of Scripture:

“Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion come first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.”

■ 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

Paul established further facts concerning what he had written earlier in 1 Thessalonians for clarification about what we commonly call the *rapture*, although there is actually no such word in the Greek text. These verses establish: (1) the Day of the Lord is still future, (2) there is the possibility of deception (Jesus also repeatedly warned us against this in the Gospels), (3) the rebellion *must* occur *prior* to this period of time (the Day of the Lord “and our being gathered together to him,” and (4) “the man of lawlessness” or “son of destruction” must be revealed as well prior to the rapture.

Now, we must understand that the Greek word translated *rebellion* is actually *apostasia* which means “a defection, revolt, rebellion, a falling away or apostasy from the faith” and is normally used in connection with a departure from the faith. In other words, this is a rebellion or apostasy by Christians. How similar to the time of Hebrews is today! This was, of course, prophesied in Revelation – the Laodicean church age characterized by being “lukewarm” (Rev. 3:16) – in other words, it didn’t *taste* very good to the Lord so He said, “I will spit you out of my mouth.” To this church age the Lord is standing *outside* the doors of the church trying to get back in because they have shut Him out of all their activities (Rev. 3:20). Sadly, this is a true picture of what churches and most ministries are like today.

Paul like wise sounds a clear prophetic warning about this time just before the return of the Lord:

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.”

■ I Timothy 4:1

Paul also follows up this warning in Second Timothy that this time would be “perilous” and that many churches would be characterized as “having a form of godliness but denying its power. Any from such people turn away.”

Because there is so much *hype* as a substitute for the anointing absent because the Holy Spirit is not present, many Christians have left the church and are in the same danger as the Hebrew Christians were in the first century Church. I preached a revelation message to our church in Libby several years ago titled, *The Message and the Sign*, which deals with the Day of the Lord and the time in which we are living. It is our special offer this month.

If you're such a Christian then I want to encourage you today. I want to encourage you to continue running your race for the Lord Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God. The Lord needs you – He needs your spiritual gifts and talents. The Day of the Lord is very near now. I first shared in *Hebrews: The Book of Better Things* and then went into more detail in my new book just published this month, *Revelations from God*, an experience I had back in the early '80s when late at night I was lying in bed and all of a sudden an angel of the Lord appeared right at the end of my bed – what a shock! I have seen angels, both Heavenly and demonic, many times in the *spirit* and I describe many of the angels I've seen in *Hebrews* but this is the first time one ever appeared in the physical and I was not prepared for it.

He sat down very calmly on the end of the bed and talked to me about the end of time. Now times and season are difficult to establish prophetically unless the Lord gives you the exact date or other information making this possible (see *Revelations from God* for a more detailed discussion) but based on what the angel said I surmised that the year of the Day of the Lord would be around 2012 and that the decade in which we are now living would be the most dangerous since the creation of man. Now you must remember this happened in 1981 at a time of relative safety in the world.

I felt I would *know* the exact time for sure because of the last words of the angel to me which still burn in my spirit to this day: “When the end is near you'll be told where to go and what to do.”

My fellow believers, I want to encourage you to do all you can for the Lord today. Don't let weariness, the constant physical and financial attacks, and other things make you grow cold, apathetic and “lukewarm.” Get all the members of your family into the Ark of safety, the Lord Jesus Christ. Renew your zeal to preach and do the Great Commission today to all you meet. Use

your spiritual gifts, especially your prophetic anointing that every born-again believer has, to win the lost, heal the sick and cast out devils.