

Life Link

Video Illustration: The One Slide Background: Is Today the Day

Title: "End of Time"

Big Idea: **Introductory Illustration:** For as long as I can remember and even longer preachers have been telling people that we were living in the last days. It is self evident that the world is in a downward spiral to destruction the real question is when we will reach the bottom? In 2 Peter 3:10 he (Peter) writes that "the Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night", While on the surface the novice Bible student may conclude that we won't know when that will take place or if it has already taken place. As a Bible student we must answer three (3) important questions. **(1) What is the Day of the Lord, (2) What will Happen and thirdly (3) What is the results** of its coming. The only way for us to begin to understand what this term means it to look at the Word of God and let the Bible define this term. A search of the Bible reveals the "Day of the Lord" appears 27 times in both the Old and New Testaments. While there may many more references to the coming of the Lord back to this world. This term carries significant implications for both believer and non-believer.

Read Sermon Text: 2 Peter 3:10-13 <The Day of the Lord>

10 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. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 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? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

NKJV

vv

1. What is The Day of The Lord (vs. 10)

2 Peter 3:10 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. NKJV

1. What is the Day of the Lord

- a. We must define this term "Day of the Lord"

The "Day of The Lord" is the Biblical, Old Testament term used to refer to start of the age judgments of the book of Revelation which God will pour out on the world starting with a massive global earthquake. This is a time when God will actively intervene in the affairs of humanity with devastating impact. These judgments will be experienced by the entire world population at a time when society has been lulled into a false sense of security. The world will think it has achieved "peace and safety" and then sudden destruction from God will come. The Day of The Lord will also overlap (as will be shown) overlap with the 70th week of Daniel, the

prophesied final 7 years on Earth before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. But as the Scriptures above clearly detail, God will at this time, in anger, send catastrophic judgments that will cause every man's heart to "melt" in fear. Many verses in the Old Testament give the same confirmation:

Isa 13:6 Wail, for the day of the Lord is at hand!
It will come as destruction from the Almighty. NKJV

Isa 13:9 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. NKJV

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

- b. From these passages in the Old Testament this term "Day of the Lord" tells us as believers there is coming a time when God will pour out His righteous judgment on a sin raked world. From the failure of Adam and Eve in the beginning this world has existed in the depth of sin.
- c. Just as in the days of Noah and the building of the ark, scripture states that God decided to bring an end to this sinful world but, Noah and his family found favor in the eyes of God and spared mankind from total destruction

Gen 6:13 (Heb 11:7; 1 Peter 3:20) And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. NKJV

- d. God's judgment was brought to mankind this was not the end but only a warning, a precursor of judgment to come. A judgment so severe it would bring to a close the sinful man. The only salvation to those who will escape such a terrible judgment is their faith in Jesus Christ.

Illustrations: – Jonathan Edwards, *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*

Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God Quotes

- "Unconverted men walk over the pit of hell on a rotten covering."
- "That the reason why they are not fallen already and do not fall now is only that God's appointed time is not come. For it is said, that when that due time, or appointed time comes, their foot shall slide. Then they shall be left to fall, as they are inclined by their own weight. God will not hold them up in these slippery places any longer, but will let them go; and then, at that very instant, they shall fall into destruction; as he that stands on such slippery declining ground, on the edge of a pit, he cannot stand alone, when he is let go he

immediately falls and is lost.”

- “[the Devil]... stands waiting for them, like greedy hungry lions that see their prey, and expect to have it...”

2. What Will Happen (vs. 10-12)

2 Peter 3:10-12 (The Day of the Lord) 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. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 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? NKJV

a. The "Rapture"

Matthew 24:30-36 (Mark 13:28-31; Luke 21:29-33) Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

32 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. 33 So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near — at the doors! 34 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. 35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

No One Knows the Day or Hour 36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. NKJV

- a. The Bible tells us that there will be a day when Jesus Christ will appear and when He appears believers who have died and those who are still alive will be called up to meet Him in the air. While the rapture is an absolute fact the question is when will it happen. Verse 36 of Matthew 24 states that no man knows, only our Heavenly Father know the time. There is a question as to when it will happen. There are three (3) primary thoughts on which this event may happen.
- First is the "Pre-tribulation" rapture. This position is that Christ will come to get the "bride" (the church) and the "rapture" will be the event that ushers in "God's Judgment" the Tribulation.
 - The second (2nd) belief is that the rapture will occur during the Tribulation it is known as " Mid-Tribulation Rapture, or "Mid-Trib". While this position is less popular it has a lot of believers.
 - The last of the three positions is known as the Post Tribulation Rapture. Many believers are of the opinion that the church will go through the tribulation and at its conclusion will be rapture.

While all three are possible it is the opinion and belief of yours truly that the rapture will be the event that ushers in the Tribulation (God's Judgment on a unrepentant world).

- b. Peter calls this time "The Day of The Lord". While many view this as a revengeful act of God. It is not, God does not extract revenge on unbelievers, but allows them to make their own choice as to where the unbeliever want to spend eternity. On the day in which God will bring judgment (TBA) He will reclaim this world which is rightfully His and this world which God created for His people. There will be no room for sin and disobedience. Adam and Eve sold their inheritance by disobeying Gods word in exchange for the expectation of becoming as gods, like the One True God. (The lie of satan).
- c. Peter seems to be preaching a funeral service message to this world so the lost person can know what to expect of what is coming. The believer need not worry about what is going to happen to this world as Peter has previously stated "this world is not our home" we are pilgrims and strangers looking for the City of God and someday Jesus will come to lead us through the heavenly gates. Peter tells us that our conduct should be holy and our life godliness as we look forward to that "Great Day of The Lord".

3. What is The Results (vs. 13)

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

- a. Christians should not dread the coming of the Lord but should look forward to the day that we all will live in a pre-fall environment. There will be no more pain, tears, heart ache, and pain. There will only be love, joy and peace. It will be an eternity of wonder and awe. It will be like it was when the garden was created for Adam and Eve.

Text Illustration:

Charles E. Fuller once announced that he would be speaking the following Sunday on "Heaven." During that week, a beautiful letter was received from an old man who was very ill. The following is part of his letter:

"Next Sunday you are to talk about Heaven. I am interested in that land, because I have held a clear title to a bit of property there for over fifty-five years. I did not buy it. It was given to me without money and without price. But the donor purchased it for me at tremendous sacrifice. I am not holding it for speculation since the title is not transferable. It is not a vacant lot. For more than half a century I have been sending materials out of which the greatest architect and builder of the universe has been building a home for me which will never need to be remodeled or repaired because it will suit me perfectly, individually, and will never grow old.

Termites can never undermine its foundations for they rest on the rock of ages. Fire cannot destroy it. Floods cannot wash it away. No locks or bolts will ever be placed upon its doors, for no vicious person can ever enter that land where my dwelling stands. It is now almost completed and ready for me to enter in and abide in peace eternally, without fear of ever being rejected. I hope to hear your sermon on heaven next Sunday from my home in Los

Angeles, but I have no assurance that I shall be able to do so. My ticket to heaven has no date marked for the journey -- no return coupon -- and no permit for baggage. Yes, I am all ready to go and I may not be here while you are talking next Sunday, but I shall meet you there some day.” (Ency of 7700 Illust. P. 545, #2183)

Conclusion: It does not matter what your position on when the rapture will occur or your thoughts on whether the church will go through the tribulation. The only thing that is important, eternally important is whether you know Jesus Christ or not. Your belief in Christ or not will determine where you will spend eternity. Heaven or hell the choice is yours.