

EPILOGUE: DAY OF THE LORD IS CHRIST

- SINCE CHRIST ENTERED THE NIGHT OR DARKNESS, OF THIS CREATION AS LIGHT, WHEREVER HE IS THAT IS DAY
 - JOHN'S GOSPEL REVOLVES ABOUT THE CONCEPT THAT JESUS IS LIGHT BEGINNING WITH HIS OPENING HYMN DEPICTING THE DARKNESS OF THE WORLD AND CHRIST COMING AS THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD WHICH SOUGHT TO ELIMINATE THE LIGHT (JO 1:1-18)
 - CHRIST REFERRED TO HIS FIRST COMING AS BEING THE DAY AND THE NIGHT AS COMING WHEN HE LEFT THE WORLD (JO 9:4-10)
 - THOSE WHO ARE SAVED ARE LEFT BEHIND, HYPOCRITES, AS LITTLE BEACONS OF HIS LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS OF SIN BRINGING HOPE TO THOSE WHO ARE PERISHING (MT 5:14-16, 1CO 1:18-19, 2CO 2:14-17)

EPILOGUE: CHRISTIANS ARE TO BE AWAKE

- DURING THE FIRST FRUITS DISPENSATION, THERE IS NOTHING LEFT TO OCCUR BEFORE HEARING THE CALL OF GOD; I.E., RAPTURE (1CO 15:51-52)
 - THIS IS WHAT IS MEANT BY COMING AS A THIEF IN THE NIGHT, CHRIST COMES TO STEAL HIS OWN FROM THE CLUTCHES OF SATAN (1TH 5:1-7)
 - WE WHO ARE SAVED ARE TO BE AWARE OF THE TIMES AND LIVE AS THOUGH CHRIST WOULD CALL FOR US AT ANY MOMENT (1P 3)
 - THE IMMATURE IN CHRIST WHO DO NOT LEARN DISCERNMENT SLUMBER AS THOUGH THE NIGHT IS INDEFINITE, BELIEVING THEY HAVE TIME TO PREPARE; YET, WHEN HE COMES THERE WILL BE NO TIME, IT WILL ONLY BE **NOW** (MT 25:1-13, HE 5:11-14)

CHRISTIANS NOT SERIOUS ABOUT JUDGMENT

- CHRISTIANS HAVE BEEN TAUGHT THEY ARE ABOVE THE MORAL LAW AND WILL BASK IN THE ETERNAL LOVE OF JESUS THEIR FRIEND IN A TYPE OF ELYSIUM FIELDS (HE 10:25-31)
 - CHRIST IS THE **ONLY** SACRIFICE FOR SIN(S); SINS PROVE THE EXISTENCE OF ONE'S SIN NATURE
 - CHRISTIANS WILLINGLY PARTICIPATING IN DELIBERATE SINS HAVE NO EXCUSE AND NO OTHER ATONEMENT PROTECTING THEM FROM JESUS' WRATH
 - THEIR ONLY EXPECTATION AT THE BEMA SEAT IS FIERY JUDGMENT (MT 5:17-20)
 - GOD WILL NOT BE MOCKED, ESPECIALLY BY THOSE CALLED BY HIS NAME (ISA 6:7-8)
 - REPENT WHILE IT IS CALLED TODAY, PERIOD OF TIME BEFORE JUDGMENT, LESS YOU DISCOVER WHEN TOO LATE THAT YOU ACTUALLY WERE NOT SAVED, JUST DELUSIONAL (MT 7:21-23, HE 3:7-14, 8:11-13)

CHRISTIANS ARE TO BE DIFFERENT AS CHRIST IS DIFFERENT

- IMMATURE CHRISTIANS SEEK TO EXCUSE THEIR GRATIFICATION OF THE FLESH VIA RULES SHOWING THEY BELIEVE THEY HAVE TIME BEFORE CHRIST APPEARS BRINGING THE DAY
 - THEY ARE SLOW TO THROW OFF FLESHLY DESIRES AND APPEAR TO THE WORLD AS EVERYONE ELSE
 - THIS MAKES THEM SUSCEPTIBLE TO FALSE TEACHERS WHO USE SEDUCING LIES TO HIDE THE TRUTH; THEY FORGET THEY WILL STAND BEFORE THE BEMA OF CHRIST AS WILL ALL CHRISTIANS (1CO 3:16; 2PE 2:1-3; 3JDE 10:13)
 - THOSE WHO ARE LED ASTRAY WILL NOT LOSE THEIR SALVATION, BUT THEIR STATE WILL BE WORST THAN BEFORE AS THEY BECOME SEDUCED BY THE WORLD'S PHILOSOPHIES (2PE 2:19-22)
 - THEY WILL BE SAVED WITH THE STENCH OF HELL ON THEM, THAT IS HOW CLOSE THEY COME TO ULLTER DESTRUCTION (1CO 3:16-18)

PUT ON THE ARMOR OF GOD WHICH IS CHRIST

- GOD HAS NOT LEFT US DEFENSELESS THOUGH HE HAS NOT GIVEN US THE WEAPONS OF THE WORLD WHICH ONLY DESTROY, A HALLMARK OF SIN (2J 26:13-14; 3J 3:44)
 - GOD HAS GIVEN US HEAVENLY ARMOR SUCH AS WAS USED BY CHRIST THROUGHOUT HIS MINISTRY AS AN EXAMPLE TO US WHO ARE HYPOMENA, LEFT BEHIND (2PT 4:1-10; 6:13-20)
 - WHEREAS SATAN AND THE LOST USE LIES; WE HAVE THE BELT OF TRUTH
 - SATAN AND THE LOST USE VIOLENCE TO ELIMINATE US; WE HAVE THE SHIELD OF FAITH WHILE WEARING THE SHOES OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; I.E., WE DO NOT RETURN EVIL FOR EVIL AS THEY
 - IN ADDITION, WE ALSO HAVE THE HELMET OF SALVATION, THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT WHICH IS THE BIBLE; I.E., PUT ON THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST (1CO 2:14; GA 3:27-29; COX 3:9-18)

EPILOGUE: DICHOTOMY OF TWO NIGHT AND DAY

- THEME OF DAY AND NIGHT RUNS FROM GENESIS TO REVELATION BUT WAS ESPECIALLY HIGHLIGHTED BY CHRIST AND LATER BIBLICAL AUTHORS SUCH AS PAUL
 - GOD SPECIFICALLY MADE PHYSICAL DAY AND NIGHT AS SIGNS OF ONGOING SPIRITUAL REALITY WHICH EXISTED BEFORE PHYSICAL LIGHT WAS CREATED (2PT 1:1-3; 14:18)
 - CREATION WAS IN DARKNESS AND CHAOS, DARKNESS, BEFORE CHRIST ENTERED CREATION, LIGHT, AND GAVE IT ORDER; I.E., SIN WAS A REALITY BEFORE THIS CREATION
 - MIRRORRED REVELATION OF FLESHLY REBELLION, MAN'S SIN, AND NEED FOR REDEMPTION BY CHRIST
 - THUS, THIS CREATION WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE PERMANENT; RATHER, IT WAS A PREPARATION FOR THE NEW CREATION TO COME (2PE 3:10-13; RE 21:1; 22:28)

DAY OF THE LORD IS ETERNAL

- HENCE, THE DAY OF THE LORD IS ETERNAL SINCE IT IS INTIMATELY LINKED TO THE PERSONAGE OF CHRIST; INDEED, OF THE TRINITY SINCE WHOEVER HAS SEEN THE SON HAS ALSO SEEN THE FATHER (JO 14:8-11)
 - THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ON PENTECOST WAS A LIGHT, TONGUES OF FLAME (AC 2:2-4)
 - SINCE CHRIST WAS NOT ONLY PRESENT AT CREATION BUT WAS ALSO THE AUTHOR OF CREATION THE DAY OF THE LORD IS SYNONYMOUS WITH THIS CREATION (JO 1:1-5)
 - HIS LIGHT IS HIS GLORY WHICH HE HAD FROM THE FATHER IN ETERNITY PAST (MT 17:1-8; JO 17:4-8)
 - HIS GLORY RESTORED AFTER HIS ASCENSION AND WILL BE THE ONLY LIGHT IN ETERNITY FUTURE; THUS, IN THE LAKE OF FIRE THERE CAN ONLY BE UTTER DARKNESS (MT 8:11-12; 22:11-14; RE 1:7-18; 21:23-25)

NOW WE CAN DISCUSS PAUL'S STATEMENT

- PAUL USES THE WORDS TIME AND HOUR IN A BROAD SENSE SUGGESTING BOTH NIGHT AND DAY, CONCEPTS WE HAVE DEFINED THROUGHOUT THE SCRIPTURE
 - THE ENGLISH WORD SLEEP IS THE GREEK WORD HYPNOS (ΥΠΝΟΣ HYPNOS) WHICH SUGGESTS A TRANCE OR ONE LULLED INTO A DELUSION (2TH 2:9-12)
 - THE WORLD IS BEING SEDUCED BY THE LIE OR DELUSION OF SATAN AS ALLOWED BY GOD WHO HAS GIVEN UP THE LOST TO LIVE THEIR FONDEST DREAM; A WORLD WITHOUT GOD (RO 1:18-20)
 - THIS WORLD WILL INCREASINGLY BECOME DEGRADED AND VIOLENT WHICH ARE THE HALLMARKS OF SIN
 - FOR A SPELL, CHRISTENDOM BASKED IN THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL BUT HAS RETURNED TO THE DARKNESS IN THE MODERN PERIOD EXCHANGING THE TRUTH OF GOD FOR A LIE (1CO 1:18-20)

CHRISTIANS ARE TO BE AWAKE

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LAST DAYS LINKED WITH FIRST FRUITS DISPENSATION

- AFTER RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT, PETER PREACHED TO THOSE IN SOLOMON'S PORTICOS IN THE TEMPLE REFERENCING JOEL (JC 2:14-21)
 - PROPHETIC TIME IS NOT IDENTICAL TO CHRONOLOGICAL OR LINEAR TIME; CHRIST READ FROM ISAIAH AND STOPPED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PASSAGE SAYING THIS REFERRED TO HIM (JC 4:16-21)
 - REMAINDER OF THE SENTENCE AND SUBSEQUENT VERSES PERTAINED TO HIS SECOND COMING AND MILLENNIAL REIGN; WHICH IS WHY HE STOPPED READING IN MID-SENTENCE (JC 5:1)
 - JOEL SPOKE OF THE COMING OF THE SPIRIT, NEW COVENANT, IN SAME SENTENCE AS THE COMING GREAT TRIBULATION; FIRST FRUITS DISPENSATION IS THE GAP BETWEEN THE TWO

WHAT IS THE "DAY OF THE LORD?"

- THE LAST DAYS BEGAN WITH CHRIST'S MINISTRY AND IS A PROCESS OF AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LIFE, SALVATION, BEFORE THE COMING JUDGMENT BOTH ON JEWS AND GENTILES
- THE DAY OF THE LORD IS FREQUENTLY EQUATED TO THE LAST DAYS ALSO WITH A TIME COMPONENT
 - SINCE WE ARE CREATIONS OF TIME IN THIS CURRENT CREATION, MARKING THE TIME DURING WHICH ONE HAS OPPORTUNITY TO CHOOSE LIFE BEFORE SUCCUMBING TO DEATH AND ETERNAL JUDGMENT FOR SIN, THE DAY OF THE LORD DOES HAVE A TIME COMPONENT
 - HOWEVER, THE DAY OF THE LORD IS NOT BOUNDED BY TIME OR PROCESSES; DAY OF THE LORD IS A PERSON – CHRIST

DAY OF THE LORD IS CHRIST

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 - JOHN'S GOSPEL REVOLVES ABOUT THE CONCEPT THAT JESUS IS LIGHT BEGINNING WITH HIS OPENING HYMN DEPICTING THE DARKNESS OF THE WORLD AND CHRIST COMING AS THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD WHICH SOUGHT TO ELIMINATE THE LIGHT (JO 1:1-18)
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DAY OF THE LORD

- TERM FIRST USED BY THE PROPHETS IN CONNECTION WITH JEWISH RESTORATION AND PUNISHMENT OF SIN (Is 2)
- GOD VIA ISAIAH PAINTS WITH BROAD STROKES A DESCRIPTION OF THE LATTER DAYS WHICH ALSO REFERS TO THE DAY OF THE LORD
- JERUSALEM SHALL BE SITUATION ON THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN, THE ONLY MOUNTAIN, ON THE EARTH PRESAGING THE COMING GREAT TRIBULATION (Is 16:19-21)
- LORD OF HOSTS, CHRIST, HAS A DAY AGAINST ALL WHO REJECT HIM DURING THE LAST DAYS
- BEGINS WITH THE JEWS AND INCLUDES ALL PEOPLES WHO REJECT CHRIST
- THE GREAT CITY IS JERUSALEM WHO LEADS THE EARTH AGAINST CHRIST: BABYLON (Is 13:7-8, 17:13-18)

LAST DAYS BEGAN WITH CHRIST

- LAST OR LATTER DAYS BEGAN NOT ON PENTECOST, THOUGH PENTECOST WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW COVENANT SALVATION (Ac 2:1-4)
- LAST DAYS BEGAN WITH CHRIST'S MINISTRY ANNOUNCING THE COMING KINGDOM OF HEAVEN AS REVEALED BY JOHN THE BAPTIST'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIM (MAL 4:1-4, MT 3:1-12, HE 1:1-6)
- THE OLD TESTAMENT WAS THE PREPARATION FOR THE LAST DAYS, FOR THE FULLNESS OF TIMES WHEN CHRIST WOULD APPEAR: (1 CO 10:1-6, GA 4:1-7, EP 1:7-10)
- FIRST AS THE HUMBLE SLAVE DYING FOR SIN; THEN AS LORD RETURNING TO CLAIM HIS KINGDOM (Is 53, Mt 19:11-14)
- LAST DAYS DEALS MAINLY WITH JUDGMENT (Mt 7:22-23)

BREADTH OF THE LAST DAYS

- LAST DAYS DEALING MAINLY, THOUGH NOT EXCLUSIVELY, WITH JUDGMENT EXTENDS FROM CHRIST TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THIS MATERIAL CREATION
- JUDGMENT OCCURS IN STAGES MAKING THE LAST DAYS NOT A TIME PERIOD BUT A PROCESS THAT BEGAN WITH THE REVEALING OF CHRIST AS MESSIAH
- JUDGMENT BEGINS WITH ONE JUDGING ONE'S SELF AND TURNING TO CHRIST FOR LIFE (Mt 7:1-5, RO 2:1-8)
- CHRIST PREPARING THE EARTH FOR HIS RETURN JUDGING THE LIVING, ANTICHRIST AND FALSE PROPHET PREPARING FOR HIS MILLENNIAL KINGDOM (Mt 25:31-46, RE 19:17-20)
- FINALLY, JUDGING THE REBELLIOUS AT THE END OF THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM (RE 19:7-10)

PROLOGUE: LOVE DOES NO WRONG

- SINCE A NEIGHBOR IS ONE WHO NEEDS MERCY, LOVE DOES NOT WITHHOLD MERCY, GOSPEL, CONSIGNING THE PERSON TO ETERNAL JUDGMENT; THE LOST DO THIS
 - THIS NECESSARILY APPLIES TO THE LOST WORLD WHICH HATES GOD AND CHRISTIANS (1 PE 4)
 - THE LOST THINK US STRANGE FOR NOT LIVING SENSUALLY AS WE ONCE DID, AS THEY CONTINUE TO DO; THUS, THEY MAIGN AND PERSECUTE THOSE WHO DO GOOD JUST AS THEY DID JESUS
 - LOVE DOES NOT RETURN EVIL FOR EVIL BUT RETURNS GOOD FOR EVIL (RO 12:21)
 - THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT EVIL IS EXCLUDED OR OVERLOOKED; GOD JUDGES THOSE WHO DIE IN THEIR SINS (DE 32:35; RO 13:15; HE 10:30-31)
 - OUR FAITH IS REVEALED TO THE WORLD, BY THE DIFFERENCE OF OUR FAITH-WORKS (JA 2:14-18)

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TECHNICAL TERMS

- PETER LINKS THE END OF THIS CREATION, AND THE GENESIS OF THE NEW ETERNAL CREATION, WITH THE TECHNICAL TERM: DAY OF THE LORD (2PE 3:10)
 - ANOTHER TECHNICAL TERM, LAST OR LATTER DAYS RUNS PARALLEL TO BUT NOT SYNONYMOUS WITH THE DAY OF THE LORD
 - TO UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF NIGHT AND DAY WE MUST ALSO HAVE AN APPRECIATION OF THESE TWO TECHNICAL TERMS
 - POINT OF INTEREST: JEWISH/BIBLICAL WRITERS FOLLOW THE PATTERN OF THE GENESIS CREATION; I.E., NIGHT ALWAYS PRECEDES THE DAY; SIN COMES BEFORE SALVATION
 - ANOTHER REFERENCE TO THE SPIRITUAL REALITY REVEALED BY THE PHYSICAL REALITY (HE 11:3)

ROMANS 50 – DAY OF THE LORD

DR. LEON L. SANDERS

ROMANS 13:11-14

PROLOGUE: SHEMA OF ISRAEL POINTED THE WAY – HA DEREKH

- THE SHEMA OF ISRAEL POINTED TO THE TRUE FULFILLMENT OF THE LAW (JK 6:4-6)
 - LORD: YAHWEH (SINGULAR)
 - ELOHIM, PLURAL (TRINITY)
 - ONE: MEMBERS OF THE TRINITY HAVE ONE NATURE AND ACT AS ONE
 - MAN IS ASUNDER FROM THIS UNITY BECAUSE SINFUL MAN DOES NOT HAVE GOD'S LOVE/NATURE
 - WHEN MAN LOVES GOD, AS GOD LOVES MAN, THEN MAN ENTERS THIS ONENESS, SALVATION
 - SHALL BE POINTS TO THE FUTURE FULFILLMENT IN THE NEW COVENANT (JK 31:31-34)
 - YAHWEH DECLARES HIMSELF TO BE ISRAEL'S (JUDAH'S) HUSBAND (HOSEA, EZEKIEL)

PROLOGUE: OLD TESTAMENT POINTED TO LOVE OF ENEMIES

- SHEMA PRESAGED AGAPE, HIERARCHY OF LOVE; SECOND GREATEST COMMANDMENT PRESAGED PHILEO, LATERAL LOVE BETWEEN PEOPLE; BOTH ARE GOD'S LOVE IN US (JK 10:25-28)
 - IF THE CHRISTIAN LOVES GOD WITH ALL SINGLENES OF PURPOSE THEN HE, SHE, WILL NATURALLY LOVE OTHERS AS ONE'S SELF FOR NO ONE EVER HATED HIS, HER, OWN SELF (JK 19:16, RP 5:29)
 - FLESH SEES A NEIGHBOR AS ONE WHO HELPS YOU; AS CHRIST OBSERVED, HOW DOES THIS SHOW GOD'S DIFFERENCE TO THE WORLD: GOLDEN RULE PERTAINS TO LAW, NOT GRACE (JK 5:45-47, 7:12-14)
 - JESUS DEMONSTRATED THAT KNOWLEDGE OF GOD IS NOT SUFFICIENT; IT DOES NOT CHANGE THE FLESH OR NATURE OF THE PERSON
 - AN EXPERT IN JUDAISM'S TORAH, TALMUD, MIDRASH, AND MISHNAH, WANTING TO JUSTIFY HIS FLESH, ASKED JESUS TO DEFINE NEIGHBOR (JK 10:29)