

# There's A Great Day Coming

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**Bible Text:** 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9  
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All right, 2 Thessalonians chapter one and verses seven through nine as we look at a great day coming.

But Mike Welsh is up there in the balcony and they are getting ready to go for about two or three months now on more deputation to try to get their support up for Pakistan. So I trust that you will pray for them as they are on the road and pray that their support will come in so they can get back out to Pakistan. I can't imagine being eager to go to Pakistan, ok, but they are eager and they are wanting to get out there and so you pray for them.

"There is a Great Day Coming," is the title of this message.

The story is told that Chelsea Clinton heard that Al Gore might run for president so she started talking to him and said, "Are you thinking about it?"

And he said, "Well, I am just thinking about it."

She says, "Well, if you ran for president, who do you fear the most?"

He said, "Osama, then Obama and then your momma."

And so, ok. I guess a lot of the political things will be coming up over the next few years.

Well, I don't know, they start running for president the day after the election, I think, all over again now.

But 2 Thessalonians chapter one verses seven through nine.

And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our

Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.<sup>1</sup>

Now shall we pray?

*Father, I pray that as we look into this message this morning there might be one here that does not know that if they die today that heaven is their home. And I pray that that soul would come to the Savior. Lord, put aside all things that would interfere with the worship of you that might be in the heart of any believer today, that they would not hinder the work of thy Holy Spirit. And we would ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

Some of us who have been part of the fundamental churches over the years have heard the song, “There is a Great Day Coming By and By.”

And I am sure many of you have heard that song. The Bible has much to say about that day. And this morning we want to look at some of the aspects that are involved with that day. What kind of a day is that great day?

Well, first of all, it is a day of rest, but only for saved people.

When you and I think of rest, we picture a day off. For example, tomorrow is Labor Day and some of you will be taking the day off from work and it is day off. And we think of that as rest. Maybe you go on vacation for a couple of weeks and you call that rest, although usually we have to come back to vacation to rest, ok?

But nonetheless—and it seems like to me when I go away for two weeks I am behind four weeks when I get back. So I always look at that as I don't know if that is something I would really enjoy it or not.

But he calls this rest with us.

Morris correctly points out in his notes that the rest here is a noun, not a verb. In other words, when God created the heavens and the earth, he rested. You know, we talk about the sabbath day. He rested. But the idea there is that there was no more creating after that. That was it. He rested and it was over.

Now in this context what this means for us when he says, “Rest with us,” he is saying, “All right. Rest from anxiety and those worrisome thoughts that you have.” How? By having complete confidence and comfort in the great day that is coming.

You are going through trials. You are going through persecutions. You are going through troubles as a Christian especially for your stand for Christ, your peace, your comfort is by looking and having confidence and comfort in that coming day.

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<sup>1</sup> 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.

Now we need rest because we are troubled. This word “troubled” is in the continual tense in the Greek and it has the idea of people as Christians who turn their cheeks and let them hit the other cheek as Jesus told us. It is passively, we receive these troubles instead of battling against the troubles. So we continue our witness. We continue the work regardless of the persecution and the trials.

He says, “Rest with us.”

Now think of the man that the Holy Spirit is using to pen these words that says, “Rest with us.” He knows what a life of harassment, fatigue, floggings, pain, stonings, sufferings, yet there is a certain joy and peace in his heart. We see that especially when he is in prison, beaten and bleeding and he is singing the praises of God.

You see, that heart that is resting comfortably in the knowledge of the soon coming of Christ, that is one that finds his strength in the great day coming. There is a rest for the people of God.

The blessed hope is a day of rest for the believer especially if you suffered at the hands of family, friends, society. And you have done so for the gospel’s sake, for the Word of God.

Well, my Christian friend, don’t try to get even with them. Don’t jump the gun. The Lord is going to vindicate you one day before those very enemies, especially if they do not try to make it right with you and they name the name of Christ.

In Matthew chapter five verses 10 through 12 Jesus builds the hope within us by his unchanging promise that when you are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, when men say things against you falsely for his name’s sake, he says to “Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: [Why?] for great is your reward in heaven.”<sup>2</sup>

That is what keeps you going. You are looking towards that special day.

By the way, the hope of the Church as well as the individual believer is the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is why he told us to pray, “Thy kingdom come.”<sup>3</sup>

Rest in the peace of the promise of God. For now you may have problems and there is no relief. There is no relief from the heartache. There is no relief from the suffering, the disappointment and the persecution. And we are wanting relief. Basically what we are wanting is saying, “Lord, give me my rest.” But our rest is not in this life. And he will have to give us strength to do what is right according to his Word.

And many times we are praying for rest when we need to pray for the strength of God.

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<sup>2</sup> Mathew 5:12.

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 6:10; Luke 11:2.

Now understand. We are in the minority now. We are in the minority. People hate fundamental Christianity. They call themselves Christians. It is not unusual to have family members get mad at a fundamental Christian going to a church and run down that church, run down, make fun of them, do all kinds of things to try to discourage you. But you stay true to God. Stay true to him.

“Forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”<sup>4</sup>

We are in the minority now, but we are on the winning side. So as the believer be patient. Just keep trusting God.

You may say you believe that Jesus is coming again. But that is only a statement. It is not really faith until it brings comfort and peace in your heart during the storms of life.

See, we are fundamental Christians, yeah. We believe Jesus is coming again. Does that belief give you comfort and peace in the storms of life? It should

Now, let’s look at one final thing about that day for those that it is a rest. And this is referring not to the Rapture. The Rapture is the next thing to happen. The Rapture is when every saved person, those that are dead in the grave and those that are alive will be suddenly caught up in the air to be with the Lord. The Bible says it happens in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. It could happen today.

But that is not what this is talking about right now. The revelation is what he is talking about. That is when after the Rapture there is a seven year period of tribulation and at the end of that seven years we come back with Jesus Christ.

You see, the Rapture seems to be secret and unannounced. It is a sudden thing. But the revelation.

“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.”<sup>5</sup>

Yes, there is a great day coming.

Now this is a great day of rest. But, second, we see in verse eight it is also a day of revenge. It says, “In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.”<sup>6</sup>

Taking vengeance is not so much about getting even. Rather it is about giving them their just desserts.

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<sup>4</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:58.

<sup>5</sup> Revelation 1:7.”

<sup>6</sup> 1 Thessalonians 1:8.

Hebrews 12:29 says, “For our God is a consuming fire.”<sup>7</sup>

We have just sang, “How Great Thou Art.”

Now think about it. Here are the mighty angels that are coming back with him. One angel by himself in the battle destroyed an army, 185,000 dead people the next day by himself.

Another angel destroyed 70,000 in Israel.

Christ doesn't have to come back. He could send an angel to destroy them all. But he is coming back personally. But think of how great he is. The Queen of Sheba come to visit Solomon. And when she saw the attendance of his servants they said, you know, these servants would be the highest office holders in her country, but they were just servants to Solomon. And she said, “One half of the greatness of thy wisdom was not told me.”<sup>8</sup>

Jesus is coming back with these mighty powerful angels and they are his servants, truly how great thou art.

“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”<sup>9</sup>

Jesus Christ our Lord, my friend, does keep records. Keep it in mind. He is the one who will take vengeance. It is not us. But it is at that day, it is at his coming. So my friends, wait patiently, enduring Christ because a great day is coming.

He says, “Them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel.”<sup>10</sup>

I am reminded of John chapter three verses 18 through 21 where Jesus said, “He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”<sup>11</sup>

He has not trusted his life to God. He has not trusted his life to Christ, his soul, his eternity.

“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”<sup>12</sup>

In other words, they don't want the sin taken away, only the consequence taken away. They love darkness rather than light.

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<sup>7</sup> Hebrews 12:29.

<sup>8</sup> 2 Chronicles 9:6.

<sup>9</sup> Hebrews 10:31.

<sup>10</sup> 2 Thessalonians 1:8.

<sup>11</sup> John 3:18.

<sup>12</sup> John 3:19.

For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. [And he says] But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.<sup>13</sup>

You see, they hate the light. There is no repentance in their heart.

Today's society, today's church in the absence of shame all conduct is excusable. But, my friend, not before the judge of the earth.

Those who know not God are those who do not have has personal, living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. They have not come under his blood.

As 1 John chapter one verse seven says, "And the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."<sup>14</sup>

But, you see, the blood of Jesus Christ, it was shed for all sin for all time, but it is kind of like soap in your bathroom. That soap may be the best soap in the world, but if you don't use it, your hands are going to stay dirty. Your hands are still going to be unrepresentable. You have got to use it. The soap must be applied.

The blood of Jesus Christ was shed for your sins. But, my friends, it must be applied. It must be applied.

Too often people are not willing for the Lord to take that sin away from their lives.

The great crime of multitudes will be that the gospel is revealed and they will not believe it, nor will they obey it. One of the saddest things for me is to see young men and young women whose parents were examples of Christian piety, no, they weren't perfect, but they were Christian people. And they had a family altar and they faithfully attended a fundamental Bible preaching church and they had those kids in there as they grew up and the parents maintained a good standard. But then those children go out from there careless and indifferent, foolishly stating, "Oh, I had religion crammed down my throat."

Well, they should have swallowed.

See, their rebellion has led to a hard conscience, a hard heart. Unless there is a repentance and a breaking down before God with a confession of sin and a turning to Jesus Christ, they will feel the just desserts from God forever. They obey not the gospel. That is, they reject the Word of God.

"Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> John 3:

<sup>14</sup> 1 John 1:7.

<sup>15</sup> Romans 10:17.

The Word of God is the power for salvation. The Word of God is the power for holiness of life. The Word of God is the power for all matters of faith. And it is by the Word of God we shall be judged, our motives our thoughts, our deeds, our words. They rejected those who proclaimed the truth. They rejected those who called them to repent.

Jesus in John chapter seven verse seven said, "The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil."<sup>16</sup>

If you hate a preacher that preaches against sin, that names sin, calls sin and you say, "Well, that is just too negative. No, I hate that kind of preaching," let me tell you something. You would have really hated the Lord Jesus Christ, because he named them. He named them. He called them. He told his brethren.

He says, "Look. They don't hate you. They hate me, because I tell them their works are evil."

Listen. People have to see they are sinners before they repent. They need to see they need to repent of sin. They need to see that they need to be saved. The word obey in our text here is in the context here it has the idea of they have known the way of righteousness. But they have continually rejected. And they will see the consuming fire, the Lord whom they should have received and had a personal ongoing relationship.

Yes, there is a day of rest for the believer, but there is a day of revenge. And finally see in verse nine there is coming a day of rot to me.

Verse nine says, "Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."<sup>17</sup>

Notice the word, "everlasting destruction." Everlasting, without end. Destruction does not imply annihilation, rather a corruption. It is the idea of a force which cannot be hindered. It just gets rotten, worse and worse.

Oh, listen. The eternity of your soul would be much worse. It is just the opposite of the eternity in heaven.

Now we see the accountability of man before the holiness of God. Those who have refused his grace, those who have refused his mercy and his love and the forgiveness of their sins because they don't want their sin taken away, they will feel the eternal justness of the wrath of God in the lake of fire.

Let me tell you plainly and certainly and rightly. There is no purgatorial cleansing for the soul. This place is forever separated from the graciousness of Jesus Christ our Lord once you have gone to this eternal place.

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<sup>16</sup> John 7:7.

<sup>17</sup> 2 Thessalonians 1:9.

In righteousness he carries out what our sin deserves when we are refused to turn to him by repentance and faith.

Listen to this group, Revelation chapter 21 verse eight.

“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, [don’t miss this last one. It is on the same level] and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”<sup>18</sup>

Yet it is those very people that he wants to forgive and he wants to cleanse them from those things now. But, my friend, once you die or Christ returns and you have not received him, it will at that moment be eternally too late.

Listen to the fate of these people as they see the heavens depart as a scroll and they see Jesus coming. Let me just read two passages.

Revelation six beginning with verse 12.

And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?<sup>19</sup>

Revelation chapter 16 verses 17 through 21.

And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the

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<sup>18</sup> Revelation 21:8.

<sup>19</sup> Revelation :12-17.



weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.<sup>20</sup>

Now those are terrible things that I have just read. But what I want you to understand is that is only the beginning. The lake of fire is forever and is much worse than that. It ought to tell you how much God hates sin, my friend.

Now there are people that hate this kind of preaching. I know that. They hate it. But it is true. And it is the love of God that wants us to know about it that in order we might repent and believe the gospel and be saved and enter into the love of God.

The everlasting torment is not hindered. It is night and day forever and ever. And because of pride, maybe because of selfishness, you have refused the love of God and his sacrificial death. As a result you will be forever banned forever from his glorious power that could have saved your soul.

Think of that, eternal hopelessness. No hope.

Romans 6:23.

“For the wages of sin is death.”<sup>21</sup>

Sin’s work will receive sin’s wages.

But it is not just the destruction of the body.

In Matthew chapter 10 verse 28 Jesus said, “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”<sup>22</sup>

Listen, there are people in China. There are people in North Korea. There are people in the Sudan. There are people over in Saudi Arabia. There are people even in Iran and Iraq that have downloaded sermons from this pulpit off the internet, people who may, if they get caught, die for that, end up in something that would be similar to a concentration camp.

But they have learned not to fear him that kills the body, but no more can do anything else. Fear him that can destroy both soul and body in hell.

This destruction runs parallel with eternity. It is dying and yet never fully dead, never ceasing to exist. It is everlasting chains of darkness and fire. Oh, I am going to go with all my friends and we are going to have a big party down there.

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<sup>20</sup> Revelation 16:17-21.

<sup>21</sup> Romans 6:23.

<sup>22</sup> Matthew 10:28.

Let me tell you, my friend. You may have all your friends in hell, but they are not going to be with you. It is a place of separation. It is a place of chains. It is a place of eternal torment. It is a place of the lake of fire. And you will be tormented day and night. It will be worse for some than it is for others, but all of it will be bad.

It must needs be since the punishment is inflicted by an eternal God who now fastens upon a soul that has rejected him and now they are out of reach of the divine mercy and grace forever in the lake of fire, burning with brimstone, tormented, hopeless. The sight of Jesus Christ, the righteous judge in almightiness who is robed in flaming fire and followed by a host of bright and shining powerful angels will cause the inhabitants of the earth without Christ to be so terror stricken beyond words and they will cry for the rocks to fall on them and hide them.

Please understand that the Bible says, “God is angry with the wicked every day.”<sup>23</sup>

And this day will prove so.

That is why the Bible also says, “Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”<sup>24</sup>

Now, my friend, I don't know your condition because I don't know your heart. God does. You can fool me. You can fool this entire congregation. But don't play church. Don't play Russian roulette with your soul. Be sure to examine yourself. Know that you are in the faith. Know that if you die today heaven is your home.

Let us bow our heads please.

*Father, I pray for the one that has raised their hand tonight sure if they died today that heaven is their home. And, Lord, we believe, we know, your Word says so, this place of eternity, this lake of fire is a real place and souls are going there and we as Christians need to have a compassion for those souls. But for that one that is here, I pray that today they might come and make public their profession of faith, that they might come to receive Christ as their Savior and settle it. I pray for those that need to come forward as Christians and make things right and go from just a statement of belief unto faith and allow the coming of the Lord of be their comfort, to allow the coming of the Lord to be their strength and their encouragement to keep on keeping on. I pray, Father, that they might come and step out in faith in the doctrine of the return of Christ.*

*Now, Lord, we can only preach a Word. What happens now is between the individual and the Holy Spirit. I pray that not one Christian would be ashamed of Christ and of his Word. I pray that not one would be ashamed to respond to the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

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<sup>23</sup> Psalm 7:11.

<sup>24</sup> 2 Corinthians 6:2.