**In The Last Days**

**The Day of the Lord – Part 4**

April 30, 2023

Rev. Dr. Tony Soldano

# SERMON DESCRIPTION

Various writers, such as Peter, Paul, Zachariah, Daniel, and others provide great details into what life will be like in the last days upon the face of the earth. These days will be unprecedented, and they will be perilous and extremely difficult. Particularly for the believer in Christ life will be hard as the world will be in full force secular mode, and of course, we know that the antichrist will be on the scene looking to destroy the church and the people of God. There are books such as Revelation, chapters, and verses that are dedicated to this subject in order to prepare God’s people for this day. However, we must not forget that in the last days it will also be the Day of the Lord. This is the Day in which He arrives back to the earth, and a time where He will rule for one thousand years. God’s judgements will come upon the face of the earth and the wicked, and He will destroy the earth with fire. As God’s people, we look for a new heaven and a new earth; this is our blessed hope.

# SERMON QUESTIONS & OBJECTIVES

1. What do they need to know?
* The Lord is returning.
1. Why do they need to know it?
* Prepare and get ready.

1. How should they apply it?
* Look for the Day of the Lord to arrive.

# CENTRAL TRUTH

The return of the Lord is at hand – GET READY – PREPARE!

The last days will be filled with scoffers and mockers, but Jesus is returning just as He was taken up - get ready!

# MAIN PASSAGE

**Proverbs 28:1**

The wicked flee when no one pursues, **But the righteous are bold as a lion.**

**2Peter 3:1-13**

**The Day of the Lord Will Come**

**1**Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both of* which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), **2**that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, **3**knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, **4**and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation.” **5**For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, **6**by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water. **7**But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

**8**But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. **9**The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

**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.

# MAIN POINTS

# Main Passage with Notes

**2Peter 3:1-3**

**1**Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both of* which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), **2**that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, **3**knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, …

* Peter writes to the believers in Rome to encourage them within their persecution, and to hold on to their faith. Despite what they were going through at the moment, the stark reality of the last days, we are still ahead in this chapter, Peter echoes the words of Paul, and indicates that people take his hard writings and twist them into wrong meanings. Furthermore, we know that Paul said that in the last days dangerous and perilous times would come. Peter reiterates that mockers of Christ, and the Gospel will be prevalent with their message of sarcasm, doubt, and innuendos.
	+ SCOFFERS = mockers and false teachers
	+ LUST = a longing for what is forbidden.

**2Peter 3:4-5**

**4**and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation.” **5**For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, …

* The message of the mockers is plain and simple, “if this was going to happen, it would have happened by now”, therefore they render God a liar and the message of the cross false. The enemies of Christ utilize God’s grace and mercy as an opportunity to cast a shadow upon the return of Christ. Since things have gone on from the beginning of time and continue to go on as normal, their message is to disorient people from the return of Jesus. Clearly, they want people to focus on the present and avoid eternal matters.

**2Peter 3:6-7**

**6**by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water. **7**But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

* Peter indicates that all things are held together by the Word of the Lord. It is by His word that all things were created, and by His Word that all things continue to be sustained. Furthermore, He indicates that the world is being held in place for the day of judgment. In the Book of Genesis, God judged in the days of Noah by water, but in these last days, it will be by fire. All things will be destroyed, and there will be a new heaven and a new earth.
	+ In the days of Noah judgement was – water
	+ In the days of Lot – fire
	+ It is the Word of the Lord that holds all things together.

**2Peter 3:8-9**

**8**But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. **9**The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

* Peter is sure to explain that God is not slack, nor is He wasting time in any way, shape or form. In fact, Peter provides God’s schedule, His timetable, so that we can understand how God is measuring time, and the things to look forward to. If a day equals 1000 years and 1000 years equals today then we are living in the sixth day approaching the seventh. Consider:
	+ From Adam to Abraham = two thousand years
	+ From Abraham to Jesus = two thousand years
	+ From Jesus to present = two thousand years
	+ We are approaching the seventh day, where Christ will rule and reign on the earth for 1000 years.

**2Peter 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.**

* As it was in the days of Noah and Lot…
	+ Jesus points to two generations as an example of what it will be like when He returns
	+ In the days of Noah, the Bible says that the thoughts of the people were continuously evil and therefore, God judged them by the flood
		- Only eight people survived the flood
	+ Sin in the day of Lot was rampant, immoral sexuality, particularly homosexuality and God judged him with fire and sulphur
		- Only one person survived the judgement
		- God could not find ten righteous people in all of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:32)
	+ Jesus points to eight things that they were doing, which were part of everyday life, in other words, they were going about their business, and had no concentration on the things of the Spirit.
* Is this describing nuclear war?
	+ 2Thessalonians 2:3-4

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin (lawlessness) is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

* Zechariah 14:12

And this shall be the plague with which the Lord will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths.

* 2Peter 3:11-13

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.

# SERMON CONCLUSION - THE CALL TO ACTION

**Acts 1:10-11**

10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."