



SAFE HARBOR

A Publication of Cove Fellowship Ministries

William E. Lang Jr., Director

VOLUME 16.3

All Rights Reserved.
Cove Fellowship Ministries, Inc.

2018

The Day of the Lord

“Multitudes, multitudes, in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining.”
Jl.3:14-15.

What is this term, “The Day of the Lord”, and what does it signify? Scripturally it is not associated with any day of the week. The Jewish Sabbath is the day of rest which is dedicated to worship and study as well as the family. Sunday is a celebration of the Risen Christ in the Christian world. But neither of these days are referred to as “The Day of the Lord”

The term has a dual meaning for the people of God. Often it refers to the day when God will exercise judgement upon his creation. It often comes with the adjectives of “great” and “terrible” signifying the time when the sins of a people are judged and they receive their sentence fully and finally. In the history of the nation Israel there are several “Days of the Lord”. These days are reflected in the judgement upon the nation including the destruction of the Great Flood, by the Assyrians, the Babylonians and the Romans. It is that day when those who have not followed the Covenant suffer their judgement and punishment. The people of Israel had the decision to choose life or to choose death and destruction.

Zephaniah 1:14-16 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there.

¹⁵A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

The Day of the Lord has another meaning, that of the Day of Salvation.

14 Behold, a day is coming for the LORD, when the spoil taken from you will be divided in your midst. ²For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. ³Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. Zech.14:1-3

This is the day that brings the separation of the goats from the lambs. It is also a day of decision to choose to follow in faith. Truly this Day of the Lord is fulfilled on that day we refer to as Good Friday. For it is that day when the salvation of the believer is secured and the new life of faith begins. This is the day the writer of Revelation speaks to when he recounts that “he was in prayer on the Day of the Lord. As the prophets of old were given the message of this terrible as well as great day so was John.

The message of salvation is two pronged. First it is a message of wrath and judgement to those who would forsake their Creator. Secondly it is a message of hope and salvation to all who believe. The decision is to the person, believe or not believe. The consequences hinge on the choice that one makes.

The great Day of the Lord has occurred. Throne of judgement is found on a hill outside of Jerusalem where a cross stood. On it was the One who came to take away the sins of the world. His proclamation that “It is finished” marked the final judgement of God for “whoever believes in him is not condemned but he that believes not is condemned already because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God” (Jn. 3: 18). So as Joshua stood before the people and said, “Choose this day whom you will serve!” (Jos. 24:15) the choice rests upon the hearts of all who are assembled before the throne of judgement on the Day of the Lord.

Reflections

“Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard”. These words of Peter and John have special note in our day and age. It seems that everywhere in this world the Gospel of the Living Christ is met with scorn and derision. The message of the epitome of God’s love is being shouted down by those who seek to run away from the truth. Jeremiah the prophet when faced with death would not back away from proclaiming the Words of God.

It is most unfortunate that churches have tried to downplay the life changing power of the Gospel. We find a trend towards a “silent” gospel that seeks to hide from the world for any number of reasons. The culture around wants to suffocate the truth of the life changing gospel while diminishing its power.

When confronted, as were Peter and John pray for the courage and power to speak the truth in love. Extoll the Gospel of the Living Christ and do not deny him before the world.

Words of Encouragement

Zephaniah 3:16-18 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

“Fear not, O Zion;

let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD your God is in your midst,

a mighty one who will save;

he will rejoice over you with gladness;

he will quiet you by his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing.

¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,

so that you will no longer suffer reproach.^[a]

Also a footnote: My book of poetry, **Midnight Musings: Thoughts from a Restless Mind**, is available on Amazon and also Kindle. Your patronage and thoughts would be appreciated.