

# LET THE BIBLE SPEAK SERIES

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## THE WORLD'S LAST DAY

"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" Rev. 1:7.

"Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away" Mark 13:31.

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" 2Peter 3:10.

"And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places" Rev. 6:14.

"And I say a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" Rev. 21:1-4.

1. Every person who has ever lived since Adam and Eve, except those now living, has had a last day upon this earth.
2. May have died in infancy, childhood, bloom of youth, middle life or old age, but each of them had a last day.
3. Just so, every person living today, knows he will have a last day. May die a natural death, with loved ones gathered round, speaking softly and bidding him good-bye as his face fades in the twilight of time, or die tragically in some kind of accident. But regardless of how, the last day will come.
4. One by one we go down the valley. Generations come and go. The time is coming when this world will have its last day.
5. People will experience time no more. Kings and Queens will be on their thrones, presidents in their chairs, legislators in their seats, governors in their offices, armies in their quarters or on battlefield, they will all witness the world's last day.
6. Doctors with patients, teachers in classrooms, business people in their offices, workers in factories, farmers in fields, preachers in pulpits, and mothers in their homes with children in their arms will witness the world's last day.

I We Don't Know The Time Of The World's Last Day.

1. In Southern Europe in the Middle Ages, there were some who believed world would end in their lifetime. Sold all and dressed in white garments and waited, but end did not come.

2. Those who have set the date of our Lord's return have been many. All have been wrong, hence they are false prophets.

William Miller--one of founders of Seventh Day Adventist movement. Predicted March 21, 1844 and later Oct. 22, 1844.

Charles Russell--founder Jehovah's Witnesses. Claimed the Lord would return in 1874, 1914, the organization claimed 1975.

Herbert W. Armstrong--1975

Willie Day Smith of Irving, Tx.--April 1, 1980.

Edgar Whisenant--NASA Rocket Engineer--claimed the Lord would return Tuesday Sept. 13, 1988.

3. Only God knows when it will be. "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father" Mk. 13:32.

## II. The World's Last Day Underscores The Reality of The Lord's Return.

1. The fact that we do not know the exact time, does not lessen the reality of the event. This only increases the importance of being ready for the world's last day.

2. Many passages teach the reality of the second coming:

"And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" Acts 1:10-11.

"Let not your hearts be troubled...If I go I will com again..." John 14:1-3.

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation" Heb. 9:27-28.

"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" Rev. 1:7.

3. How is he coming? As he went. "in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" Acts 1:11. The Lord's entry into heaven is beautifully described in the following Psalm.

"Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in" Psa. 24:7.

"And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousand of his saints" Jude 14.

"Every eye shall see him..." Rev. 1:7.

4. Why is he coming? He is coming to gather his own to himself. "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" 2Thess. 1:7-9.

### III. The World's Last Day Underscores The Reality of The Judgment.

"For we must all appear before the Judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" 2Cor. 5:10.

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent, because he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world..." Acts 17:30-31.

Note John's graphic portrayal: "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them; and they were judged every man according to their works" Rev. 20:11-13.

"A great white throne, and him that sat on it" Great because it was God's. The thrones of Roman Emperors nothing in comparison. Their power limited. His was not. White throne is emblematic of the stainless purity of the God who sits upon it.

His throne is supreme, He is the supreme judge. The caesars will not be the judge. Preachers will not be the judge. "For the father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the son" Jno. 5:22.

"And I saw the dead small and great stand before God; and the books were opened... And the sea gave up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works" (20:12-13).

The dead--great and small--all stand before God. The sea gave up her dead. The oceans of the world and the seven seas have been the graves of multiplied millions.

The uncounted billions of graves in every clime of all time will open for their occupants to stand before the great judge of the universe. The mausoleums and burial urns of the world will stand ajar for the souls of men and women to appear before God and Jesus in the final judgment.

Everybody will be there. the multi-millionaire and the penniless pauper, the highly educated and the ignorant, the potentates of all time and the powerless of every clime, the man who has a good Christian home and the homeless wanderer, the saint and sinner, the young and the old, all will be there.

By what will they be judged? Not by a religious paper or the creeds of men, but by the books. The books were opened. Two kinds of books--first, the books that contain the records of the deeds of men. God keeps a record of the deeds of all men. (not a literal book for) Every man is the author of his own story in life. God accurately records it in His book, or (mind). Second--the book of life i.e. the book in which God records the names of all the redeemed. Oh, to have our name recorded there.

#### IV. The World's Last Day Will End In Victory For The People of God.

Heaven, the home of the soul awaits the saved. Hear John's description: "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" Rev. 21:1-4.

God permitted John to see the world's last day, when the sky and earth are no more and the dreaded sea has gone and to behold beyond time "a new heaven and a new earth."

The old Roman Empire is now gone. All the empires of man are gone and their capitals have faded away. Only heaven remains.

Heaven is inscribed on millions of tombstones around the world. It has been the topic of conversation countless times. It has been the last word on the lips of uncounted thousands of Christians as they exchanged earth for eternity. People never tire of talking about it, singing about it, or listening to sermons about it. Why?

I. Heaven is a place of security.

Fine homes often burn, or blow away. Thieves break in and destroy. No permanent security.

This life is filled with uncertainty. We never know what a day may bring forth. In heaven we will be secure. No fear or dread of an uncertain future. God is there and we shall spend eternity in His presence.

2. Heaven is a place of activity. Rev. 22:3 "his servants shall serve him." Work to be done in heaven. Kipling wrote:

When earth's last picture is painted,  
and the tubes are twisted and dried,  
When the oldest colors have faded,  
and the youngest critic has died,  
We shall rest and faith, we shall need it,  
lie down for an aeon or two,  
Till the Master of all Good workman  
shall set us to work anew.

And no one shall work for money,  
and no one shall work for fame,  
But each for the joy of the working,  
and each, in his separate star  
Shall draw the thing as he sees it  
for the God of things as they are.

3. Heaven is a place of incredible and indescribable beauty.

Story of child born blind. Soon discovered something wrong. She could not see. They consulted doctors and were finally told that at twelve she could undergo operation that might give her the gift of sight. They waited--finally the day came, they traveled to Europe where a world renowned surgeon would operate. The hospital overlooked the beautiful Alps. The surgery performed, bandages removed--As the child looked out the window and saw the beauties of nature for the first time, she cried "Oh, mother, why didn't you tell me it was so beautiful in this world?" Her mother replied, " Mary I tried, I tried, but I just couldn't."

When the redeemed get home to glory, and walk down the transparently golden street of heaven and go in and out the pearly gates as they swing ajar on hinges of gold, we'll say, "Brother John, why didn't you tell us it was so beautiful up here? He will say "little children, I tried to tell you in the 21st and 22nd chapters of the book of Revelation, but I just couldn't."