

“THAT GREAT AND NOTABLE DAY OF THE LORD”

INTRODUCTION

We recently studied the text of Acts 2:17-21, where Peter quotes from the prophet Joel of the Old Testament, to establish the fact that the apostles’ “speaking in tongues.” was foretold by the Lord through Joel the prophet. The outpouring of the Spirit was a “baptism” of the Holy Spirit upon the 12 Jewish apostles, and would ultimately fall upon Gentiles as well, to fulfill the promise that it would be on “all flesh.”

Joel foretold 3 things that would happen **“before”** “that great and notable day of the Lord.” Some think that the day of Pentecost where these things began to happen, WAS the “great and notable” day that Joel mentions. However, there are 2 reasons why this cannot be the case. Peter said **“This is that”** about the prophecy of Joel being fulfilled, and NOT **“that great and notable day”** mentioned later. (“This” instead of “that”), referring to another day, and not “this” one. Jerusalem was yet to be destroyed, and it would be 37 years later before that occurred. Salvation was about to be offered on the day of Pentecost. Joel had said that these 3 events would take place **“before”** “that great and notable day of the Lord,” which is an allusion to the day Jesus will come again at the end of the world, referred to as “the day of the Lord” in most references.

Now let’s examine “that” future “great and notable day of the Lord” mentioned by Joel.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, it is to be a “GREAT DAY OF THE LORD.”

- A. The nature of God and His word is always “great in every respect.”
 - 1. He is called the “great God. Deut. 10:17
 - 2. His works are also described as “great.” Exo. 14:21; Psa. 111:2
 - 3. God had great wisdom in creating man, and then in His plan to redeem fallen man.

- B. The creation of the universe was something all the wisdom in the world (apart from God) could never equal.
 - 1. God created the heavens and the earth from nothing. Gen. 1:1
 - 2. Think of the heavens and the earth (the heavens being the first 2, for God Himself resides in the 3rd heaven).
 - a. The first heaven is the space around the earth where the birds fly.
 - b. The second heaven is the region of the stars and planets in outer space.
 - 1) There are millions of stars, even beyond the mathematical comprehension of man.
 - 2) They join with the sun and moon to give light on the earth. Gen. 1:17
 - 3) The closest star to the earth is Alpha Centauri, which is 26 trillion miles away, and a four and a half light years way, and light from this star takes several minutes of time, traveling at the speed of 186,000 miles per second—WHICH IS FAST.
 - 4) Only God knows the number of stars in the sky, and calls them all by name. Psa. 147:4
 - 3. Then, there is the “earth” which came into existence by God simply **speaking**, or saying the word. Heb. 11:3
 - a. The earth is the substance from which man first came into existence.
 - b. The earth became the dwelling place for man until such time God decides to end it’s existence, and take His obedient children to heaven. Gen. 8:22; Isa. 45:18; Matt. 24:35
 - 4. The events of the creation in 6 days are interesting.
 - a. On the 1st day, God created light, and separated it from darkness. Gen. 1:5
 - b. On the 2nd day, God formed the firmament which divided the waters above the earth from the waters on the earth. Gen. 1:6-8
 - c. On the 3rd day, God divided the waters on the earth. Gen. 1:9-10
 - d. On the 4th day, God created the sun, moon and stars. Gen. 1:16-19

- e. On the 5th day, God formed all living creatures and birds. Gen. 1:19
- f. On the 6th day, God formed man from the dust of the earth, and gave him a spirit.
- 5. Then, on the 7th day, God rested from all His creative works. Gen. 2:1-3; Exo. 20:11
- 6. The Psalmist speaks of God's greatness in creation. Psa. 33:4-14 (Read)
- 7. The creation of God is clear evidence of God's existence and power, so man is without excuse in not recognizing His existence. Rom. 1:20
 - a. One noted atheist, Dr. Antony Flew, came to realize that the design of the universe HAS to have a DESIGNER, and He must be GOD.
 - b. Paul established this principle in pointing out that where a house exists, there must be a builder. Heb. 3:4
- C. Surely, the day of the Lord's coming at the end of time will **EXCEED** in greatness.
 - 1. God's word will no longer sustain the entire universe, as it does now. 2 Pet. 3:7
 - 2. The earth and all things material will be burned up. 2 Pet. 3:10

II. 2nd, the Lord's coming will be a NOTABLE DAY.

- A. The original Greek word for "notable" is used only one time in all the Bible, as there is nothing to be compared to it.
 - 1. The word is *epiphanes* meaning "very manifest, illustrious," and is so rendered in various translations.
 - a. The KJV and ASV use word "notable."
 - b. The NKJV uses the word "awesome."
 - c., The NASV uses the word "illustrious."
 - d. The Modern Literal translation uses the word "glorious."
 - 2. The Lord's coming will be made manifest when billions of physical bodies who have lived through the centuries, will all be resurrected to life. John 5:28-29
 - 3. All the living will be changed into spiritual bodies.
- B. Every special even of the Lord involves glory.
 - 1. There was glory when Jesus was born. Luke 2:7-13; cf Heb. 1:1-3
 - 2. There was glory at the transfiguration. Matt. 17:1-2; Mark 9:3
 - 3. So, when Jesus returns, it will be glorious. 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Col. 3:4; Tit. 2:13; 1 Pet. 4:3

CONCLUSION

- I. All of the firework displays through the centuries will seem as nothing to the glorious return of Jesus.
 - A. Do you fear the Lord enough to obey His will and prepare for His coming?
 - B. Only God's people will be ready to meet Him.
- II. The opportunity for your obedience is extended to you today, as always.

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