



Berean Christian Fellowship

DEVOTIONAL 13.0

January 16
2014

The Day of the Lord—P1

**“The sun will be turned into darkness
And the moon into blood before the great
and awesome day of the LORD comes” (Joel
2:31 NASB).**

The Day of the Lord in Scripture can sometimes be confused with the Rapture. The Rapture refers to when “*the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord*

” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). The Rapture is our “*blessed hope*” (Titus 2:13). It comes before the **Day of the Lord** and has no signs to predict it, “*for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect*” (Luke 12:40). “*For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will*” (Matthew 24:44). This is how Jesus comes to take His Church out of the world and withdraw the Holy Spirit from restraining the wickedness in the world (2 Thessalonians 2:7). What follows is called the Tribulation in Scripture—a time when evil is unrestrained on the earth, “*for then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect*” (Israel, which is left behind) *those days will be cut short*” (Matthew 24:21). This is when the “*lawless one (Antichrist/Beast) will be revealed...whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they*

did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved” (2 Thessalonians 2:8a-10). During this time, many terrible things befall the world as judgments for its wickedness, and Israel suffers greatly (see the Book of Revelation). These judgments are signs leading up to the Day of the Lord, which is preceded by amazing astronomical occurrences: “*But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory*” (Matthew 24:28-30).

This is the Day of the Lord, when Jesus returns with His Church to set up His government in Jerusalem. Despite having signs of its coming, this day will still come upon the deceived world “*like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up*” (2 Peter 3:10). “*So it will happen in that day, That the LORD will punish the host of heaven on high, And the kings of the earth on earth. They will be gathered together Like prisoners in the dungeon, And will be confined in prison; And after many days they will be punished.*” ***Then the moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed,*** *For the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, And His glory will be before His elders*” (Isaiah 24:21-23). “*And the beast (lawless one) was seized, and...thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone*” (Revelation 19:20a, 20b). In Part 2, we’ll look in depth at the Millennial Reign of Christ and what follows.