

Lesson 4 - The Events of Judgment Day

(*End Times*, pages 109-141)

Goals

1. To be aware of the events that will take place on the Last Day so that we will not be shocked by them or caught unprepared.
2. To find comfort in the truth that, through Christ, there will be a resurrection of the dead.

Opening Prayer - Lord Jesus, the day is surely drawing near when you will return in power and this world will be destroyed. Keep us strong in faith until that day. Keep us watchful, ready, waiting, and anticipating so that when you return, we may lift our heads in joy, knowing that our final redemption has come. Amen.

Review/Catch up

2 Thessalonians 2, along with other sections of Scripture like Daniel 7 and Revelation 17, clearly point to the biblical Antichrist as being fulfilled by the office of the Roman Catholic Papacy. Remember why:

- He exalts himself, giving himself equal or greater standing to Christ (“anti-” means *against* or *in place of*)
- He is a religious leader, found in the visible Church
- His rise to power has been gradual
- The spirit of Antichrist was at work during the apostolic age and will continue until Christ returns
- He uses false miracles from Satan to attract people to himself
- He denies the biblical truth of salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone
- A vision in Daniel 7 shows the Antichrist rising out of the fourth kingdom, which is the Roman Empire
- Revelation 17 depicts a woman who opposes the church sitting on seven hills. Rome sits on seven hills.

Also remember, this doesn't mean all Catholics go to hell. Still, a distinct danger exists for Catholic Christians.

Consider these statements:

- “If any says that faith which justifies is nothing else but trust in the divine mercy, which pardons sins because of Christ; or that it is that trust alone by which we are justified: let him be anathema (damned)” Council of Trent, 1545-1563.
- “Justification includes the remission of sins, sanctification, and the renewal of the inner man” Catholic Catechism, 1994.

1. What's the issue with those statements from a biblical point of view?
2. What makes the work of the Antichrist so deceptive?
3. “Jesus will overthrow [the Antichrist] with the breath of his mouth.” In what ways did that happen during the Reformation?
 - a. In what ways is it happening today?
 - b. In what way will it happen on the Last Day?
4. Give at least three reasons as to why Christians can be “realistic optimists” as they go through the events of the end times.

What are your questions and comments?

Introduction – With many major occurrences, there’s an advantage in knowing what’s coming. What advantage is there if...

- ...we know that a baby in the womb is positioned awkwardly?
- ...we know that there are twins in the womb?
- ...we know that a hurricane is coming?

No one knows the exact moment when a baby or twins will be born or when a hurricane will strike. Neither do we know the “day or hour” (Matthew 24:36) of Jesus’ return on the Last Day. Yet what advantage do we have in knowing the events of judgment day?

In this lesson and the next, we will consider what will happen on that great day.

Indication #1 – Jesus will appear

5. Look up **Luke 17:24**, **Revelation 1:7**, and **Matthew 24:30**. Don’t pass over the obvious truth of who will appear on Judgment Day!

a. What adjectives would you use to describe this return, according to these verses?

b. In what ways will it be completely opposite from Christ’s first coming?

6. Looking at **1 Thessalonians 4:16**, what two things will accompany Jesus at his return?

a.

b.

7. Usually surprises (birthday parties), unexpected loud noises (fire alarms, gunshots), or sudden flashes of light startle people. They might even cause people to become terrified and shaken to the point of fear. For what reason will there be no need for us to be alarmed by these signs of Judgment Day?

Indication #2 – The Resurrection of the Dead

8. According to **John 5:28-29** and **Job 19:26-27**, what is another astonishing event that will happen on the Last Day?

9. A lot of what we might wonder about in connection to the resurrection is beyond our understanding, or we're just guessing. We don't want to speculate too far (going against Scripture) as to what our bodies will be like on that day; but we use Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 15 to paint a certain and biblical comparison between the bodies we have today and the bodies we will be given on the Last Day.

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 and **49-54** - That is the way the resurrection of the dead will be. What is sown is perishable; it is raised imperishable. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown as a natural body; it is raised as a spiritual body.

⁴⁹And just as we have borne the image of the man made of dust, let us also bear the image of the heavenly man.

⁵⁰Now I say this, brothers: Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, and what is perishable is not going to inherit what is imperishable. ⁵¹Look, I tell you a mystery. We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, ⁵²in a moment, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴But once this perishable body has put on imperishability, and this mortal body has put on immortality, then what is written will be fulfilled: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

10. Explain the terms describing the bodies we have today and those we will have at the resurrection.

Present Body	Resurrection Body
Perishable -	Imperishable -
Dishonor -	Glory -
Weakness -	Power -
Natural -	Spiritual -

11. From the above sections of 1 Corinthians 15, how do we know that even believers who are still alive at the Last Day will have their bodies glorified and changed?

12. What comfort is there in knowing that, in Christ, there will be a resurrection and a resurrection body?

13. Read **John 14:19** and explain the following: Christianity does not exist without these words.

14. Then, according to **1 Thessalonians 4:15-17**, what will happen to all Christians on the Last Day?

Indication #3 - Cosmic cataclysm

15. Look up **Matthew 24:29-30** and **2 Peter 3:10,12b**. What horrific events will take place on the Last Day?

16. According to Paul in **Philippians 2:10-11**, “every knee will bow” to Jesus and “every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.” This is true of both the believer and unbeliever. Yet, how will one’s bowing and confessing be drastically different from the other?

a. Believers -

b. Unbelievers -

What are your questions and comments?

Summary - The Last Day will be one of startling events that horrify unbelievers. The Lord Jesus, with a great noise, will return in glory and power. His holy angels will be with him to serve as his agents in the final judgment. The universe as we know it will be shaken and destroyed by fire. Yet Christians need not be terrified, because these events have a comforting significance: they indicate the final redemption. Raised to life and glorified on that day, Christians will be taken to be with their Savior forever.

Closing Prayer

Sun and moon shall darkened be;
Stars shall fall, the heav’ns shall flee.
Christ will then like lightning shine;
All will see his glorious sign.
All will then the trumpet hear;
All will see the judge appear.
You by all will be confessed,
God in man made manifest. Amen. (CW 82:4)

This week - Read Revelation 8:1-11:19

Next Time - The Final Judgment (a continuation of what will happen on Judgment Day)