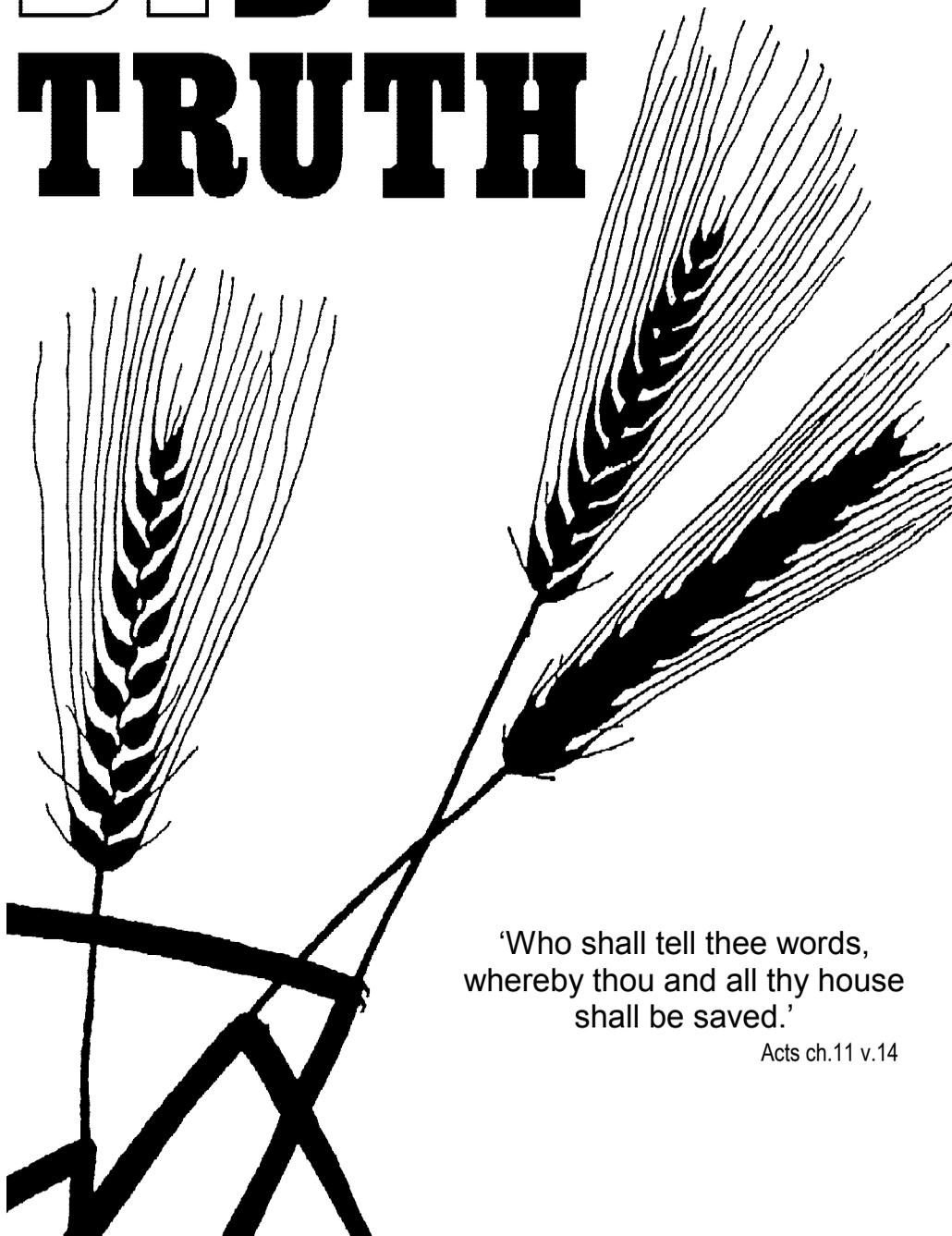


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'Who shall tell thee words,
whereby thou and all thy house
shall be saved.'

Acts ch.11 v.14

The Day of the Lord

by Ray Johnson

The day of the Lord has a multitude of interpretations and I therefore thought that some may be pleased to have my understanding on this great and tremendous event.

Through Edward Ervine of the Catholic Apostolic Church and James Darby of the Brethren proclaiming from the 1840s the teaching of a Catholic monk of the sixteenth century we have the pre-millennial interpretation which has a secret rapture of the believers 7, 3½ , or 1 year before the Lord Jesus actually returns to earth. But this is way off mark when you read 1 Corinthians ch.15 vv 51- 52,

‘Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed’.

Also as Revelation ch.20 vv 4-5 states,

‘And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection’.

There can be only one ‘Last Trump’ and only one ‘First Resurrection’. How essential it is to let the Scripture interpret its own message.

A more perplexing message is the actual return of the Lord Jesus to planet earth. He is coming as a thief, that means there will be no advanced warning, a total surprise to all. It will not be a quiet affair though because,

‘we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound...’

1 Corinthians ch.15 vv 51-52

‘For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God...’

1 Thessalonians ch.4 v.16

‘... 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.’

2 Thessalonians ch.1 v.7

‘And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. ... And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron ...’.

Revelation ch.19 vv 11 & 15

Some people take the first three scriptures to happen in a fraction of time after which the eternal state of every soul will be fixed and time will be no more. Therefore Revelation ch.19 vv 11 & 15 have been added to show that the rebellious nations shall be ruled over with a rod of iron as the King of kings treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

We cannot limit the workings out of our Great Creator God and only hope to be able to understand the hidden mysteries in His Word. For the scriptures give us, an ‘age of the age’, an ‘age of the ages’ and the ‘ages of the ages’, all of which are not made clear in the *Authorised Version* because the translators failed to translate ‘aion’ with the same meaning every time. See Young, or Rotherham translations or *Companion Bible* appendix 151 on ‘aion’ and ‘aionios’.

In 2 Peter ch.3 the Apostle speaks of the heaven and earth that was and has now passed away, the present heaven and earth which is reserved unto fire against the day of judgement and perdition of ungodly men, and the new heaven and earth which is to come wherein dwelleth righteousness. It seems this third heaven is the place the Apostle Paul was caught up to but could not describe.

We are now dealing in vast ages of time for these are the schedule of God. Peter makes it quite clear in this chapter that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day. Things become far clearer when we look at the day of the Lord in this measure of time, for a considerable amount can be achieved in one thousand years. This is the ‘aeon’ or ‘age’ that the Lord Jesus Christ was continually exhorting His hearers to attain unto, for it is the age of the age. It is the final and most glorious period of this present heaven and earth age we are living

in, none other than the wedding feast of the Lamb. If this can be seen it becomes obvious that the words 'aion' or 'aionios' cannot refer to an eternal measure of time for this 'age' is limited to one thousand years.

What an arousing message to hear; though our sins are forgiven we can yet attain unto a more wonderful period of time and rule under the King of kings.

'I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.'

Philippians ch.3 v.14

As previously mentioned, when the Lord Jesus Christ returns to planet earth the overcomers will be changed in a moment and caught up to meet Him in the air and descend with Him to the mount Zion.

The beast and false prophet will be taken and cast into the lake of fire, and those that received the mark of the beast as well as them that worshiped his image will be slain by the sword that proceeds out of the mouth of the mighty King of kings. An angel descends from heaven and binds the old serpent which is the Devil and Satan and casts him into the bottomless pit and seals it for a thousand years.

When ruling from Zion, the Lord will not be using the rod of iron to control His redeemed governing body, but the host of unredeemed nations.

While taking over the throne of David, He will send His twelve disciples and other of His ministers to rule over the nations of Israel in their various lands to bring them up to the required standard that they may enter the Kingdom of heaven that will then be on earth. He will also appoint rulers over all other nations that they may keep to the Laws of God.

With every man sitting under his vine and under his fig tree, there will be Holiness unto The Lord on the bells of the horses, also it seems they all will have sufficient land to gain their own living from, all will have equal opportunity. The strength of horses will be used to help mankind in his labours and that in all things the Lord will be worshiped and revered. With swords being changed into plowshares, etc. and all the blessings of Isaiah ch.11 vv 1-9 it will truly be peace on earth.

‘And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’ den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.’

At the end of this thousand years, of which must be the most blessed of all ages up to that time, there will still be among the nations those who want more for themselves. Therefore Satan is loosed once more and gathers a great multitude against Zion, but the Lord in flaming fire takes vengeance upon those who know not God and obey not the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Some assign this judgement to the very commencement of the ‘Day of the Lord’ but I cannot accept that view for two reasons. One is, a judgement like this will only be taken against a rebellious people who have seen a great witness to truth and still reject it. There will have been nigh on a thousand years of peace and plenty under the most perfect, just and righteous rule this world has ever known and they will have rebelled against it. Such a judgement as this cannot apply to the present day unconverted because the witness of the Laodicean church age is so very poor, they themselves are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.

‘And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.’

Revelation ch.3 vv 14-22

The other point is, that if such a judgement was made at the return to earth of the Lord Jesus Christ there would be no one left to be ruled over with a rod of iron.

With the prophesied increase of sodomites in these last days some may expect the Lord to intervene with fire against them, but if He does it could not be on the magnitude of this final judgement.

After this judgement there will be the Great White Throne judgement where all unconverted will be judged according to their deeds.
