

ISRAEL
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WEEK 4 (#911336)
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SERIES: Israel

TITLE: Program 18 – The Significance Of The Day Of The Lord

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

Matthew chapter 24 Jesus spoke about the time when the abomination of desolation would stand in the holy place. He said it would begin a time of tribulation such as has never been and never will be after that. A time of great tribulation. Daniel chapter 12, verse 1 refers to this time. What is this time? Well it's also known in the Scriptures as the day of the Lord.

PART ONE

In the book of Joel in chapter 2, verse 1 it says, "Blow a trumpet in Zion..." That's where I am right now, Beloved, my heart's desire is someday to have you come to Zion. Of course selfishly, I would like you to come with me but I want you to know don't ever come with me or with Precept Ministries International unless you want Bible study all day long because that's what it is. It's one biblical feast one day after another day after another day. You'll never read your Bible the same again. "Blow a trumpet in Zion, and sound

an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble....” what land? This land. Let them all tremble. Why? Because, “...For the day of the Lord is coming; surely it is near, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness. As the dawn is spread over the mountains, so there is a great and mighty people....” now listen carefully, “...there has never been anything like it....” Like what? Like the day of the Lord. “...Nor will there be again after it.”(Joel 2:1-2) This is what God is talking about as I said in Daniel chapter 1 and you might want to write that in your Bible right next to Joel chapter 2, verse 2. Daniel 12:1, Matthew 24:21 and Mark 13:19 all talk about this time. It’s the day of the Lord. Now you may want to know, where is the church in all of this? Is the church still around? Will the church see the day of the Lord because it’s a terrible day. It’s a dreadful day. It’s a day like no other. Well when we go to the epistle of 2 Thessalonians we find that Paul is writing to this church just weeks after he wrote to them in 1 Thessalonians and he’s writing to them because they’re panicked. They’re absolutely panicked. They have gotten a message. Paul doesn’t know whether it was by letter or by word of mouth or somebody claiming that they had a vision but they got a message and that message was that the day of the Lord had come. Now why were they so panicked? They were so panicked because in 1 Thessalonians chapter 5 he told them that that day of the Lord would never overtake them. Why? Well personally I believe the church will not be here for the day of the Lord. I believe that 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 proves without a shadow of a doubt that the church will not be here. The fullness of the Gentiles will have already come in. We will already be out of here. As a matter of fact, personally I believe that we’ll be out of here before the anti-Christ, before the abomination of desolation, before the little horn of Daniel chapter 7 ever makes a covenant with the holy people. I believe that we’ll be out of here at least seven years before Jesus Christ ever comes to this earth. Now that’s my own personal belief. And I believe I can prove it without a shadow of a

doubt that we certainly will not be here for the last three and a half years, the time of this great tribulation, the time of the day of the Lord. In 2 Thessalonians chapter 2, verse 1 he says, “Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him...” (2 Thessalonians 2:1) Now this gathering together is a word in the Greek that means to gather together in one place. He says now I’m talking to you about two things. I’m talking to you in respect to the fact that Jesus Christ is coming. And I’m talking to you in respect, number 2, point B is the fact of our gathering together to Him. Now our gathering together to Him I believe he’s speaking of the rapture. I believe he’s speaking of the catching up of the saints that he talked to them about in 1 Thessalonians chapter 4, in verses 13 to 18 and you can read that later. That’s when he’s telling us that we will not all die but the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel. And the dead in Christ, they’re bodies will be raised first and then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them, with the dead that have been raised to meet the Lord in the air, in the air, not on the earth and so shall we ever be with the Lord. I personally believe that that has to happen before Daniel chapter 9 is ever fulfilled, when the abomination of desolation, the prince that is to come makes a covenant with the many, the many Jews, for 7 years. And then in the middle breaks that covenant and then causes horror. He’s an abomination of desolation. One that causes horror. So he’s writing to those in Thessaloniki that are undergoing great persecution and saying now listen, listen. In regard to the coming of the Lord and regard to our gathering together to Him he says, “[I don’t want] you [to] be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the affect...” listen carefully, “...that the day of the Lord has come.” (2:2) Remember Joel says that it’s a terrible day. It’s a day of gloom and darkness. A time like has never been seen. He says I don’t want you to think you’re suffering and I know that it’s hard but it’s not the

day of the Lord. It has not come. He says, “Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come...,” the day of the Lord will not come, “...unless...,” now watch number 1, “...the apostasy comes first.”(2:3a) Apostasy means that there’s a great departure. That people turn away from what they once believed. What they once held true. Now we know from studying Matthew chapter 24 and Luke chapter 21 that before the end comes there’s going to be a great apostasy. In other words there going to Jews that said they believed in God. That they believed in El Elyon, the Highest One, but they’re going to turn away. So he says that’s not going to happen unless there’s a great apostasy that comes first and number 2 the man of lawlessness is revealed the son of destruction. The one who makes desolate. The one who makes horror. So the day of the Lord can’t come until two things happen. Number 1, there’s an apostasy. There’s a departure from the faith. And number 2, the man of lawlessness is revealed. In other words he is seen for who he really is. He is understood for who he really is. It’s the little horn of Daniel 7 that all of a sudden overpowers the people, the saints of the Highest One. It’s the One that walks into the holy of holies and declares Himself to be God. It’s the One that makes a covenant with Israel for 7 years and in the middle breaks that covenant and brings to an end sacrifice and grain offering. This is what he’s talking about. So he says the day of the Lord cannot come until those two things happen. And then he says, now let me explain what he says about the man of lawlessness. Until “...the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat ...” Hang on. Where? “... He takes his seat in the temple of God...,” And taking His seat in the temple of God He, “...[displays] himself as being God.”(2:3b-4) In other words He walks right into the holy of holies and He says I am God and you will worship Me. Now this is when as 2 Thessalonians 2:8 says, “[And] then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay...,” I love this, “...with the breath of His mouth and bring

to an end by the appearance of His coming....”(2:8) As we saw in Daniel chapter 7 He will overpower the saints for times, time and half a time for three and one half years. And then the Lord will come and the Lord will slay him with his breath because Revelation tells us in chapter 19 that out of Jesus mouth will come a sharp sword and with that sharp sword He will fell the enemy. He will bring down the beast and his kingdom. Precious One, this is what is on the horizon. This is the day of the Lord. Now what does he tell us about the day of the Lord? Well I want us to go back to Joel and let’s pick up because he has more to tell us about this time. And it has to do with the very place where we are sitting on the Mount of Olives overlooking the temple mount and in between the Kidron Valley or the Valley of Jehoshaphat. He talks about the day of the Lord and he says, “The day of the Lord is indeed great and very awesome, and who can endure it?” And yet He says in Joel, “‘Yet even now,’ declares the Lord, ‘Return to Me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning; and rend your heart and not your garments.’ Now return to the Lord...for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger [and] abounding in loving kindness and relenting of evil.”(Joel 2:11b-13)

PART TWO

As He tells us about the day of the Lord that is to come, He wants you and I if we know Him not to repent now. You say, “But I’m not worthy to repent.” It’s not a matter of worthiness, Beloved. It’s a matter of believing God because God came in the person of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, almost two thousand years ago to this city, to worship on that temple mount and to die in this city on a place called Golgotha, the place of the skull, on a cross. There He was buried; there He was raised from the dead. There on this Mount of Olives He ascended to the Father and He’s coming again. And when He comes again He will split this Mount of Olives when His feet walk on it. It’s an awesome thing and an awesome thing to study but we must go

ahead and see what the Word of God has to say. Then it says in Joel chapter 2 that, “I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, blood [and] fire and columns of smoke. The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before that great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And it will come about that whoever calls [upon] the name of the Lord will be delivered; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be those who [will] escape, as the Lord has said, even among [all] the survivors whom the Lord calls.”(2:30-32) In other words there’s going to come a day of the Lord, a great and terrible judgment day and God in that judgment day is going to so bring all these disastrous things that people are going to look up and realize that God is God. They are going to survive because they are going to believe in Him. Now at this time God is going to gather all the nations in a place called Har-Magedon. In the place where you and I say is the battle of Armageddon although in the Word of God it does not say that a battle takes place there. Rather it says that in Megiddo all the nations of the earth are going to be gathered. Now let’s go back and let’s look at this in the book of Revelation. In Revelation chapter 13 it tells us again about the man of lawlessness, in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 the little of Daniel chapter 7. In Revelation 13 he’s called the beast and it says in verse 5 that “There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies...,” just like Daniel 7 says, “...and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him...he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven. [And] it was...given [to him] to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.”(Revelation 13:5-7) Authority he tells us in verse 5 for forty-two months. That’s three and a half years. And it says, “[And] all who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of [the] life of the Lamb who has been slain.”(13:8) In this passage it also tells us that He will cause everyone

small and great to receive a mark on their right hand or on their forehead in order to buy and sell. In this last three and a half years God is going to then turn His wrath against the beast and against his kingdom. And in Revelation He tells us how He's going to pour out His bowls of wrath upon the earth and when the sixth angel pours out his bowl upon the great river, the River Euphrates, it says, "...I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon...", that's the devil, "...out of the mouth of the beast...", that's the anti-Christ, "...out of the mouth of the false prophet...", that's the second beast that helps him, "...three unclean spirits like frogs; for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together...", now listen very carefully, "...for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty." (Revelation 16:13-14) Verse 16 of Revelation 16, "And they gathered them together to a place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon." (16:16) If you would ever come to Israel with us on a tour we would be there in Har-Magedon and so what's going to happen? All these nations are going to be gathered together in the battle of Har-Magedon but where's the battle going to be? Zechariah chapter 14 says that they are going to gather together here to come against this city. So all those nations then are going to fill this valley as they come to make war against Jerusalem. And in Revelation chapter 14 it talks about an angel that says from heaven, "... 'Put in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters from the vine[s] of the earth, because her grapes are ripe.' [And] the angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered the clusters from the vine of the earth, and threw them...", now listen carefully, "...into the great wine press of the wrath of God." (Revelation 14:18b-19) Where's the wine press of the wrath of God? It's right behind me, Beloved. It's called the Valley of Jehoshaphat. It's called the Kidron Valley. "And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came [up] from the wine press...to the horses' bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles." (14:20) Two hundred miles is from Har-Magedon all the way past Jerusalem all the way down to Petra where in

those last three and a half years many will flee. They will lead Jerusalem. They will flee in Judea down to the wilderness. They will flee to Petra where they will be protected according to Revelation chapter 12 for times, time and half a time. He says, "...pray that your flight [be] not...in the winter..."(Matthew 24:20) why? Because in the winter great water comes and flows all the way down through the wadis through the Judean dessert and many are drowned year after year. And if they were fleeing from here down to Petra they would follow those wadis in the Judean dessert. And then what's going to happen? Well the book of Joel tells us very clearly. In Joel chapter 3 He says, "I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. Then I will enter into judgment with them there on behalf of My people and My inheritance, Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; and they have divided up My land."(Joel 3:2) This land does not belong to anyone except to the nation of Israel. Why? Because God gave it to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and the twelve sons of Israel for an everlasting possession. He says, ["...they divided up My land."] And then this is what He says but, "...the nations be aroused and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come [and] tread for the wine press is full..." (3:12-13a) ["The blood,"] as I read to you from Revelation ["is going to come up as high as the bridle on a horse for two hundred miles."] (PARAPHRASE Revelation 14:20) It says, "Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. He is coming, Precious One, and when you come to the end of Matthew chapter 24 you read about that coming. Are you ready, Beloved? It's a valley of decision. Choose Him. Choose Life.