

THE DAY OF THE LORD

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I WANT TO SPEAK ABOUT A MAJOR SUBJECT OF PROPHECY. I WON'T TELL YOU WHAT THE TOPIC OF THE SERMON IS YET, BUT I'LL TANTALIZE YOU A LITTLE BIT ABOUT IT TO SEE IF YOU CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT IT IS THAT I WANT TO TALK ABOUT.

IT IS THE FOCAL POINT OF ALL PROPHECY; I SUPPOSE WE MIGHT SAY THAT AS FAR AS PROPHECY IS CONCERNED, IT'S THE "TRUNK OF THE TREE." THERE ARE TWO PROMINENT BOOKS IN THE BIBLE THAT DEAL WITH THIS. ACTUALLY, ALL THE PROPHECIES DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY RELATE TO THIS SUBJECT. HAVE YOU FIGURED OUT WHAT THE SUBJECT IS THAT I'M GOING TO SPEAK ABOUT? WELL, THE SUBJECT THAT I AM GOING TO SPEAK ABOUT IS THE DAY OF THE LORD.

I WANT TO COVER THREE MAJOR POINTS ABOUT THE DAY OF THE LORD: WHAT IS IT, WHEN IS IT, AND WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES SAY ABOUT IT? BUT WHEN I LOOK AT THIS SUBJECT AND I SEE THE VAST AMOUNTS OF MATERIAL ABOUT IT, OBVIOUSLY I WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO HIT SOME OF THE HIGH POINTS.

FIRST WE WANT TO KNOW WHEN THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL OCCUR. TO SEE THAT, LET'S TURN OVER TO THE BOOK OF REVELATION. IN REVELATION 6 THERE ARE SIX OF THE SEVEN SEALS, AND MATTHEW 24 SHOWS PLAINLY THE SYMBOLISM OF THESE SEALS. THE FIRST SEAL DESCRIBES FALSE MINISTERS, THE SECOND SEAL REPRESENTS WARS, THE THIRD SEAL REPRESENTS FAMINES, THE FOURTH SEAL PESTILENCE AND THEN THE FIFTH SEAL, WHICH YOU'LL FIND STARTING IN VERSE 9, IS THE MARTYRDOM OF THE SAINTS — OR BETTER KNOWN AS THE GREAT TRIBULATION. AFTER THE TRIBULATION THE SIXTH SEAL IS OPENED (STARTING IN VERSE 12), AND WE FIND THAT "...THERE WAS A GREAT EARTHQUAKE; AND THE SUN BECAME BLACK AS SACKCLOTH ... THE MOON BECAME AS BLOOD." WE CALL THESE HEAVENLY SIGNS. WE SEE HERE THAT PEOPLE WILL HIDE IN THE CAVES OF THE MOUNTAINS, AND THE ROCKS OF THE MOUNTAINS, AND THEY WILL ASK THAT THE ROCKS MIGHT FALL ON THEM BECAUSE OF WHAT WAS COMING TO PASS SHORTLY AFTER THAT.

NOW LET'S GO BACK TO MATTHEW 24, VERSES 15 THROUGH 28. IN VERSE 21 IT SAYS, "FOR THEN SHALL BE GREAT TRIBULATION, SUCH AS WAS NOT SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD TO THIS TIME, NO, NOR EVER SHALL BE." SO THERE WE SEE THE

GREAT TRIBULATION, WHICH I HAVE MENTIONED IS THE FIFTH SEAL OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION.

MATTHEW 24:29 SAYS, "IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TRIBULATION OF THOSE DAYS SHALL THE SUN BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON SHALL NOT GIVE HER LIGHT, AND THE STARS SHALL FALL FROM HEAVEN..." THIS IS EXACTLY THE SAME THING THAT I POINTED OUT IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION. SO, THE HEAVENLY SIGNS COME AFTER THE GREAT TRIBULATION.

THIS IS ALSO REFERRED TO IN JOEL 2:31. "THE SUN SHALL BE TURNED TO DARKNESS, AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD, BEFORE THE GREAT AND TERRIBLE DAY OF THE LORD COME," THE ONLY THING I WANT TO EMPHASIZE AT THIS POINT IS THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS. THE HEAVENLY SIGNS THAT ARE DESCRIBED HERE AND IN REVELATION 6 AND MATTHEW 24 PRECEDE THE DAY OF THE LORD. SO, THE MAJOR EVENTS ARE: FIRST, THE GREAT TRIBULATION, SECOND, THE HEAVENLY SIGNS, AND FOLLOWING THAT, THE DAY OF THE LORD. THOSE ARE THREE OF THE MAJOR EVENTS IN ALL OF PROPHECY.

I'D LIKE TO GO BACK TO THE BOOK OF REVELATION AGAIN, TO CARRY THAT SEQUENCE JUST A BIT FURTHER. REVELATION 6:15 SAYS, "AND THE KINGS OF THE EARTH, AND THE GREAT MEN, AND THE RICH MEN, AND THE CHIEF CAPTAINS, AND THE MIGHTY MEN, AND EVERY BONDMAN, AND EVERY FREE MAN, HID IN THE DENS AND IN THE ROCKS OF THE MOUNTAINS; AND SAID TO THE MOUNTAINS AND ROCKS, FALL ON US, AND HIDE US FROM THE FACE OF HIM THAT SITTETH ON THE THRONE, AND FROM THE WRATH OF THE LAMB: FOR THE GREAT DAY OF HIS WRATH IS COME; AND WHO SHALL BE ABLE TO STAND?" THE GREAT DAY OF GOD'S WRATH IS THE DAY OF THE LORD. WE'RE ALSO GOING TO SEE THAT IT IS CALLED BY OTHER NAMES AND RELATES TO OTHER THINGS AS WELL. SO, FROM THIS POINT ONWARD IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION, WE ARE DEALING WITH THINGS RELATED TO THE DAY OF THE LORD — THAT IS, WHEN WE'RE READING IN SEQUENCE. THERE ARE INTERLUDES OR SECTIONS THAT ARE ADDED THAT RELATE TO OTHER MATTERS.

NOW LET'S FIND OUT WHAT THE DAY OF THE LORD IS. LET'S GO BACK TO THE BOOK OF ISAIAH. THIS IS THE FIRST COMMENT WE SEE IN THE BIBLE — AT LEAST IN THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT THAT WE HAVE OF THE PROPHECIES — ABOUT THE DAY OF THE LORD. IN THE REVISED STANDARD VERSION

ISAIAH 2:6 SAYS, "FOR THOU [SPEAKING OF GOD] HAST REJECTED THY PEOPLE, THE HOUSE OF JACOB" (RSV). SO, AT THIS PARTICULAR POINT WE SEE THAT GOD HAS REJECTED HIS PEOPLE WHO ARE THE HOUSE OF JACOB; ALL TWELVE TRIBES. WHY? "...BECAUSE THEY ARE FULL OF DIVINERS FROM THE EAST AND OF SOOTHSAYERS LIKE THE PHILISTINES [SHOWING THAT THE PEOPLE WERE FOLLOWING FALSE RELIGIOUS PRACTICES], AND THEY STRIKE HANDS WITH FOREIGNERS. THEIR LAND IS FILLED WITH SILVER AND GOLD, AND THERE IS NO END TO THEIR TREASURES [BEING SOME OF THE RICHEST NATIONS ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH AT THE END TIME, BEFORE THE TIME OF PUNISHMENT COMES]; THEIR LAND IS FILLED WITH HORSES, AND THERE IS NO END TO THEIR CHARIOTS [OR THEIR AUTOMOBILES]. THEIR LAND IS FILLED WITH IDOLS [PEOPLE WILL WORSHIP ANYTHING, IT SEEMS LIKE]; THEY BOW DOWN TO THE WORK OF THEIR HANDS, TO WHAT THEIR OWN FINGERS HAVE MADE. SO MAN IS HUMBLLED..." NOW, THE PUNISHMENT IS THE RESULT OF THE MISTAKES, THE SINS AND THE ERRORS THAT WE HAVE JUST BEEN READING ABOUT. SO NOW, MAN IS HUMBLLED, "...AND MEN ARE BROUGHT LOW..."

THE THOUGHT HERE IS PRIMARILY FOR JACOB AND HIS DESCENDANTS, BEGINNING IN VERSE 6, BUT HERE IT IS NOT LIMITED TO THEM, BECAUSE IT SAYS "MAN", NOT JUST JACOB, OF COURSE, JACOB PARTICULARLY IS GOING TO BE BROUGHT VERY LOW, EVEN BEING BROUGHT INTO CAPTIVITY.

VERSE 9, "... FORGIVE THEM NOT [BECAUSE OF THESE SINS]! ENTER INTO THE ROCK, AND HIDE IN THE DUST FROM BEFORE THE TERROR OF THE LORD, AND FROM THE GLORY OF HIS MAJESTY. THE HAUGHTY LOOKS OF MAN SHALL BE BROUGHT LOW, AND THE PRIDE OF MEN SHALL BE HUMBLLED; AND THE LORD ALONE WILL BE EXALTED IN THAT DAY." NOT THE GENTILES, NOT ISRAEL OR ANY OTHER NATION OR PERSON; ONLY GOD IS GOING TO BE EXALTED IN THAT DAY.

NOW, WHAT IS THE DAY THAT HE IS TALKING ABOUT? THE DAY HE IS TALKING ABOUT IS THE DAY OF THE LORD, AND YOU'LL FIND THAT THERE ARE MANY PROPHECIES THAT REFER TO THE DAY OF THE LORD BY SAYING, "IN THAT DAY." IT SEEMS LIKE THERE ARE ABOUT 70 PLACES IN THE BIBLE, PARTICULARLY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, THAT REFER TO THE DAY OF THE LORD.

VERSE 12, "FOR THE LORD OF HOSTS HAS A DAY [THE DAY OF THE LORD] AGAINST ALL THAT IS PROUD AND LOFTY, AGAINST ALL THAT IS LIFTED UP AND HIGH ... IN OTHER WORDS, HE IS AGAINST ALL THE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT ARE FILLED WITH PRIDE AND VANITY. THEN ISAIAH GOES ON TO

MENTION HERE THAT GOD ALSO HAS A DAY THAT IS AGAINST THE PHYSICAL CREATION. THERE WILL BE GREAT DESTRUCTION ON THESE THINGS IN THAT DAY.

VERSE 17, "AND THE HAUGHTINESS OF MAN SHALL BE HUMBLLED, AND THE PRIDE OF MEN SHALL BE BROUGHT LOW; AND THE LORD ALONE WILL BE EXALTED IN THAT DAY [THE DAY OF THE LORD]. AND THE IDOLS SHALL UTTERLY PASS AWAY. AND MEN SHALL ENTER THE CAVES OF THE ROCKS [REFERRING BACK TO THE EVENTS THAT INTRODUCE THE DAY OF THE LORD, THE SIXTH SEAL] AND THE HOLES OF THE GROUND, FROM BEFORE THE TERROR OF THE LORD, AND FROM THE GLORY OF HIS MAJESTY, WHEN HE RISES TO TERRIFY THE EARTH. IN THAT DAY MEN WILL CAST FORTH THEIR IDOLS OF SILVER AND THEIR IDOLS OF GOLD ... TO ENTER THE CAVERNS OF THE ROCKS AND THE CLEFTS OF THE CLIFFS, FROM BEFORE THE TERROR OF THE LORD, AND FROM THE GLORY OF HIS MAJESTY, WHEN HE RISES TO TERRIFY THE EARTH."

THIS IS GOING TO BE A VERY TERRIBLE, A VERY AWESOME TIME, WE HAVE SEEN FROM THIS PARTICULAR CHAPTER THAT IN THAT DAY, GOD IS GOING TO INTERVENE IN THE AFFAIRS OF THIS WORLD IN A VERY MIGHTY AND A VERY POWERFUL WAY, AFTER LEAVING THE WORLD TO ITS OWN WAY, ITS OWN DEVICES, ITS OWN GOVERNMENTS, ITS OWN WAY OF DOING BUSINESS, FOR ABOUT SIX THOUSAND YEARS.

WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO PARTICULAR PEOPLE IN THE DAY OF THE LORD? FIRST, LET'S LOOK AT WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE GENTILE NATIONS. WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO THEM IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO ISRAEL AND THE ISRAELITISH NATIONS.

LET'S LOOK AT THE BOOK OF OBADIAH. THIS IS A VERY SHORT BOOK, BUT IT HAS A VERY POWERFUL MESSAGE, AND THAT PARTICULAR MESSAGE HAS TO DO WITH EVENTS DURING THE DAY OF THE LORD. VERSE 15 SAYS, "FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD IS NEAR UPON ALL THE NATIONS [IT'S GOING TO COME UPON ALL THE NATIONS; IT IS GOING TO BE ON THE WHOLE EARTH]. AS YOU HAVE DONE [HE'S SPEAKING PARTICULARLY, HERE, OF EDOM], IT SHALL BE DONE TO YOU, YOUR DEEDS SHALL RETURN ON YOUR OWN HEAD." THIS IS BECAUSE OF THEIR WICKEDNESS, THEIR SIN AND THEIR ANTAGONISM TOWARDS ISRAEL, JUDAH AND JERUSALEM.

VERSE 16, "FOR AS YOU HAVE DRUNK UPON MY HOLY MOUNTAIN, ALL THE NATIONS ROUND ABOUT SHALL DRINK; THEY SHALL DRINK, AND STAGGER, AND SHALL BE AS THOUGH THEY HAD NOT BEEN." HE'S TALKING ABOUT ALL THOSE NATIONS WHO STRUGGLED OVER JERUSALEM, TRYING TO

TAKE JERUSALEM AND MAKE IT THEIR OWN. WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN AS A RESULT OF THAT? IT SAYS, "YOU WILL BE AS THOUGH YOU HAD NOT BEEN."

VERSE 18, "THE HOUSE OF JACOB SHALL BE A FIRE, AND THE HOUSE OF JOSEPH A FLAME, AND THE HOUSE OF ESAU STUBBLE; THEY SHALL BURN THEM AND CONSUME THEM...."

NOTICE ALSO VERSE 9. THE LAST PART SAYS, "...SO THAT EVERY MAN FROM MOUNT ESAU WILL BE CUT OFF BY SLAUGHTER." IT THAT'S HOW TERRIBLE A DESTRUCTION WILL BE THAT IS GOING TO COME ON EDOM BECAUSE OF THEIR SINS AND WHAT THEY HAVE DONE TO THE SONS OF JACOB.

IN ISAIAH THERE IS MORE ABOUT EDOM. ISAIAH 63:1-6 IS SPEAKING OF THE SAME TIME, THE SAME EVENT. "WHO IS THIS THAT COMES FROM EDOM, IN CRIMSONED GARMENTS FROM BOZRAH [BOZRAH WAS THE ANCIENT CAPITAL OF EDOM], HE THAT IS GLORIOUS IN HIS APPAREL, MARCHING IN THE GREATNESS OF HIS STRENGTH? 'IT IS I, ANNOUNCING VINDICATION, MIGHTY TO SAVE.'" THIS, OF COURSE, IS SPEAKING OF CHRIST, WHEN HE TREADS OUT THE WINE PRESS, AS IS MENTIONED IN THE NEXT CHAPTER.

VERSE 2, "WHY IS THY APPAREL RED, AND THY GARMENTS LIKE HIS THAT TREADS IN THE WINE PRESS? [AND HE ANSWERS,] 'I HAVE TRODDEN THE WINE PRESS ALONE, AND FROM THE PEOPLES NO ONE WAS WITH ME,' I TROD THEM IN MY ANGER [THIS IS SPEAKING ABOUT THE DAY OF THE LORD AND HIS ANGER] AND TRAMPLED THEM IN MY WRATH; THEIR LIFEBLOOD IS SPRINKLED UPON MY GARMENTS, AND I HAVE STAINED ALL MY RAIMENT, FOR THE DAY OF VENGEANCE WAS IN MY HEART...., SPEAKING HERE AGAIN OF THAT DAY, THE DAY OF THE ETERNAL. IT'S A TIME OF VENGEANCE, WHEN GOD WILL PUNISH THE EVILDOERS, THE WICKED PEOPLE AND THE SINNERS, VENGEANCE BELONGS TO GOD. HE'S NOT TAKING ANY VENGEANCE RIGHT NOW, BUT AT THAT TIME HE WILL TAKE VENGEANCE, AND HE WILL REPAY.

NOW, NOTICE THIS NEXT STATEMENT, BECAUSE IT BROADENS OUR HORIZONS A BIT IN REGARD TO WHAT IS MEANT BY THE TERM, DAY OF THE LORD: THE LATTER PART OF VERSE 4 SAYS, "... AND MY YEAR OF REDEMPTION HAS COME," NOW WE NOTICE NOT ONLY THE WORD "DAY", BUT A YEAR MENTIONED. SO, THE DAY OF THE LORD, THE DAY OF GOD'S VENGEANCE, IS ALSO THE YEAR OF REDEMPTION.

VERSE 5, "I LOOKED, BUT THERE WAS NONE TO HELP; I WAS APPALLED, BUT THERE WAS NO ONE TO UPHOLD; SO MY OWN ARM BROUGHT ME VICTORY, AND MY WRATH UPHELD ME. I TROD DOWN THE

PEOPLES IN MY ANGER, I MADE THEM DRUNK IN MY WRATH, AND I Poured OUT THEIR LIFEBLOOD ON THE EARTH." THIS IS CERTAINLY A VERY GORY, A VERY TERRIBLE PICTURE WE SEE HERE. THERE ARE SEVERAL REASONS FOR ALL OF THIS THAT WE'LL SEE LATER.

SO WE HAVE SEEN THIS IS NOT ONLY REFERRING TO A DAY, BUT ALSO A YEAR. I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE REFERENCE HERE TO NUMBERS 14:34 WHICH SHOWS THAT SOMETIMES A DAY REPRESENTS A YEAR IN PROPHECY. NOW, IF WE USE THIS ADDITIONAL MEANING FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD, EXPANDING IT BEYOND JUST A TWENTY-FOUR HOUR DAY TO THAT OF A YEAR, AND REALIZING THIS COMES JUST BEFORE AND CULMINATES IN THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST, THEN WE WOULD SEE THAT THE DAY OF THE LORD STARTS ABOUT ONE YEAR PRIOR TO THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST, AFTER THE GREAT TRIBULATION HAS BEEN GOING FOR ABOUT TWO AND A HALF YEARS.

ISAIAH 34:8 SAYS. "FOR THE LORD HAS A DAY OF VENGEANCE; A YEAR OF RECOMPENSE FOR THE CAUSE OF ZION." HERE EDOM IS THE ONE IT IS REFERRING TO AGAIN, AS WE SAW PREVIOUSLY IN THE OTHER CHAPTERS IN ISAIAH AND IN THE BOOK OF OBADIAH. BUT THE DAY OF THE LORD IS NOT GOING TO COME JUST ON EDOM. IT IS GOING TO COME ON MANY NATIONS.

LET'S NOTICE HOW IT IS ALSO GOING TO COME TO EGYPT. THE WHOLE CHAPTER OF JEREMIAH 46 IS ABOUT EGYPT, AND PART OF IT RELATES TO PHARAOH NECO, WHO WAS AN ANCIENT KING OF EGYPT, AND TO NEBUCHADNEZZAR, KING OF BABYLON, BUT HE IS NOT TALKING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED BACK HUNDREDS OF YEARS BEFORE THE TIME OF CHRIST. THAT WAS JUST A TYPE OR A FORE-RUNNER OF A MUCH GREATER EVENT AT THE VERY END.

VERSE 10 (KJV) SAYS, "FOR THIS IS THE DAY OF THE LORD GOD OF HOSTS, A DAY OF VENGEANCE [AS WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN], THAT HE MAY AVENGE HIM OF HIS ADVERSARIES: AND THE SWORD SHALL DEVOUR, AND IT SHALL BE SATIATED AND MADE DRUNK WITH THEIR BLOOD BUT NOW THIS IS TALKING ABOUT OTHER NATIONS: ETHIOPIA, PUT AND LUD, AND OTHER NATIONS LISTED IN VERSE 9.

CONTINUING IN VERSE 10, "...FOR THE LORD GOD OF HOSTS HATH A SACRIFICE IN THE NORTH COUNTRY BY THE RIVER EUPHRATES. GO UP INTO GILEAD, AND TAKE BALM, O VIRGIN, THE DAUGHTER OF EGYPT..." I THINK THAT WOULD GIVE INDICATION IT'S TALKING NOT ABOUT AN ANCIENT EGYPT BUT A MODERN DAUGHTER.

LET'S GO OVER TO THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL,

WHERE WE'LL SEE A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT THE NATION OF EGYPT. EZEKIEL 30, STARTING AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CHAPTER, IN THE RSV, "THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME TO ME: 'SON OF MAN, PROPHECY, AND SAY, THUS SAYS THE LORD GOD: 'WAIL, 'ALAS FOR THE DAY!'" NOW, HERE'S ANOTHER TERM FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD THAT'S SOMETIMES USED, IT'S CALLED "THE DAY", AND AS WE VE SEEN EARLIER, "IN THAT DAY". BOTH TERMS SOMETIMES REFER TO THE SAME EVENT.

VERSE 3, "FOR THE DAY IS NEAR, THE DAY OF THE LORD IS NEAR; IT WILL BE A DAY OF CLOUDS, A TIME OF DOOM FOR THE NATIONS, OR YOU MIGHT SAY IT WILL BE A TIME OF GLOOM FOR ALL THE NATIONS, BECAUSE THEY'RE GOING TO CEASE TO EXIST AS GOVERNMENTS. THOSE GOVERNMENTS ARE GOING TO BE OVERTHROWN, AND THEY ARE GOING TO BE REPLACED BY JESUS CHRIST AND HIS GOVERNMENT.

VERSE 4, "A SWORD SHALL COME UPON EGYPT, AND ANGUISH SHALL BE IN ETHIOPIA, WHEN THE SLAIN FALL IN EGYPT, AND HER WEALTH IS CARRIED AWAY, AND HER FOUNDATIONS ARE TORN DOWN, ETHIOPIA, AND PUT, AND LUD, AND ALL ARABIA, AND LIBYA, AND THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND THAT IS IN LEAGUE [INCLUDING, APPARENTLY, THE OTHER NATIONS], SHALL FALL WITH THEM BY THE SWORD." WHEN IS THIS GOING TO HAPPEN? IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN IN THE DAY OF THE LORD.

THAT, VERY BRIEFLY, IS WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO EGYPT. LET'S CONSIDER NOW, FOR A MOMENT, BABYLON. IF YOU REMEMBER A LITTLE BIT OF THE TIME ELEMENT OF THE VARIOUS BOOKS OF THE BIBLE, AND WHEN THE VARIOUS PROPHETS OF THE BIBLE WROTE, YOU WILL REALIZE THAT ISAIAH WAS ONE OF THE EARLY PROPHETS. HE PROPHESED BEFORE THERE WAS REALLY A GREAT NATION OF BABYLON, WHICH AROSE AND FELL LONG AFTER ISAIAH'S TIME. SO, ISAIAH IS NOT TALKING ABOUT ANCIENT BABYLON, HE IS PRIMARILY TALKING ABOUT THE END TIME, BECAUSE WE'VE ALREADY SEEN THAT THE DAY OF THE LORD COMES AFTER THE GREAT TRIBULATION AND AFTER THE HEAVENLY SIGNS.

ISAIAH 13:1 SAYS, "THE ORACLE CONCERNING BABYLON WHICH ISAIAH THE SON OF AMOZ SAW. ON A BARE HILL RAISE A SIGNAL, CRY ALOUD TO THEM; WAVE THE HAND FOR THEM TO ENTER THE GATES OF THE NOBLES. I MYSELF HAVE COMMANDED MY CONSECRATED ONES, HAVE SUMMONED MY MIGHTY MEN TO EXECUTE MY ANGER, MY PROUDLY EXULTING ONES." HE'S TALKING HERE ABOUT AN ARMY THAT GOD IS GOING TO CAUSE TO COME AND DESTROY MODERN BABYLON DURING THE DAY OF THE LORD.

LET'S NOTICE A PART OF VERSE 4, "...THE LORD OF HOSTS IS MUSTERING A HOST FOR BATTLE, THEY COME FROM A DISTANT LAND, FROM THE END OF THE HEAVENS, THE [ETERNAL] AND THE WEAPONS OF HIS INDIGNATION, TO DESTROY THE WHOLE EARTH. WAIL, FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD IS NEAR; AS DESTRUCTION FROM THE ALMIGHTY IT WILL COME!" THEN IT DESCRIBES HOW IT'S GOING TO AFFECT PEOPLE.

VERSE 9, "BEHOLD, THE DAY OF THE LORD COMES, CRUEL, WITH WRATH AND FIERCE ANGER, TO MAKE THE EARTH A DESOLATION AND TO DESTROY ITS SINNERS FROM IT, FOR THE STARS OF THE HEAVENS AND THEIR CONSTELLATIONS WILL NOT GIVE THEIR LIGHT; THE SUN WILL BE DARK AT ITS RISING AND THE MOON WILL NOT SHED ITS LIGHT. THIS REFERS AGAIN TO THE SIXTH SEAL.

AS THE VARIOUS SEALS ARE OPENED AND THOSE VARIOUS EVENTS START TO HAPPEN, THEY CONTINUE ON UNTIL APPROXIMATELY THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST. SO NOT ONLY WILL THIS PRECEDE THE DAY OF THE LORD, IT WILL CONTINUE ON DURING THE DAY OF THE LORD.

VERSE 11, "I WILL PUNISH THE WORLD FOR ITS EVIL, AND THE WICKED FOR THEIR INIQUITY; I WILL PUT AN END TO THE PRIDE OF THE ARROGANT, AND LAY LOW THE HAUGHTINESS OF THE RUTHLESS. I WILL MAKE MEN MORE RARE THAN FINE GOLD, AND MANKIND THAN THE GOLD OF OPHIR." THIS REMINDS ME OF ONE OF THE OTHER PROPHECIES THAT SHOW HOW A THIRD OF ISRAEL IS GOING TO DIE BY WAR, AND A THIRD OF THEM BY FAMINE AND DISEASE, AND THIRD OF THEM ARE GOING TO GO INTO CAPTIVITY. THEN OF ALL THOSE THAT START OUT, THERE WILL ONLY BE TEN PERCENT LEFT, IF IT'S THAT WAY FOR ISRAEL, I SUPPOSE IT WILL BE THAT WAY FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD, SO THE POPULATION OF THE EARTH IS GOING TO BE DECIMATED TERRIBLY.

VERSE 13, "THEREFORE I WILL MAKE THE HEAVENS TREMBLE, AND THE EARTH WILL BE SHAKEN OUT OF ITS PLACE [I DON'T KNOW IF THIS MEANS THAT THE ORBIT OF THE EARTH IS GOING TO BE CHANGED. BUT IT LOOKS LIKE IT COULD INCLUDE THAT], AT THE WRATH OF THE LORD OF HOSTS IN THE DAY OF HIS FIERCE ANGER." THERE IS MORE THAT WE COULD READ HERE IN THIS CHAPTER, BUT I THINK THAT SHOULD SUFFICE TO SHOW US WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO MODERN BABYLON.

THIS, OF COURSE, RELATES TO REVELATION 17 AND REVELATION 18. YOU SEE, THERE WAS AN ANCIENT BABYLON AND THERE IS A MODERN BABYLON. IT IS MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE THAT BABYLON FALLS TWICE. IN REVELATION 18:2 IT SAYS, "...BABYLON THE GREAT IS FALLEN, IS FALLEN..." IN OTHER

WORDS, TWO FALLS. IN ISAIAH 21:9 SAYS THAT VERY SAME THING. SO WE'RE READING HERE ABOUT THE SECOND FALL OF BABYLON.

WE'VE SEEN BRIEFLY NOW WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO SOME OF THE GENTILE NATIONS, SOME OF THE LEADING NATIONS; BUT WHAT ABOUT JUDAH AND ISRAEL? WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM DURING THE DAY OF THE LORD? NOW, AS FAR AS ISRAEL IS CONCERNED, MOST OF THEM WILL BE IN CAPTIVITY ALREADY. THEY ALREADY WILL HAVE BEEN PUNISHED IN THE GREAT TRIBULATION BY THE TIME THE DAY OF THE LORD COMES. BUT THERE WILL STILL BE A JERUSALEM, THERE WILL STILL BE WHAT IS NOW CALLED ISRAEL, OR THE ISRAELI PEOPLE, AND JEWS WILL STILL LIVE IN THAT PARTICULAR AREA. SO THERE ARE CERTAIN PROPHECIES THAT RELATE TO WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THEM DURING THE DAY OF THE LORD.

LET'S TURN OVER TO EZEKIEL 7:19. "THEY CAST THEIR SILVER INTO THE STREETS, AND THEIR GOLD IS LIKE AN UNCLEAN THING; THEIR SILVER AND GOLD ARE NOT ABLE TO DELIVER THEM IN THE DAY OF THE WRATH OF THE LORD; THEY CANNOT SATISFY THEIR HUNGER OR FILL THEIR STOMACHS WITH IT."

NOTICE NOW VERSE 1: "THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME TO ME: 'AND YOU, O SON OF MAN, THUS SAYS THE [ETERNAL] GOD TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL HE'S TALKING ABOUT THE PHYSICAL LAND OF ISRAEL, JUST AS IN CHAPTER 6. HE TALKS ABOUT THE MOUNTAINS OF ISRAEL, AND ABOUT THE RAVINES AND THE VALLEYS AND THE HIGH PLACES IN THE LAND THAT WE PRESENTLY CALL ISRAEL. IT'S TALKING ABOUT WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO THEM, BECAUSE HORRIBLE THINGS ARE GOING TO HAPPEN TO THAT PART OF THE WORLD.

THERE ARE A FEW PLACES IN THE BOOK OF ZEPHANIAH THAT SPEAK OF THE DAY OF THE LORD. IT TALKS ABOUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO JUDAH AND THE CITY OF JERUSALEM. ZEPHANIAH 1:7 SAYS, "BE SILENT BEFORE THE LORD GOD! FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD IS AT HAND; THE LORD HAS PREPARED A SACRIFICE AND CONSECRATED HIS GUESTS. AND ON THE DAY OF THE LORD'S SACRIFICE — 'I WILL PUNISH...'" IT GOES ON TO NAME CERTAIN ONES THAT HE IS GOING TO PUNISH BECAUSE OF THEIR SINS AND WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN DOING.

VERSE 14, "THE GREAT DAY OF THE LORD IS NEAR, NEAR AND HASTENING FAST; THE SOUND OF THE DAY OF THE [ETERNAL] IS BITTER..." IN VERSE 16 HE SAYS THAT IT'S "A DAY OF TRUMPET BLAST AND BATTLE CRY AGAINST THE FORTIFIED CITIES..." THE TRUMPET WAS AN ALARM OF WAR.

THE PRIMARY THEME OF THE BOOK OF JOEL

IS THE DAY OF THE LORD, AND THE EVENTS THAT RELATE TO IT, THAT PRECEDE AND FOLLOW IT. NOTICE IT IN VERSE 15 OF CHAPTER 1: "...THE DAY OF THE LORD IS NEAR..."

CHAPTER 2, VERSE 1 SAYS, "BLOW THE TRUMPET IN ZION [WHICH IS AN ALARM OF WAR, AS WE JUST SAW IN THE BOOK OF ZEPHANIAH] ...LET ALL THE INHABITANTS OF THE LAND TREMBLE, FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD IS COMING, IT IS NEAR." THEN HE DESCRIBES WHAT THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL BE LIKE.

VERSE 2, "A DAY OF DARKNESS AND GLOOM, A DAY OF CLOUDS AND THICK DARKNESS! LIKE BLACKNESS THERE IS SPREAD UPON THE MOUNTAINS A GREAT AND POWERFUL PEOPLE..." HE'S TALKING NOW ABOUT AN ARMY THAT IS GOING TO COME OVER THE LAND OF PALESTINE.

NOTICE WHAT HE SAYS ABOUT THEM IN VERSE 2, "...THEIR LIKE HAS NEVER BEEN FROM OF OLD, NOR WILL BE AGAIN AFTER THEM THROUGH THE YEARS OF ALL GENERATIONS." THE GREAT ARMY THAT WILL COME ON THE LAND OF PALESTINE IS SUCH AS HAS NEVER BEEN BEFORE OR EVER WILL BE AFTERWARD, THIS CAN ONLY HAPPEN DURING THE DAY OF THE LORD, WHICH IS YET IN THE FUTURE.

NOTICE VERSE 11, "...FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD IS GREAT AND VERY TERRIBLE; WHO CAN ENDURE IT?" VERSE 30, "AND I WILL GIVE PORTENTS IN THE HEAVENS AND ON THE EARTH, BLOOD AND FIRE AND COLUMNS OF SMOKE. THE SUN SHALL BE TURNED TO DARKNESS, AND THE MOON TO BLOOD, BEFORE THE GREAT AND TERRIBLE DAY OF THE LORD COMES."

THEN IN CHAPTER 3 WE FIND THAT THE NATIONS ARE GOING TO BE GATHERED IN THE VALLEY OF JEHOSEPHAT. THE VALLEY OF JEHOSEPHAT IS ALSO KNOWN AS THE KIDRON VALLEY. IT'S A VERY NARROW, STEEP VALLEY JUST TO THE EAST OF THE ANCIENT CITY OF JERUSALEM. THAT IS THE VALLEY WHERE THE GREAT BATTLE IS GOING TO TAKE PLACE BETWEEN JESUS CHRIST AND THE NATIONS GATHERED, IN WHICH THE BLOOD OF THE PEOPLE IS GOING TO FLOW UP TO THE HORSES' BRIDLES! IN VERSES 9 AND 10 THERE IS A PROCLAMATION FOR THE NATIONS TO GATHER TOGETHER FOR THIS GREAT BATTLE IN THE VALLEY OF JEHOSEPHAT. IN JOEL 3:13 IT SAYS, "PUT IN THE SICKLE, FOR THE HARVEST IS RIPE. GO IN, TREAD, FOR THE WINE PRESS IS FULL.... " THIS IS SYMBOLIC OF LOSS OF BLOOD OF THE ARMIES THAT ARE GOING TO BATTLE AGAINST CHRIST AT THIS PLACE.

VERSE 14, "MULTITUDES, MULTITUDES, IN THE VALLEY OF DECISION! FOR THE DAY OF THE

LORD IS NEAR IN THE VALLEY OF DECISION.” THEN AT THE END OF THE BOOK THERE IS A PROMISE OF RESTORATION AND OF GREAT NATIONAL AND PHYSICAL BLESSINGS THAT ARE GOING TO COME UPON GOD’S PEOPLE ISRAEL, AND ALSO WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO EDMON AND SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE HATED ISRAEL THROUGH ALL OF THESE YEARS.

NOW LET’S GO TO ISAIAH 61:1. WE’RE STILL TALKING ABOUT WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO ISRAEL “THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD GOD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE THE LORD HAS ANOINTED ME TO BRING GOOD TIDINGS TO THE AFFLICTED [AT THIS TIME, ISRAEL IS GOING TO BE GREATLY AFFLICTED IN CAPTIVITY]; HE HAS SENT ME TO BIND UP THE BROKENHEARTED, TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES...” YOU SEE, MOST OF ISRAEL IS GOING TO BE IN CAPTIVITY WHEN CHRIST COMES, AND CHRIST IS GOING TO RELEASE THEM FROM THAT CAPTIVITY. THAT IS ONE OF THE VERY IMPORTANT THINGS THAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN ON THE DAY OF THE LORD.

CONTINUING IN VERSE 1, “...AND THE OPENING OF THE PRISON TO THOSE WHO ARE BOUND; TO PROCLAIM THE YEAR OF THE LORD’S FAVOR [THE YEAR OF THE LORD’S FAVOR HERE IS DIRECTED FIRST TOWARDS ISRAEL], AND THE DAY OF VENGEANCE OF OUR GOD [VENGEANCE ON THE HEATHEN AND FAVOR FOR ISRAEL] TO COMFORT ALL WHO MOURN; TO GRANT TO THOSE WHO MOURN IN ZION...”

SO HERE WE SEE PROMISES OF RESTORATION, PROMISES OF LIBERTY FOR GOD’S PHYSICAL PEOPLE ISRAEL, AND A DAY OF VENGEANCE AGAINST THE WICKED. I WANT TO EMPHASIZE AGAIN, THAT IT MENTIONS THE YEAR OF THE LORD’S FAVOR, I THINK THAT’S THE THIRD PLACE WE’VE SEEN THAT PARTICULAR STATEMENT.

ZECHARIAH 14 TALKS ABOUT THE END OF THE EVENTS OF THIS DAY OF THE LORD. IN VERSE 1 HE SAYS, “BEHOLD, A DAY OF THE LORD IS COMING, WHEN THE SPOIL TAKEN FROM YOU WILL BE DIVIDED IN THE MIDST OF YOU [SPEAKING OF THE CITY OF JERUSALEM]. FOR I WILL GATHER ALL THE NATIONS AGAINST JERUSALEM TO BATTLE, AND THE CITY SHALL BE TAKEN AND THE HOUSES PLUNDERED AND THE WOMEN RAVISHED; HALF OF THE CITY SHALL GO INTO-EXILE [OR CAPTIVITY], BUT THE REST OF THE PEOPLE SHALL NOT BE CUT OFF FROM THE CITY. THEN THE LORD WILL GO FORTH AND FIGHT AGAINST THOSE NATIONS ... ON THAT DAY HIS FEET SHALL STAND THE MOUNT OF OLIVES WHEN CHRIST RETURNS, HE IS GOING TO FIGHT AGAINST THE NATIONS.

ZECHARIAH 14:12 GIVES SOME OF THE DETAILS. “AND THIS SHALL BE THE PLAGUE WITH WHICH THE LORD WILL SMITE ALL THE PEOPLES

THAT WAGE WAR AGAINST JERUSALEM: THEIR FLESH SHALL ROT WHILE THEY ARE STILL ON THEIR FEET, THEIR EYES SHALL ROT IN THEIR SOCKETS, AND THEIR TONGUES SHALL ROT IN THEIR MOUTHS. AND ON THAT DAY A GREAT PANIC FROM THE LORD SHALL FALL UPON THEM....”

THERE ARE OTHER SCRIPTURES THAT I SHOULD REFER YOU TO. MALACHI 4:5 ALSO TELLS US OF OTHER THINGS RELATING TO THE DAY OF THE LORD. BEFORE THE DAY OF THE LORD, ELIJAH WILL COME. I THESSALONIANS 5:2 REFERS TO THE DAY OF THE LORD, AND THAT IT’S GOING TO COME AS A THIEF, UNEXPECTEDLY. NOW, IT SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISING TO GOD’S PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY SHOULD BE WATCHING. BUT THE REST OF THE WORLD WILL NOT BE WATCHING, AND IT WILL COME UNEXPECTEDLY.

NOW LET’S TURN OVER TO REVELATION 1:10, WHICH TELLS US ABOUT THE LORD’S DAY. “I WAS IN THE SPIRIT ON THE LORD’S DAY THERE HAS BEEN QUITE A BIT OF CONTROVERSY IN SOME QUARTERS ABOUT WHETHER IT IS TALKING ABOUT SATURDAY OR SUNDAY, BUT IT’S NOT TALKING ABOUT EITHER OF THOSE DAYS, IT’S TALKING ABOUT THE DAY OF THE LORD AND THE THINGS THAT WE’VE BEEN READING ABOUT.

THE APOSTLE JOHN WAS IN SPIRIT ON THE DAY OF THE LORD. HE WAS IN THE SPIRIT, SEEING THE EVENTS UNROLL AND HAPPEN THAT WE’VE BEEN READING ABOUT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES. SO THE MAIN THEME OF REVELATION IS ALSO THE LORD’S DAY.

I WANT TO BRIEFLY POINT OUT A FEW THINGS THROUGH THE BOOK OF REVELATION IN CONNECTION WITH WHAT WE HAVE BEEN READING. MOST OF THE EVENTS OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION RELATE TO THAT DAY OF THE LORD, AND ARE OFTEN IN SYMBOL, WHICH GIVES DIFFERENT DETAILS THAN WE SAW BACK IN THE OLD TESTAMENT,

THERE IS A TIME ORDER THROUGH THE BOOK OF REVELATION. CHAPTER 8:1, “WHEN THE LAMB HAD OPENED THE SEVENTH SEAL, THERE WAS SILENCE IN HEAVEN FOR ABOUT HALF AN HOUR.” VERSE 6, “NOW THE SEVEN ANGELS WHO HAD THE SEVEN TRUMPETS MADE READY TO BLOW THEM.” NOW WE’RE GOING TO HAVE THE SEVEN TRUMPETS. WE SAW IN THE OLD TESTAMENT THAT THERE WAS GOING TO BE THE SOUND OF THE TRUMPETS. HERE ARE THE TRUMPETS WE READ ABOUT. THE FIRST FOUR TRUMPETS TELL US OF EVENTS THAT ARE GOING TO TAKE PLACE AGAINST THE PHYSICAL CREATION. THEN THE FIFTH ONE APPARENTLY IS THE BEAST POWER WARRING AGAINST RUSSIA, AND MAYBE SOME OF HER ALLIES. THEN THE SIXTH TRUMPET, STARTING IN VERSE 13, IS WHERE RUSSIA AND THE ORIENTAL NATIONS FIGHT AGAINST THE

BEAST POWER. THIS IS THAT VERY GREAT ARMY OF 200 MILLION.

NOTICE ONE STATEMENT IN CHAPTER 9, VERSE 18. "BY THESE THREE PLAGUES [AND WE'RE SPEAKING NOW OF THE SIXTH ANGEL AND THE WAR INVOLVED] A THIRD OF MANKIND WAS KILLED..." ONE-THIRD OF THE PEOPLE ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH WILL BE KILLED IN THIS ONE GREAT WAR! OVER ONE BILLION PEOPLE WILL BE KILLED AS A RESULT OF THIS ONE EVENT OF THE SIXTH ANGEL AND WHAT THAT SYMBOLIZES!

REVELATION 11:15 SAYS, "THEN THE SEVENTH ANGEL BLEW HIS TRUMPET..." GREAT THINGS TAKE PLACE AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME; THE KINGDOMS OF THE WORLD BECOME THE KINGDOMS OF JESUS CHRIST, GOD'S KINGDOM NOW IS ESTABLISHED ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH. ALSO, AT THAT TIME, THE SAINTS ARE GOING TO BE RESURRECTED, AND VERY SHORTLY AFTER THAT IS GOING TO BE THAT GREAT BATTLE THAT I SHOWED YOU BACK IN THE BOOK OF ZECHARIAH.

REVELATION 14 TALKS ABOUT THE 144,000 AND THE THREE ANGEL MESSENGERS. IN VERSE 6 IT SAYS THE FIRST ANGEL IS GOING TO PREACH THE EVER-LASTING GOSPEL. WHAT IS THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL? IT IS THE GOOD NEWS OF THE COMING OF GOD'S KINGDOM. WHAT IS THIS ANGEL SAYING? I THINK HE'S SAYING THAT THE TIME IS COME FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GOD'S KINGDOM. GOD'S KINGDOM IS NOW GOING TO BE ESTABLISHED ON THE EARTH. IN VERSE 8 THE SECOND ANGEL SAYS THAT BABYLON IS FALLEN, IS FALLEN. THIS IS ANNOUNCED TO THE WORLD. THEN THE THIRD ANGEL IS THE WRATH OF GOD ON THE BEAST AND THOSE WHO WORSHIP THE BEAST.

WE SAW EARLIER THAT THE DAY OF THE LORD IS A DAY. IT IS, YOU MIGHT SAY, THE DAY OF CHRIST'S RETURN. SECONDLY, THE DAY OF THE LORD IS A YEAR, BUT IN II PETER 3 WE FIND THAT THERE IS ANOTHER APPLICATION OF THIS DAY OF THE LORD. VERSE 8, "BUT DO NOT IGNORE THIS ONE FACT, BELOVED, THAT WITH THE LORD ONE DAY IS AS A THOUSAND YEARS, AND A THOUSAND YEARS AS ONE DAY." TO GOD, TIME IS QUITE DIFFERENT THAN IT IS TO US. APPARENTLY IN HIS OWN MIND HE CAN SPEED UP TIME OR SLOW IT DOWN, BUT NOT ONLY IS THERE A DAY FOR A YEAR, BUT AS FAR AS GOD'S CONCERNED, SOMETIMES A DAY EQUALS A THOUSAND YEARS, WITH THAT IN MIND, LET'S READ VERSE 10. "BUT THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME LIKE A THIEF [UNEXPECTEDLY], AND THEN THE HEAVENS WILL PASS AWAY WITH A LOUD NOISE, AND THE ELEMENTS WILL BE DISSOLVED WITH FIRE, AND THE EARTH AND THE WORKS THAT ARE UPON IT SHALL BE BURNED UP. SINCE ALL THESE THINGS ARE THUS TO BE DISSOLVED, WHAT SORT OF PERSONS OUGHT YOU TO BE IN LIVES OF HOLINESS AND GODLINESS." HERE HE'S

NOT TALKING OF EVENTS THAT ARE TAKING PLACE AT THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST, BUT HE'S TALKING ABOUT EVENTS THAT ARE GOING TO TAKE PLACE AFTER THE MILLENNIUM IS OVER. WE READ ABOUT THAT IN REVELATION 20. THIS IS WHAT IS SOMETIMES CALLED GEHENNA FIRE, THE TIME WHEN GOD IS GOING TO DESTROY THE WICKED; THEIR FINAL DESTRUCTION. IT IS THE TIME WHEN THE EARTH IS GOING TO MELT WITH FERVENT HEAT. AFTER THAT PARTICULAR PERIOD OF TIME, GOD IS GOING TO REMAKE AND REFASHION THE EARTH AND THE HEAVENS, AND THEN WILL BE THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH.

SO, WHEN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE DAY OF THE LORD, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A SINGLE DAY WHEN CHRIST RETURNS, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE WHOLE YEAR THAT PRECEDES THAT, AND WE'RE ALSO TALKING ABOUT A WHOLE THOUSAND-YEAR PERIOD WHEN GOD IS INTERVENING IN THE AFFAIRS OF MAN.

IN SUMMARY, LET ME SAY THIS: THE DAY OF THE LORD IS A TIME WHEN GOD INTERVENES IN THE WORLD'S AFFAIRS. FIRST, HE IS GOING TO GET THE ATTENTION OF THE WORLD BY THE HEAVENLY SIGNS. IT REMINDS ME OF THE MULE THAT WOULDN'T COME TO WATER, SO A MAN SAID, "I CAN GET HIM TO COME TO WATER. FIRST YOU GET A STICK, YOU TAKE IT AND YOU WHACK IT ACROSS HIS NOSE. THEN YOU CAN GET HIS ATTENTION." WELL, THAT IS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE WORLD. GOD IS GOING TO HAVE THESE AWESOME HEAVENLY SIGNS THAT ARE GOING TO GET EVERYONE'S ATTENTION, AND THAT WILL BE THE MAJOR TOPIC OF CONVERSATION AND INTEREST DURING THAT PARTICULAR TIME. THAT WILL GET THE WORLD'S ATTENTION SO THEY WILL LISTEN. THEN GOD IS GOING TO PUNISH THE WICKED FOR THEIR SINS. WHEN THIS HAPPENS, A MAJOR PART OF THE EARTH'S POPULATION IS GOING TO BE DESTROYED. IN THE PROCESS, HE'S GOING TO HUMBLE THE WORLD, SO THAT THEY WILL BE TEACHABLE, TO PREPARE THEM FOR REPENTANCE AND CONVERSION AND OBEDIENCE TO HIS GOVERNMENT.

ANOTHER PURPOSE OF THE DAY OF THE LORD IS TO BRING ISRAEL BACK FROM CAPTIVITY. THE DAY OF THE LORD INCLUDES THE TIME WHEN JESUS CHRIST IS GOING TO COME BACK AND RULE THE WORLD. IT IS ALSO THE TIME WHEN THE SAINTS ARE GOING TO BE RESURRECTED TO ASSIST HIM.

SOME OF YOU MAY REMEMBER BACK DURING WORLD WAR II, THAT THE INVASION OF EUROPE WAS SOMETIMES CALLED "D-DAY", THE 24-HOUR PERIOD WHEN THE ALLIES INVADDED EUROPE. THAT WAS CALLED THE LONGEST DAY. BROTHERS, THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL BE A THOUSAND TIMES LONGER, SO, THAT IS DAY OF THE LORD, IN A NUTSHELL.

END