

DAY OF PUNISHMENT (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10)

I. The Lord will be revealed (vs. 7).

- A. Inspiration used the pen of Paul to ease the minds of those to whom he was writing.
 - 1. The word rest carries the idea of relaxation.
 - 2. Their minds could rest from the doubts about whether or not the persecutors would be punished for their crimes.
 - 3. Paul allowed them to have the peace of mind that comes with proper knowledge.
 - 4. They could relax their minds in this regard because their persecutors were definitely not going to get away with their sins.
- B. On that day of punishment, the Lord Himself would be revealed from heaven.
 - 1. The word revealed means “uncovering or disclosure.”
 - 2. There will not be anything secret about this return.
 - 3. This word does not mean coming or presence as some have claimed.
 - 4. It indicates full disclosure of Christ, nothing secret, all out in the open disclosure.
- C. On that day, Jesus will come forth with all of His angels in a way that all shall see Him and them.
 - 1. As John wrote, “every eye shall see Him” (Revelation 1:7).
 - 2. Paul had reminded them that there will be a shout and the sound of trumpets when the Lord returns.
 - 3. There will be no doubt what is happening on that day.
- D. The angels, in their power, will separate the wicked from the righteous at that time.

II. The Lord will take revenge (vs. 8-9).

- A. The phrase flaming fire is interesting.
 - 1. It is not with fire that He will take vengeance, although the wicked will be placed in a lake which burns with fire.
 - 2. This indicates the appearance of Jesus.
 - 3. He will appear possibly as the sun in its glory.
 - 4. The rays of the sun at times look like tendrils of flame and that is possibly the idea here.
 - 5. Also, it could be like bolts of lightning as Barnes believed.
 - 6. Whatever the case, He will appear in such a manner that there will be no doubt as to who He is and what is happening.

B. When Jesus comes in flaming fire, He will do so in order to exact revenge for the way He has been rejected and the way His people have been treated..

1. The word vengeance comes from a root word that means righteousness.
2. When the Lord exacts revenge, it will not be out of vindictiveness or spite, but out of justice.
3. Those upon whom He will exact His revenge, will find themselves in that state because they belong there.
4. It will not be arbitrary or haphazard, with some getting by that should not and some getting punished that should not.

C. Those on whom the Lord will exact revenge fall into two categories.

D. The first category is that group of people that do not know God.

1. God has not left Himself without a way to be known.
2. It would be unjust of God to punish someone for not knowing Him, without having giving man a way to be known.
3. Those who are living in the darkness of never having known God, whether it be out of ignorance or because of idolatry, are going to be punished by the Lord.
4. This is one reason it is imperative that we get out the gospel message.
 - a. When Christians fail to get out the message, people go their whole lives without knowing God.
 - b. When they step out into eternity, they step out unprepared and lost.

E. The second category is that group of people that have not obeyed the gospel.

1. This group is different from the first in that they have heard the message and rejected it.
2. They either heard it and rejected it or heard it, accepted it and later rejected it.
3. This group has had access to the message and chose to reject it.
4. They will have no excuse on the day of judgment.

F. The punishment of this group will be everlasting destruction from the presence of Christ.

1. The word punishment is an interesting word.
 - a. It carries the idea of a standard that is imposed and has a punishment set for noncompliance.
 - b. It comes from a root word that means to pay a penalty.
 - c. Nonconformance to God's word requires a penalty be paid.

2. Everlasting means “eternal, without end.”
 3. Destruction means “ruin or devastation” but never means annihilation as some have tried to make it mean.
 4. The soul that sins lives on in destruction that never ends.
 - a. Barnes concurs that it never means total annihilation.
 - b. He stated, “the meaning then must be, that the soul is destroyed as to the great purposes of its being with enjoyment, dignity, honor, holiness, happiness.”
 - c. It will never enjoy those things because it will be eternally separated from the source of those things - the presence of Jesus.
- G. Separation will also be from the glory of the power of Jesus.
1. They will not be able to stand the sight of it.
 2. The reason for this is their rejection of Him while living.

III. **The Lord will be revered (vs. 10).**

- A. This opens with a statement about the uncertainty of when Jesus is coming.
1. There is no definite time of which we are aware of concerning His return.
 2. The Greek is in a tense that state an uncertainty of time but a certainty of the event.
 3. Jesus is definitely coming again, but we don't know when.
- B. When He does return those who are saints and believers, two terms describing the same person, will glorify Him for His great glory.
1. Christians, who are both saints and believers, will see His great glory and honor and reverence Him for it.
 2. A saint is one who has been set apart by the blood of Jesus, and one can do this because He became a believer who obediently followed the doctrine of Christ.
- C. Those who fall into this category will do so because they believed the testimony of the apostles.
1. For the Thessalonians it was the personal testimony presented to them by Paul in person.
 2. For us today, it is the personal testimony of inspired men who were enabled to write down that testimony for us in scripture.