

The End Of The World

by Mark Aites

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up" (2 Pet. 3:10).

Peter foretold of a future event which he referred to as "the day of the Lord," an expression which refers to an impending judgment of God. The context bears out that this is not like any other judgment of God in the history of the world. True, there was a horrific judgment of old in which God flooded the world "in which few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water" (1 Pet. 3:20). But this future event of which Peter writes is even more frightening than the former.

While we know that water can indeed be a destructive force, this impending Day of Judgment will have "fervent heat," so much so that the elements of this world will melt. Peter caps this by speaking of the earth and all that it contains as being "burned up."

There is an Old Testament account in which King Nebuchadnezzar got so furious with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego for not worshipping his golden image, that he commanded that the furnace be heated seven times hotter (Dan. 3:19). The flames killed the men who cast these men into the furnace. Can you imagine the level of heat it would take then to burn the earth until it is no more?

What is sad is the number of folks who know that there will be a day in which the world will be destroyed, and yet choose to pretend that it won't happen.

"There's a great day coming, a great day coming; there's a great day coming by and by, when the saints and the sinners shall be parted right and left, are you ready for that day to come?" (Song: "There's A Great Day Coming," by W.L. Thompson).

We would do well to heed Peter's words: "Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness?" (2 Pet. 3:11).

- North End Church of Christ, Parkersburg, WV -

Serving the Lord is an investment with eternal benefits.

News & Notes

SYMPATHY: To the family and friends of Shelly DeBee who passed away this past week.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday, 9:00-11:00 a.m. All ladies are invited to participate in making stuffed bears for sick & needy kids.

CONVERT'S CLASS: Each Thursday at 11:00 a.m. Everyone welcome.

PANTRY: Spaghetti.

REMEMBER THESE SICK & SHUT-IN: *Care Haven Center, 2720 Charles Town Rd., Martinsburg, WV 25405:* Carloyn Carbone (sister of Janet Malcomson & Becky McKitrick). *UPMC, Pittsburgh:* Rich Robinson (kidney failure). *At Home:* Beulah Walker, Sue Haught, Lois Hissom, Harry Huff, Dean Spencer, Peggy Linger, Claudette Miller, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, Cheryl Renfro Walker, Zachary Guidy (Tim Martin's grandson), Lori Stocks (Karen Strum's niece). *Fox - Chester:* Audrey Geer (Linda Hall's mother), Janice Hutchins, Mary Johnson. *Elsewhere:* **Brenda Harris**, 102 Cardinal Dr., Rockwell, NC 28138. **Herman McHan**, 7401 Elmwood Dr., Lisbon, OH 44432.

What Shall I Do Then With Jesus?

As a historic character? Of earth's unnumbered billions, only a few are historic. Of these few, none has so influenced the world as Jesus. No other ruler has ruled so long nor so many loyal subjects. The words of the once powerful Napoleon pay a noble tribute to Jesus: "But can you conceive of a dead man making conquests, with an army faithful and entirely devoted to his memory? My armies have forgotten me, even as the Carthaginian army forgot Hannibal. Such is our power! A single battle lost crushes us, and adversity scatters our friends. Can you conceive of Caesar as the eternal Emperor of the Roman senate, and from the depths of his mausoleum governing the empire, watching over the destinies of Rome? Such is the history of the world by the invasion of Christianity. Such is the power of the God of the Christians. Nations pass away, thrones crumble, but the church remains. Christ speaks, and at once generations become his by stricter, closer ties than those of blood. He lights up the flames of a love which condemns self-love, which prevails over every other love."

- Excerpt from *Greatest Bible Questions In The New Testament* © by Leroy Brownlow -
(Used by permission)

Christian: Label or Life?

The New Testament teaches that the early disciples of the Lord bore the name of their Savior and Master (Acts 11:26). But, they did much more. They sought to bear His likeness, His image (Rom. 8:29). They walked in His footsteps, and developed His mind (1 Pet. 2:21). They "learned Christ" when they learned His way and kept His commandments (Eph. 4:20). They considered themselves servants of Jesus (John 12:26), and fulfilling His law (Gal. 6:2). Being a Christian is more than wearing His name!

- Darwin Hunter (*Bulletin Digest*) -