

RETURN TO ME

THE GREAT AND TERRIBLE DAY

Malachi 4:1-6 Jeff Schreve

Why is it called “the great and terrible day of the LORD”?

1. The first coming of Jesus was a great day for everyone.

And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11

A. John the Baptist prepared the way for the Lord.

"And he will turn back many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God. And it is he (John the Baptist) who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous; so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Luke 1:16-17

B. Jesus purchased redemption for sinners.

From that time Jesus Christ began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You." But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's." Matthew 16:21-23

He is the payment for our sins, and not only for our sins, but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:2 GW

2. The second coming of Jesus is a terrible day for unbelievers.

"For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze," says the LORD of hosts, "so that it will leave them neither root nor branch." Malachi 4:1

Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, Cruel, with fury and burning anger, To make the land a desolation; And He will exterminate its sinners from it.

Isaiah 13:9

A. The Lord will send Elijah the prophet as a witness.

And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" And He answered and said, "Elijah is coming and will restore all things. Matthew 17:10-11

"And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. And if anyone desires to harm them, fire proceeds out of their mouth and devours their enemies; and if anyone would desire to harm them, in this manner he must be killed. These have the power to shut up the sky, in order that rain may not fall during the days of their prophesying; and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to smite the earth with every plague, as often as they desire. And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them. Revelation 11:3-7

B. The Lord will deal justly with every unrepentant sinner.

For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power. 2 Thessalonians 1:5-8

3. The second coming of Jesus is a great day for believers.

"But for you who fear My name the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall. And you will tread down the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day which I am preparing," says the LORD of hosts. Malachi 4:2-3

A. We will experience righteousness, healing, and joy.

SHOW PICTURE OF HAKEEM OLAJUWON AND ME

B. We will share in His victory.

*And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.
Romans 16:20*

What to do in the meantime?

"Remember the law of Moses My servant, even the statutes and ordinances which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel. Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. And he will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse." Malachi 4:4-6

- 1. Search your heart: Are you truly His?**
- 2. Search your life: Are you walking in the light?**
- 3. Search your relationships: Are you right with people?**

If possible, as far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

Romans 12:18