

~1 John~

Lesson 17- The World is Passing Away

We are continuing our study of **1 John 2:15-17**

We are now in our fourth lesson on these three verses and today we will be looking at the first half of verse 17. 1 John 2:17 is one of my favorite verses in the Bible because it shows the hope of everlasting life to those who are faithful, to those who are committed to His will, and in this, also contrasting the darkness that is passing away. Today we will focus on the first half of the verse and understand what John means when he says, “*the world is passing away and the lust of it*”. In this epistle, John is proclaiming the message of everlasting life, and within this message, John is also warning his little children of the deceivers, those wolves in sheep’s clothing who are trying to sway us into the darkness, 2:26; 4:6. And that is why John writes this emphatic command in verse 15, “*Do not love the world or the things in the world.*”

John has given us four reasons in these three verses why we do not love this evil world and it is because he wants to make sure we have the assurance of everlasting life. So let's review these four reasons again:

1. Because of what it is
 - a. It is the kingdom of darkness and it is not of the Father, 1 John 2:16
2. Because of who we are in Christ
 - a. We are born again children of God and we are of the Father not of the world, 1 John 2:16; 4:4
3. Because of what it does
 - a. Its persuasion to the darkness and things contrary to God
 - b. The system of the world entices sin through the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, 1 John 2:16
4. Because of where it is going
 - a. The system of darkness is passing away and has an end and one day will be thrown into the lake of fire, 1 John 2:8, 17

Lets read verse 17 again:

¹⁷ And the world is **passing away**, and the lust of it;

but he who does the will of God abides forever.

¹⁷ καὶ ὁ κόσμος **παράγεται**, καὶ ἡ ἐπιθυμία αὐτοῦ.

ὁ δὲ ποιῶν τὸ θέλημα τοῦ Θεοῦ μένει εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα.

The statement “passing away” will be our main focus today. It is the word paragetai, **παράγεται**, literally means “being passed by and coming to an end”. It is a present, passive indicative verb. Present tense- meaning this is something happening now and is continual. Passive voice- meaning it is not passing itself away. The world is not doing this to itself. And the indicative mood means it is actual. It is a real fact that this is happening. It is not hypothetical or conditional on something. It IS passing away, and there is an end to this darkness.

We have already seen this word in 2:8, when John said, “*the darkness is passing away, παράγεται, and the True Light is already shining.*” The True Light is Jesus Christ and He brought the Words of Life, the message of Light from the Father. And all those who receive this Light, who is Jesus Christ, have been given the right to become children of God, John 1:12. It is because Jesus has come with this message of everlasting life that the darkness is now “passing away”.

When John says “the world”, he is speaking of the evil system of the world. The system of darkness is passing away because the True Light has come. This is why Jesus came. To proclaim the message of Light and destroy the power of darkness, and give Life to all those who would believe in Him.

1 John 3:8- ...*For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.*

Hebrews 2:14- ...*through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,*

Colossians 1:13- *He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,*

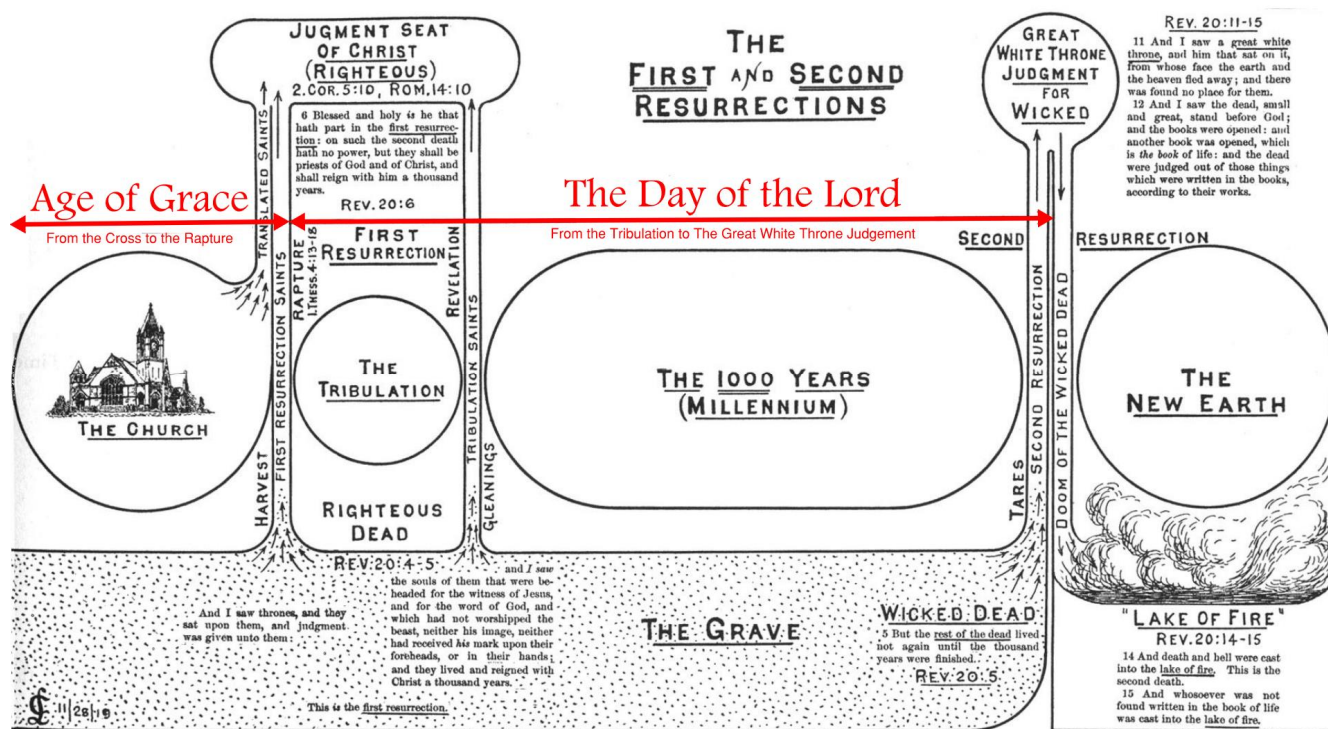
There is a progression to the darkness passing away. This progression started when Jesus defeated the power of darkness on the cross by stripping the devil of the authority of death and hell, Rev 1:18, Heb 2:14-15. And there is a time coming, at the end of this age, when He will physically purge the ungodliness out of this world.

The Bible is unmistakably clear on this Judgement of sin and this process of Judgement has already begun. This is why John says the world has already began passing away. Not sometime in the future. But even now, because the Words of Life have been spoken and the True Light is already shining, **John 12:31-32, 35-36; 44-50; 3:16-21.**

Jesus has the authority to take back this physical planet, and when the Father says it's time, then He is coming back, but this time in wrath and vengeance. This Divine Judgement and Wrath will trigger what is called the Tribulation. This will start a new dispensation called the "Day of the Lord". This system of evil has an end, and that end is when Jesus comes back to reign on this earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. This is the "Day of the Lord".

This phrase "the Day of the Lord" is a technical term of which the Bible speaks extensively about. It is a time of Divine Judgement and Wrath on sin. The world and all the evil in the world is passing away, it has an end and is being preserved for fire in this last day. This is a Day of Judgement and is called the Day of the Lord, **2 Peter 3:7, 10-13.** This "Day" is more than just a 24 hour period, it is describing an age of time, a new dispensation, and this "Day" will last a little over 1,000 years until finally this universe will be uncreated and remade.

Below is a timeline by Charles Larkin showing "The Day of the Lord" and final Judgement of sin.



We are living in this Age of Grace right now. This current dispensation of the Church is from the cross to the rapture, the catching away of the saints. This ends the current Age of Grace. Then shortly after the rapture, Jesus takes the scroll from the Father, which is the title deed to the universe, and He begins opening the seals on the scroll, Revelation 5. This begins unleashing His Judgement and Wrath on sin to purge the ungodliness out of the world. The final outpouring of His wrath comes at His second coming at the end of the 7-year Tribulation which afterward He sets up His millennial Kingdom and reigns for 1,000 years. This is the duration of "the Day of the Lord"

The purpose of this hour of trial, this Day of the Lord, is to purge this world of its ungodly people and its ungodly ways, and to put an end to this system of evil, Jude 14-15. The Prophets have much to say about this, and here are a few examples:

Isaiah 2:12- *For the day of the LORD of hosts Shall come upon everything proud and lofty, Upon everything lifted up— And it shall be brought low—*

Isaiah 13:6- *Wail, for the day of the LORD is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty.*

Isaiah 13:9- *Behold, the day of the LORD comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it.*

Jeremiah 46:10- *For this is the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, A day of vengeance, That He may avenge Himself on His adversaries...*

Joel 1:15- *Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is at hand; It shall come as destruction from the Almighty.*

Zephaniah 1:18- *Neither their silver nor their gold Shall be able to deliver them In the day of the LORD's wrath; But the whole land shall be devoured By the fire of His jealousy, For He will make speedy riddance Of all those who dwell in the land.* (Earth-Dwellers- those who love the world)

The Words of Jesus are the command of Everlasting Life and those who do not accept Jesus, are rejecting the commandment of God and they will be judged by those very same words of Life unto everlasting damnation because they have rejected Jesus Christ, **Revelation 19:11-16**.

But the world does not want to believe this. The Bible tells us there will be scoffers that come in these last days, mocking and ridiculing us for believing in the coming of our Lord, and the day of judgement against our enemies, **2 Peter 2:1-3; 3:1-7**. These scoffers are attacking a specific Truth: the end times and judgement. The enemy and the people of the world do not want to admit or accept the idea of a final judgement on sin. Because to admit this would mean to confront their sin and their lustful lifestyle. Eschatology gets in the way of their lasciviousness and so they attack the Truth and ridicule those who speak the Truth.

Don't believe the lies, but stand fast on the Truth. Don't be swayed into the darkness. Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and His Word and you will never be deceived. Do what Peter said and look for and hasten the coming of the Day of God, Matthew 5:11-12.

When Paul went to Thessalonica, he only spent a few weeks with these new believers, but one of the main things he taught them was about this coming judgement of the Lord. Do you know why? Because to the believer, this is a time of hope. It's the time that we will finally be united with our Lord forever. Listen to what Paul said to the Thessalonians, **1 Thess 1:9-10; 4:15-18; 5:1-11**.

The Day of the Lord is coming. The world is passing away. And this is good news to us, because do you know where we will be while all this is happening? We are going to be in heaven getting ready for our wedding. Jesus is going to catch us up in the clouds before this day, we will pass through the Bema Seat and receive our rewards, we're going to be circled around the Lamb praising and worshipping our Savior. And then when the 7-years are complete, we will come back with Jesus and rule and reign on this earth for 1,000 years and from there eternity with Him.

Do you know how I know this? Because the Word of God says it and I believe the Word.

1 John 2:17 says "and the world is passing away and the lust of it,
But he who is committed to the will of God will abide unto the
forever with Jesus my Lord and Savior.