



## CELL GUIDE

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**TOPIC** The Day of the LORD & The Day of Christ

**SPEAKER** SP Daniel Foo

**THEME** Time of the End

**DATE** 20 & 21 Feb 2021

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

As we draw nearer to the end times, it is imperative for us to continue learning and gleaning insights so that we will be blessed, can effectively evangelise and finish well when we meet the Lord. The message this week focused on defining the key characteristics of the Day of the LORD and how it differs from the Day of Christ.

## GOD'S WRATH, DESTRUCTION AND JUDGEMENT ON THIS WORLD

The Day of the LORD appears multiple times in the Old Testament and New Testament, and is referred to by various names, all depicting God's terrible wrath, destruction and judgement to come.

This period of time is inevitable as God executes justice on those who have rejected Him, hate Him and remain unrepentant. The Day of the LORD is meant to weed out evil and wickedness in our current world and is marked by a visible manifestation of cosmic darkness.

Even as we preach the love of God which is an easier message to swallow, we cannot ignore the severe warnings and inevitability of God's judgement and vengeance.

## UNDERSTANDING PROPHECY & THE TIMING OF FULFILMENT

For context, God, as the Creator, created the dimension of time but He exists outside of time. This means that even if prophecies are mentioned in consecutive verses, the fulfilment of each prophecy can be separated by hundreds or thousands of years. Our perspective of time is finite, but God is infinite. The word "day" in this context can refer to a specific event or an extended period of time but has the characteristics of a 24-hour day.

### The Rapture

1 Thessalonians 5:1–10 tells us that the Day of the LORD comes like a thief in the night, but as children of God, we should not be surprised. The world will only get darker and further away from God as lawlessness increases. Since we are not of darkness but light, the Day of the LORD begins

with the rapture to remove the Church from the world and to save us from the next phase of TDOTL - the Tribulation.

### **The Seven Years of Tribulation**

This period of time is when God's judgement and devastation are unleashed onto the world. In today's context, we see growing evidence of values being subtly eroded and the increasing likelihood of Christians being hated and persecuted for our beliefs. When the Tribulation happens, God's wrath will be on Israel and the nations of the world for their unbelief, rebellion, rejection, defiance and hatred of Him.

### **The Climax and End of the Tribulation – Christ's Second Coming**

Following the Tribulation, the climax will be at the Battle of Armageddon when Christ comes back to Earth again (Matthew 24:30). The nations left in the world will be stirred up to carry out Satan's agenda of destroying Israel and annihilation of the remnant Jews.

Christ's Second Coming will be in defence of Israel, together with the raptured saints and the earlier dead Christians (Zechariah 14:1-5; Revelation 19:11-19). When Jesus comes again, He will not come as a saviour – the time for that has past – but as a warrior and judge.

### **The Millennial Messianic Kingdom**

After the Battle of Armageddon, Christ will rule over all the earth for a thousand years where there will be peace and rejoicing in Israel. At this point, Christ would have fulfilled all His promises and covenants with Israel (Zechariah 14:8-9, 14-15)

### **The Night of Judgement**

The Millennium then ends with the Great White Throne Judgement where every single book for each life, as well as the Book of Life, will be opened. This is the final night of judgement before eternity. This also marks the end of the Day of the LORD.

## **THE DIFFERENCE FROM THE DAY OF CHRIST**

The Day of Christ is only mentioned in the New Testament in 1 Corinthians and Philippians. Paul mentions this day as an exhortation to live our lives in a way that will cause us to rejoice on the Day of Christ which is when the Rapture happens and the Church meets the Lord.

During this period, we will be changed and get our new, resurrected and glorified bodies and become incorruptible and immortal.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Day of the LORD is a time of terror, wrath, dread and woe but the Day of Christ is one of great anticipation, joy, blessing and reward. As children of light, we cling to the promises of God and look forward to finishing well on the Day of Christ and then living in eternity with our Heavenly Father.

# QUESTIONS

1. How do you feel when you think about the Day of Christ and the Day of the LORD? Is there anything holding you back from feeling joyful anticipation for the Rapture?

*(Leader's notes)* This open-ended question allows members to express their feelings and opinions that may reveal how prepared they are for the end times. It also gives members an opportunity to share requests for prayer in areas where they fall short.

2. How can we share this unpopular message of God's wrath and judgement with our oikos in a way that does not push them away or instil unnecessary fear but instead draws them to God?

*(Leader's notes)* This is a difficult but important message to bring across the full context of the Gospel. There is no "correct", one-size-fits-all answer but this could be a good time to share ideas and brainstorm on effective ways to evangelise.

3. Read Philippians 1:10. How are you keeping "pure and blameless"? What good practices are there in BBTC that you can commit to so as to finish well?

*(Leader's notes)* Borrowing SP's final exhortation from Philippians 1:10, these questions prompt members to reflect on their lives and areas that they need to repent or re-dedicate to God. It also invites participation in body-life e.g. corporate worship, serving. Are there any practices shared by cell members that may be useful for others in the cell to adopt? Use this discussion as encouragement for one another to pursue Christ in joyful anticipation of the Day of Christ. This question calls for members to think about specific actions they can take to further their discipleship journey.