**The Last Day**

*John 12:48*

**Introduction**

1. **John 12:48** – Jesus spoke of a ***“last day.”***
   1. Many scientists believe the universe to be eternal.
   2. Although there may be a day when man becomes extinct, everything else will continue to exist.
   3. **Jesus, and all the inspired scripture, taught that there will be a *“last day.”***
2. Many in the religious world have guessed about many things concerning the ***“last day.”***
   1. When will the last day be?
   2. What will happen in the last day?
   3. Ect.
   4. **Eschatology – a branch of theology concerned with the final events in the history of the world or of humankind. (Merriam-Webster dictionary)**
3. The Bible is very clear about ***“the last day”*** which Jesus referred to. We need only search the scriptures to discover God’s teaching on the last day.
4. Before the “Last Day”
5. Creation
   1. **Genesis 1:1** – God has always been, and then He created.
   2. **Genesis 1:26-28** – God created man in His image. (Pinnacle of His creation)
6. The Fall of Man
   1. **Genesis 2:15-17** – God gave man a law – don’t eat of this tree.
   2. **Genesis 3:6-7** – The serpent deceived Eve, and she ate and gave to her husband, sin entered the world, and they died spiritually.
   3. **Romans 5:12** – This death spread to each man as each man sinned. (**cf. Romans 3:23**)
7. The Scarlet Thread of Redemption
   1. God knew man would fall short, and He designed a plan for man’s redemption even ***“before the foundation of the world” (Ephesians 1:4).***
   2. **This is sometimes referred to the “Scarlet Thread of Redemption.” The Bible reveals that plan.**
   3. **Genesis 3:15** – The plan begins to unfold in God’s promise to the serpent.
   4. **Genesis 12:1-3** – The outline of the plan is found in God’s promise to Abraham.
      1. **He would bless the world through Abraham’s Seed (singular).**
      2. ***“Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises mad. He does not say, ‘And to seeds,’ as of many, but as of one, ‘And to your Seed,’ who is Christ” (Galatians 3:16)***.
   5. **Matthew 1:1, 17** – The Christ came through Abraham’s seed.
   6. **Hebrews 1:1-2** – We are in the Christian Age when God speaks to us through Christ.
   7. **Romans 1:16** – Whoever believes in Christ will be saved in the ***“last day.”***
   8. **Mark 16:16** – Those who don’t believe will be condemned in the ***“last day.”***
   9. These days of the Christian Age are called the ***“last days” (Hebrews 1:2)***, meaning the last days, or age, before the ***“last day.”***
   10. **God has done all He intended to do, save for the events of the final day 🡪**
8. Events of the “Last Day”
9. The Second Coming of Christ
   1. **Hebrews 9:13-14; 10:4** – The sacrifices under the Old Law typified the ultimate sacrifice of Christ – the could not fix the sin problem.
   2. **Hebrews 9:27-28** – The first coming of Christ was to be a sin sacrifice, but His second coming will be apart from sin.
   3. **The second coming of Christ will not be for any purposes regarding sin. He already accomplished what was needed because of sin. His second coming will be for a different purpose.**
   4. **Acts 1:9-11** – He ascended to heaven, and two messengers told the apostles He would come in the same manner.
   5. **John 14:1-6** – Jesus’ second coming will be to receive those who are His – those who come to the Father through Him.
   6. ***“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only” (Matthew 24:36).***
10. The Resurrection of the Dead
    1. **1 Thessalonians 4:16-18** – On this day, when He comes, the dead will be raised – those who are dead in Christ will be raised to be with the Lord forever.
    2. **John 5:28-29** – The righteous will not be the only ones raised. The righteous AND the evil will be raised.
    3. **1 Corinthians 15:42-50** – The resurrection will be bodily.
       1. The body will be spiritual, not fleshly/carnal.
       2. **Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.**
       3. Those who are not raised are changed **(v. 51-52).**
       4. **NOTE: The wicked dead will be raised, although we are not told the nature of the body they will inhabit.**
    4. **1 Corinthians 15:12-19** – The doctrine of the resurrection is very important.
       1. **The hope given through Jesus requires a LITERAL BODILY resurrection to be realized.**
       2. Otherwise we only have hope in this life **(v. 19).**
11. The Judgment
    1. **Acts 17:30-31** – In the last day all will be raised from the dead to be judged.
    2. **2 Corinthians 5:10** – The judgment seat we appear before will be Christ’s.
       1. Some have a misunderstanding of the judgment.
       2. **Christ will not arbitrarily decide where we will spend eternity for us.** Our fate is already sealed – ***“receive the things done in the body.”***
       3. **John 12:48** – We are judged by the Lord’s words.
    3. **Matthew 25:31-33** – There will merely be a separation on the judgment day.
       1. **(v. 34)** – the sheep/righteous.
       2. **(v. 41)** – the goats/unrighteous.
    4. **2 Thessalonians 1:6-10** – Those who are His will receive rest, and those who do not obey the gospel will be eternally punished.
12. The Destruction of the Physical Universe
    1. ***“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1)***.
    2. God created, and has told us He will destroy.
       1. **Many live for the physical things on the earth. This is folly. 🡪**
       2. ***“And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:17).***
    3. **2 Peter 3:3-14** – All that we see in this physical universe will be destroyed on the ***“last day.”***
       1. **(v. 3-7)** – Scoffers in the 1st century (as well as even today) said it won’t happen – they forgot about the first time God’s promise was fulfilled.
       2. **(v. 8-10)** – We cannot judge by the time that God isn’t going to destroy the world – we can know it is coming, but we cannot know when.
          1. **On this day ALL will be destroyed.**
          2. **There will be none left.**
       3. **(v. 11-14)** – There will be a spiritual heavens and earth for God’s people, and we should live accordingly so that when that day comes we will be able to enjoy it for eternity.

**Conclusion**

1. The Bible clearly reveals the events of the ***“last day.”***
2. **God has completed His scheme of redemption for man, and we must obey His will in order to receive salvation for eternity.**
3. We are in the ***“last days”*** before the ***“last day.”***
4. We must ready ourselves for the events of the ***“last day:”***
   1. Christ will come again.
   2. There will be a resurrection of the dead.
   3. There will be the judgment – sentencing of man for the things done in the flesh.
   4. The universe will be no more.
5. Are you ready for the events of that ***“last day?”***