

Week 35



*The Terrible Day
of the Lord*

*For the day of the
Lord is great and
very terrible; Who
can endure it?
Joel 2:11*



If the great Day of the Lord is the greatest day of revival ever, the very terrible Day of the Lord means the most severe judgments ever. The intensity of God's judgments will far surpass any other period in history.

To those who say "no" to God, this coming Day of the LORD will be exceedingly terrible. It is bad news to those who do not want His leadership, because the most severe judgment and wrath of God in human history will come on this Day.

We must understand the distinction between divine wrath and discipline. They are two entirely different issues.

God releases His wrath to punish the rebellious and His discipline to help free His sincere people who are stuck in compromise.

The heavenly Father disciplines those who sincerely love Him so that they may be partakers of His holiness (Hebrews 12:5-11).

The divine motive of wrath is punishment for persistent rebellion. The motive of divine discipline is love and redemption.



These two activities of God – wrath and discipline – will be manifested along with the demonic rage of Satan. Satan has tremendous hatred for the righteous and seeks to destroy them.

It is not easy to differentiate amongst the three: ***God's wrath, God's discipline and Satan's rage***. Often, they happen simultaneously and overlap to some degree, even within the same crisis events. Therefore, we should not be quick in making sweeping statements as to the reasons and causes of crises in the earth.

We can only speak of these general principles: ***the rebellious experience God's wrath, compromising believers undergo God's discipline*** and. ***the righteous encounter Satan's rage***

One of the terrible dimensions of the Day of the Lord is that an evil empire led by the Antichrist will invade the nations against their will. He will oppress the nations and seek to rule them through military dominance and tyranny.

God will raise up this evil army as an instrument through which the Antichrist achieves military domination over all of the nations of the earth. This will trigger a domino effect of events where nation will rise against nation (Matt. 24:7).

We do not know to what extent this empire will dominate the earth. The Bible does not provide any detail on this. But the Bible repeatedly uses terms like "*the whole earth*" to describe its influence. Thus, we know that it will have some presence and impact, whether small or large, in most nations of the earth (Dan. 7:23; Rev. 13:8).





The second terrible dimension of the final Day of the Lord will be God's judgment manifested through nature. Earthquakes, storms, hurricanes and droughts, among others, will shake the earth. Plagues, famines and pestilences will also abound (Matt. 24). They are all part of the judgments from God through the created order.

The *fullness of the sin of man* will bring added crisis to the earth as the third part to the terrible dimension of the Day of the Lord. God will allow the seeds of wickedness to fully ripen on the earth.

Sin will reach its highest dimension at the End of the Age.

Sin has never been fully ripe globally but in the hour of the Lord's return, God will allow the human race to reach its fullest potential of sinfulness.

The Church will enter into a height of radical holiness while the earth will reach heights of perversion unequalled to any other time in human history.

God will give the human race the chance to reach its full potential in the natural realm on both sides of the scale of righteousness.

The impact of the Day of the LORD judgments is that *one-third of the human population* will die unnatural deaths. In other words, their deaths will be related to encountering the judgment of God (Rev. 9:15). The principle is that *God will use the least severe means to bring the greatest numbers to Himself at the deepest levels of love for Jesus without violating their free will.* Anything of less severity would not work.



We must remember that all these things will work together for the good of the redeemed.

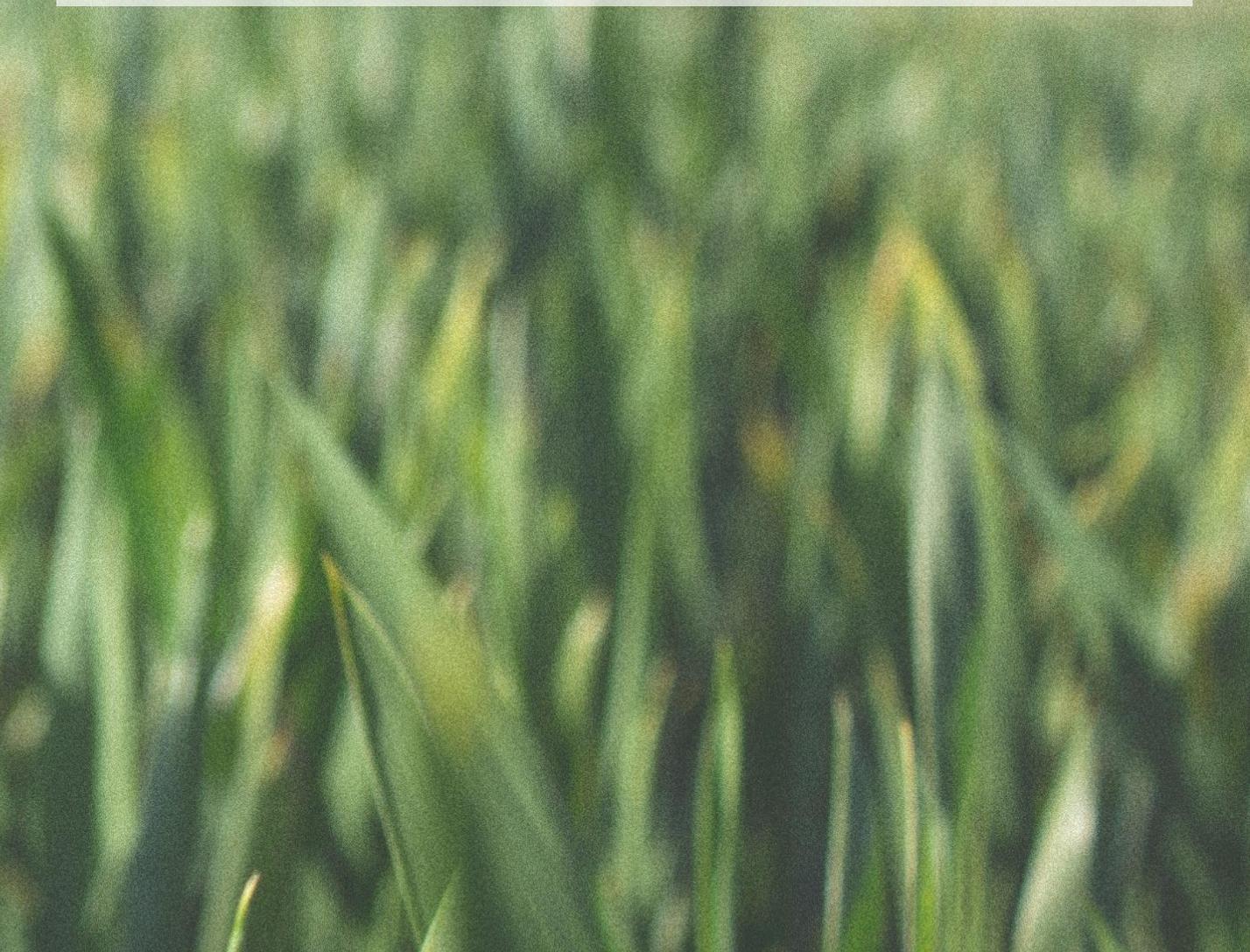
When it is over, we will be in perfect agreement on how much better off we are after having experienced the tribulations (Rom. 8:28).



Ask ourselves this pertinent question, “Am I able to stand steady in the Lord in that terrible Day?” Even right now, we need to start cultivating our confidence in who God is, in His Word, and in His love.

There is only one solution for the End-Time Church - cultivating and living out a life of wholeheartedness in God through a lifestyle of prayer and fasting.

Let's start right now. May we be found standing burning and shining in that Day!





Readings and Prayers for the week

Readings for Week 35

Take some time to read Rev. 9. In light of the events that will happen, how will you carry your heart? Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you God's goodness and faithfulness even in the release of judgments so that we can stand and even agree with Him in the coming crisis.

Prayers for Week 35

Use Eph. 1:17 to pray for the Church to encounter the beauty and the glory of Jesus so that she will be stabilized even in the greatest crisis. Pray that she will know and have confidence in the perfect leadership of our Good Shepherd.