

THE PROMISED RETURN OF CHRIST

2 Thessalonians 1:9-12

I. A DAY OF RECKONING (Verse 9)

This will be a day of reckoning for all who do not know the Lord Jesus Christ (*1 Thess.5:2,3; 2 Thess.2:2*)

The ultimate penalty is separation from God forever in the lake of fire (*2 Thess.1:9*)

II. A DAY OF REVELATION (Verse 10)

This will be a time when the fullness of God's glory will be revealed (*Mat.25:31; Mk.13:26,27; Acts 2:20*)

We will be amazed at the awesome power and goodness of the Lord (*Lk.8:25; Rom.8:18-22; Eph.2:7; Col.1:11; 1 Tim.1:11; 1 Pet.1:5*)

III. A DAY OF REALITY - NOW (Verses 11-12)

Live up to your full potential in this interim period of time (*2 Thess.1:11b*)

Fulfill your divine calling by allowing the character of Christ to be seen in you (*Acts 11:24; Gal.5:22,23; 1 Thess.5:15*)

21ST CENTURY APPLICATION

Jesus Christ promised He would return in person in the same way as He left. This return includes several phases. First He will return in the clouds and remove all believers from the world. There will be a period of great tribulation on the earth, followed by God's judgment of the earth. Christ will then return from heaven in power and glory as the King of Kings and as the Lord of Lords to fight and win the final battle of Armageddon. A new day for the earth will be ushered in.

This will be a time when God's justice is meted out. If you are not yet a believer in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as your sin bearer, be warned. When these events start to take place it will be too late for you. Today is the day of salvation, today is the day when you need to accept Christ as your personal savior. Do not delay. Christ could return at any moment.

As a believer don't become complacent. The eternal sovereign God of the Universe has called you out of darkness into His glorious light. God has called you for an eternal purpose. Here are some things to consider:

1. Pray for others: that they will pursue godly goals instead of worldly goals
2. Fulfill God's specific purpose in your own life now
3. Live up to your full God-given potential through the power of the Holy Spirit