

# THE DAY OF CHRIST

## INTRODUCTION

**But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. (Proverbs 4:18)**

I suppose several weighty volumes could be written about the metaphor of light in the scriptures, including the symbolism of the sun, and of the day of the Lord. It is my intention to offer a simple examination of this subject, focusing on how it pertains to the coming of Christ within His body, and the destruction of the carnality within mankind.

## JESUS CHRIST IS THE LIGHT

God expresses the truth of His great salvation in Jesus Christ using various symbols and metaphors, even as Jesus Himself spoke in parables when He was manifest among us. The symbol of light is one of the greatest, permeating the scriptures like a river of divine fire.

<sup>4</sup> **In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. (John 1:4)**

To a people plunged into the depths of hopeless futility and the darkness of the carnal mind, Jesus Christ came clothed in human flesh, yet pulsating with the life of God, so mysterious and strange to the blind, dead eyes that looked upon Him in this temporal realm, unable to comprehend the enigma:

**...whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. (2 Corinthians 4:4)**

But it is this same Life of God that is able to pierce the gloomy veil of fallen man, as a light shining in a dark place:

**For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:6)**

The Light and the Life are One, both being expressions of the infinite God, who in Christ awakens every man from the slumber of death by His surpassingly great Light:

<sup>13</sup> **But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.** <sup>14</sup> **Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light." (Ephesians 5:13-14)**

And again, as the fourth gospel explains of Jesus Christ:

<sup>9</sup> **That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. (John 1:7-9)**

This initial coming of Jesus Christ into the life of the new believer might be likened to the early dawn, when the first rays of light peep over the horizon, and a world that was drowned in gross darkness begins to be outlined and then manifest as the light increases. However, it would appear that most Christians believe that this not the dawn but the fullness itself, and rather than understanding that the sun must rise to the brightness of noonday for the the Day of Christ to reach it's climax, they are taught to believe that they have already obtained all that God has for them in the misty light of early morning. This 'crossing the line' mentality, in which all that matters is the supposedly instantaneous transition from unsaved to saved, or from being destined for hell to being destined for heaven, severely limits the vision of the called-out ones, obscuring the purposes of God in our continued growth, and the progressive nature of the revelation of Jesus Christ within us.

## **THE SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

With Christ being the light of all men, the sun naturally become another symbol for God, with Jesus Christ radiating and manifesting the substance of the sun to the earth, bringing warmth, light and life to that which was formerly cold, dark and dead:

<sup>2</sup> **But to you who fear My name**  
**The Sun of Righteousness shall arise**  
**With healing in His wings (Malachi 4:2)**

And again:

<sup>2</sup> **The people who walked in darkness**  
**Have seen a great light;**  
**Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death,**  
**Upon them a light has shined. (Isaiah 9:2)**

This rising of Jesus Christ is the great hope of mankind, for He is indeed the resurrection and the life, and only in the light of His new day can the sadness, sickness, and sin of man be replaced with newness, fullness, and truth. How many tired, bloodshot eyes gaze at the dull, blank horizon, waiting for hope to appear? Yet we have such a hope in Christ, and we who have already received the earnest of the Spirit have seen the dawn, and the coming of the morning star:

**"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star." (Revelation 22:16)**

This is the true heavenly Light, who is the express image of the Father and whose face radiates with the splendor of the glory of God:

**He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength (Revelation 1:16)**

And not only this, but those who are apprehended to be sons of God shall become One with this same Sun of Righteousness, for it is God's purpose to make Jesus the firstborn among many sons, that He might rule as Head over a body full of light and life, so that of this unified, perfected group of sons it may be said:

**...the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. (Matthew 13:43)**

Even now we belong to this great Light, and are people of the light. There are a multitude admonitions in the scriptures to walk in the light, being the light of the world:

**The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. (Romans 13:12)**

**For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (Ephesians 5:8)**

**You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. (1 Thessalonians 5:5)**

**But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:7)**

Being in this light, being part of this light, and being one with this light, is clearly to be our identity as sons of God destined for full adoption. As the light of Jesus Christ rises within us, we walk in that Holy Spirit and bear witness to the coming Day as we are changed to each degree of glory:

**<sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. <sup>18</sup> But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. (2 Corinthians 3:17-18)**

## **GOD's DAY – A THOUSAND YEARS**

There is a connection throughout scriptures to the Day of the Lord and the time period of a thousand years. It is given in description of those who rule and reign with Christ, as is mentioned frequently in the twentieth chapter of Revelation, which is a good starting point for examining this symbol:

**<sup>2</sup> He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; <sup>3</sup> and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were**

finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

<sup>4</sup> And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a<sup>[a]</sup> thousand years. <sup>5</sup> But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. (Revelation 20:2-6)

We see here that the thousand year period “*is the first resurrection*”. It is the reign of Jesus Christ as the Head through His redeemed, refined, and resurrected body. In regards to our theme of the Day of Christ, it is the fullness of Jesus Christ shining in the noon sky of our beings, His Day being fully come and His light being fully risen within us. This truth is emphasized when one turns to Peter’s second epistle, in which He draws another clear line between the Day and the thousand years:

<sup>7</sup> ....the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

<sup>8</sup> But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us,<sup>[b]</sup> not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:7-9)

We see here that these thousand years, this Day of Judgment, this Day of the Lord, is indeed God patiently rising within His people until carnality is destroyed and our flesh is torn and cast into the fiery furnace of that consuming sun. To “reign a thousand years” is for God to be fully manifest through His chosen man, Jesus Christ Head and Body!

But let us examine these thousand years still closer. Consider, dear saints, those early men that came from the loins of Adam. We are given their genealogy, and we soon see a very noticeable pattern in their lives:

...so all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died. (Genesis 5:5)

...so all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years; and he died. (Genesis 5:8)

...so all the days of Enosh were nine hundred and five years; and he died. (Genesis 5:11)

...so all the days of Cainan were nine hundred and ten years; and he died. (Genesis 5:14)

...so all the days of Mahalalel were eight hundred and ninety-five years; and he died. (Genesis 5:17)

...so all the days of Jared were nine hundred and sixty-two years; and he died. (Genesis 5:20)

...so all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. <sup>24</sup> And Enoch walked

with God; and he *was* not, for God took him. (Genesis 5:23)

...so all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; and he died. (Genesis 5:27)

...so all the days of Lamech were seven hundred and seventy-seven years; and he died. (Genesis 5:31)

Can we not see from this that all of these fallen men fell just short of that *perfect day*, that *thousand years*! Enoch is somewhat of an exception, having pleased God and lived ‘a year of years’, so to speak. But in all of these other ancient forefathers we see the infallible truth that man had now fallen short of the glory of God! Not one man had the fullness of Christ shining from His spirit! Not one man had the Sun of Righteousness fully risen in his heavens!

Yet we know that God already knew His eternal purpose for mankind before the creation of the world, and though man fell so utterly short of His divine perfection, God Himself would save and restore His creation, and all of the rebellion, sin and transgression would ultimately be as a fleeting shadow:

<sup>3</sup> You turn man to destruction,

And say, “Return, O children of men.”

<sup>4</sup> For a thousand years in Your sight

Are like yesterday when it is past,

And like a watch in the night. (Psalm 90:3-4)

In His infinite wisdom, God ordained the original night, but subjected the creation to vanity in hope of a new day, where the day of Christ would dawn and all darkness would be defeated and dispelled by the manifestation of His glory, and the consummation of His tabernacle being among mankind. It is for this new day we await eagerly, seeing the mystery of Jesus Christ rising within, and having the testimony of the Spirit as to the things which must ultimately come to pass.

## THE DAY IS THE FULLNESS OF HIS RISING

There is both a corporate and personal aspect to the Day of Christ. For even as, on a personal level, His light rises within us and sheds its glorious beams into every dark recess of our heart and mind, so shall His light gradually dispel all darkness from the earth, through the manifestation of the sons of God. The Son is in the process of rising within His apprehended ones even now, whether it be early or late morning, and as He rises, so does our carnality gradually melt away like snow in the blazing sunlight:

<sup>8</sup> And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. (2 Thessalonians 2:8)

Do not mistake this – there will not be a literal man seated in a rebuilt temple in earthly Jerusalem who is destroyed as the clouds are split and piercing light shines onto the physical land of Israel. Rather, as Jesus Christ comes incrementally within us, that carnal man who sits upon the throne of our hearts is brought to nothing, being unable to withstand the glory of the revelation of the Lord of Lords. And when the revelation bursts forth fully from the firstfruits, from those sons like unto the Son, then all the waiting world shall be touched, and it shall be said:

<sup>1</sup> **Arise, shine;**

**For your light has come!**

**And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.**

<sup>2</sup> **For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth,**

**And deep darkness the people;**

**But the LORD will arise over you,**

**And His glory will be seen upon you.**

<sup>3</sup> **The Gentiles shall come to your light,**

**And kings to the brightness of your rising. (Isaiah 60:1-3)**

This state of being, this sublime swallowing up by the Light and Life of God, is symbolized again in the book of Revelation, showing the ultimate end of this dawning day, when the sun has reached it's zenith and there is now no light, no sun, but that of God and His Christ:

<sup>22</sup> **But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. <sup>23</sup> The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. <sup>24</sup> And the nations of those who are saved<sup>[1]</sup> shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. <sup>25</sup> Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). (Revelation 21:22-25)**

Amen! What a glorious hope!

## CONCLUSION

With subjects so multifaceted as the Day of Christ, and the Light of God, it is beyond my expression to convey even a fraction of this subject. I simply hope that this short writing encourages the saints of God to see their inheritance in the light a little clearer, and to hold fast the hope to which we are called in Christ. May we all receive an increasing revelation of this coming new day, even as the kingdom of heaven unfolds within us and Jesus Christ is revealed through the Spirit in His holy temple, which we are. Amen.

<sup>19</sup> **And so we have the prophetic word confirmed,<sup>[a]</sup> which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts (2 Peter 1:19)**

**Therefore glorify the LORD in the dawning light (Isaiah 24:15)**