

The Day of the Lord Project—Lesson 4

The Day of Christ is the Body of Christ's Equivalent for the Prophetic Program's DOTL

Brief Recap of the DOTL

- The DOTL is not a day in the twenty-four hour sense. It begins on earth at the Second Coming, but it also includes the Millennium (Zech. 14:9) and the new heaven and the new earth (2 Pet. 3:10).
- The DOTL lasts for a long time, i.e. over a thousand years, and it includes a number of different significant events.
- What unifies the multiple different events that take place during the DOTL is the presence of the Lord (Zephaniah 1:7). It is the great unveiling when man no longer walks by faith but by sight as God unmistakably manifests his presence to the universe.
 - For God's adversaries, this is bad news – e.g., the destruction of the unbelieving at the Second Coming.
 - For God's saints, it is great news – the millennial kingdom and the establishment of the new heaven and the new earth.
- The vast majority of verses dealing with the DOTL concern when it comes since once the DOTL arrives with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, the saint will have complete clarity on the issues of life.

The Day of Christ

- Just as for prophetic saints there is a day when faith is made sight, i.e., the DOTL, there must be a comparable event for the body of Christ.
- Paul uses the term “day of Christ” and four other similar phrases, all of which are found only in Paul's writings, to describe this comparable event for the body of Christ.
- “the day of redemption”
 - Ephesians 4:30—is a clear reference to the Catching
- “the day of our Lord Jesus Christ”
 - 1 Corinthians 1:7-8—refers to the Lord Jesus Christ coming for the body of Christ.
 - Notice the similarity between 1 Corinthians 1:7-8 and 1 Thessalonians 5:23.
 - 1 Corinthians 1:7-8—the saint waits for the “coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” and is confirmed unto the end that he may be “blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ”
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:23—Paul prays that the Thessalonians are preserved “blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- 1 Corinthians 1:7-8 and 1 Thessalonians 5:23 are obviously talking about the same thing.
- Thus, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ in 1 Corinthians 1:7-8 is the same thing as the Lord Jesus Christ's coming in 1 Thessalonians 5:23.
- “the day of the Lord Jesus”
 - 1 Corinthians 5:5—refers to the Catching
 - 2 Corinthians 1:14—refers to the gathering together of the body of Christ at the Catching
- “the day of Christ”
 - Philippians 1:10—refers to the Catching; members of the body of Christ do not sin after the Catching occurs.
 - Philippians 2:16—refers to the judgment seat of Christ that takes place shortly after the Catching.
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:2—we will discuss this verse at length shortly. For now, note that other than 2 Thessalonians 2:2, all of the various “day of Christ” phrases include the Catching. 2 Thessalonians 2:2 does not include the Catching but the aspect of the day of Christ that deals with the outpouring of God's wrath at the Second Coming.
- “the day of Jesus Christ”
 - Philippians 1:6 refers to the Catching; Ephesians 4:30 the body of Christ is sealed unto the day of redemption.
 - Read Philippians 1:6-10 and notice that “the day of Jesus Christ” in 1:6 seems to be the same thing as “the day of Christ” in 1:10.
 - It seems contrary to the sense of the passage to make these two phrases to refer to separate events.
 - Similarly, it seems contrived to make these five different terms refer to five separate events.
- “the day of the Lord”
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:2—this verse was considered previously and refers to the prophetic event of the Second Coming
- Just like the DOTL is a prophetic term, the DOC is a Pauline term. Paul is the only Biblical writer to use this expression. Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that it has a special meaning for the body of Christ.
- The DOC deals with the exaltation of Christ and his body in the heavenly places. The DOC consists of multiple events that are part of the presence of the Lord to the body of Christ just as

the DOTL is the presence of the Lord for Israel. Therefore, the DOC includes the following events:

- Catching up of the body of Christ (Phil. 1:6, 10; 2:16)
 - Day of redemption (Eph. 4:30, 1 Cor. 15:51-53)
 - Judgment seat of Christ (1 Cor. 1:8, 2 Cor. 5:10)
 - Body of Christ receives the reward of the inheritance in heavenly places (1Cor. 3:13-14, Col. 3:24, Eph. 1:3, 2:6, Col. 1:20)
 - Judgment upon those who persecuted the body of Christ while it was on earth (1 Thess. 1:6-10, 2 Thess. 2:2).
- The DOC is the day when Christ alone is exalted in the heavenly places through the body of Christ.