

**Day of the Lord Project—Lesson 5**  
**Day of Christ and the DOTL—What’s the Connection?**

**The Day of Redemption and the DOC—What’s the Connection?**

- Accurately identifying the DOTL as coming to earth with the Second Coming at the end of the tribulation in no way undermines the pre-tribulational rapture position.
- One goal of this lesson is to demonstrate that the day of redemption (DOR) is a scripturally appropriate term for the Rapture of the Church and that the DOR fits the saints with a body capable of participating in the DOC in heaven.
  - Ephesians 4:30—believers are sealed unto the day of redemption
  - Ephesians 1:13-14—upon belief in the gospel, believers are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. The Holy Spirit is the earnest deposit until the redemption of the purchased possession. In short, believers are spiritually redeemed from all their sins and are sealed with the Holy Spirit as they await the future redemption of their bodies.
  - Romans 8:23-25—Paul instructs believers to wait for the redemption of their bodies.
  - 1 Corinthians 15:51/1 Thessalonians 4—explains how the redemption of the body is received at the rapture or the DOR.
  - Philippians 3:21—teaches that believers receive a body with the same abilities as the resurrected body of Jesus Christ.
- The DOR provides all members of the body of Christ with a body capable of living in the heavenly places. The saint’s glorified body, received on the DOR, allows him to participate in the following aspects of the DOC in heaven.
  - 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)
- In short, the DOC is the day when Christ alone is exalted in the heavenly places through the body of Christ.

**DOC and the DOTL--What’s the Connection?**

- Now that we have surveyed the DOTL and the DOC, we are ready to discuss how these two important days of Scripture relate to one another.
- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3—the Thessalonians are beseeched not to be “soon shaken in mind, or be troubled,” that the DOC is near. Paul’s pleading that the Thessalonians not be found in this condition is based upon two things in verse 1:
  - “By the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,”
  - “and by our gathering together unto him.”

- On the surface, this appears to create a problem since we have already included the Catching/Rapture in the DOC. Is Paul saying that the falling away and revelation of the man of sin/son of perdition must precede the Rapture? No. “Our gathering together unto him,” is clearly synonymous with the Catching and constitutes one of the reasons why the Thessalonians don’t need to be troubled. In other words, Paul is guaranteeing the Thessalonians that they will be gathered together unto Christ, i.e., caught up, before the DOC comes to earth. The coming of the Lord in verse one is when he comes to gather the saints unto him in the air according to 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18.
- The confusion is cleared up when one recognizes that a day must begin before it comes. Recognizing this truth will not only clear up our questions regarding 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, but it will also explain how the DOTL and the DOC are related to one another.
- The DOTL must begin before it comes.
  - Malachi 4:5—the verse does not say that Elijah will be sent before the “beginning” of the DOTL but before the “coming” of the great and dreadful DOTL.
  - Joel 2:31—this verse is not talking about when the DOTL “begins” but, rather, when it comes to earth, thus, the implication is that the DOTL begins before it comes to earth.
- The DOTL begins in heaven before it comes to earth at the end of the tribulation.
  - Isaiah 24:21—“in that day” is a reference to the DOTL. Notice that God intends to punish the host of the high ones that are on high before he punishes the kings that are upon the earth.
  - Isaiah 34:4-5—the sword of the Lord is bathed in heaven before it comes down upon the earth.
  - The DOTL begins in heaven where God will punish the hosts of the high ones that are on high before it comes to earth after the tribulation.
- We have already seen that the Pauline expression DOC refers to events in the heavenly places that relate to the body of Christ and also the earthly judgment upon the enemies of the body of Christ. Meanwhile, the phrase DOTL refers to prophetic events that begin in heaven in the middle of Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> week, come to earth at the time of the Second Coming, and continue on the earth until the time of the new heaven and new earth.
- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 explains that the Thessalonians do not need to worry that the DOC is at hand because it cannot come to earth until after the falling away and the revelation of the man of sin, the son of perdition.
- The DOC does not come to earth until after the tribulation when it comes in the form of the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.