

Things to Occur ...

Commentary for September 1, 2018 — ... Before Christ Returns

In Dr. Martin's revised and expanded article for September 2018, "[The Greatest Revolution in Human History](#)," two prophecies are discussed. These prophecies occur before Christ returns.

Malachi and the Day of the Lord

The first prophecy is Malachi 4:4–6 (read the context before, of course) which deals with the people of Israel at the end time. Specifically, the events of the prophecy will occur before the "**Day of YHWH**" commonly said in the King James Version as the "**Day of the Lord.**"¹ This "Day" is a period that occurs before Christ returns. Major upheavals and God's punishments on mankind on earth will occur before Christ returns.²

The apostle Paul wrote regarding that "**Day of the Lord**":

"But of the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, 'Peace and safety'; then sudden destruction comes upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. You are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness."

• **1 Thessalonians 5:1–5**

The "**Day of the Lord**" will come "**as a thief in the night**" (1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10), Again read the contexts.

Jesus returns near the end of the "**Day of the Lord**" as is clear from Zechariah 14:1–4 where verse 1 tells us the Day of the Lord is coming. Verses 2–3 tell about events of that Day around Jerusalem. Verse 4 tells about Christ's return to the Mount of Olives (referred to in Acts 1:9–12). All the events in these verses are in sequence. For the full description (with maps) of events at this time, read "[New Prophetic Discoveries Concerning the End Time](#)."

Acts Chapter 3, Refreshing and Restitution

The sermon Peter gave in Acts 3:18–26 reminded his hearers about prophecies that were

¹ The phrases "**day of the Lord**" "**day of God**," and "**day of wrath**" occur in Psalm 110:5–6; Isaiah 2:12, 13:6, 9, [13], chapter 24; Jeremiah 46:10; Ezekiel 7:19, 13:5, 30:3; Joel 1:15, 2:1, 11, 31, 3:14; Amos 5:18, 20; Obadiah 1:15; parts of Zephaniah chapters 1 and 2; much of Zechariah chapter 14; Malachi 4:5; Acts 2:20; Romans 2:5; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10, 12; and Revelation 16:14.

² There will not be a two-stage return of Christ, the first stage being the "rapture" of the saints. Dr. Ernest Martin explains how the doctrine of the rapture developed in "[Chapter 17: The Rapture Theory - Its Surprising Origin](#)" of his book [The Essentials of New Testament Doctrine](#).

very familiar to them. He told them that the times of refreshing (verse 18) and times of restitution (verse 21) must occur before Christ returns:

“Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.”

• **Acts 3:21**

Note that not some of the prophets but all the prophets spoke about good things to come before His return. It begins by God opening the minds of the children of Israel (the Jews) to receive proper knowledge of Him beginning with the Law of Moses and the rest of the Old Testament. This will lead to a conversion of the children of Israel (the Jews) to accept Christ as their Messiah and Savior. Peter expected the fulfillment to happen in his generation, but God delayed it for a much later generation. (See my articles [“Blessed Is He that Comes ...”](#) and [“Restitution of All Things, What to Expect.”](#))

Peter and his audience understood all the negative prophecies of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, the Minor Prophets, and Daniel would also occur, but first should come the restoration and restitution, then later Christ would return. Peter thought the Jews would convert at that time. Many did, but not enough of them. In Acts chapter 2 at Pentecost Peter taught that the prophecy of Joel 2:28–32 began to be fulfilled in the prior 50+ days. To him the evidence was obvious. All in Jerusalem saw or heard of the events that happened with Jesus’ death and resurrection. Paul explained why Christ had not returned:

“For I would not, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written,

‘There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer [Redeemer], and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.’”

• **Romans 11:25–27** (quoting Isaiah 59:20–21)

After Israel will be converted, next would come the completion of the preaching of the Gospel to the entire world as Jesus told His disciples to do:

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”

• **Matthew 24:14** (and Mark 16:15)

In Luke 24:47 Jesus told His disciples: **“repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”** That will occur before Christ returns (and has not yet happened). Remember, Paul said the Gospel was indeed preached to the world (Romans 10:18), but God did not allow the Gentiles to accept the Gospel message. Why? It was because God had not yet removed the blindness from Israel.

Israel will soon listen and be blessed by God. The world will then listen and that blessing will encompass the world in prosperity at a time future to us. Christ will return after it all occurs.

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