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# **When the Lights Go Out on Planet Earth**

**(Part 1)**

**# 934-A**

**Series: Living the End Times:  
Once the King Has Come**



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# When the Lights Go Out on Planet Earth

(Part 1)

*Our Father and our God, thank You for this new day. Thank You for this beautiful opportunity to gather together and have fellowship, one with the other, to worship You and to gather around Your Word, to look at the events that are yet to unfold. Thank you for the beautiful days coming before us, in which You will come and snatch us up to be with You when we will be joined together as one at the Wedding of the Lamb. We will be able, at the Bema Seat of Christ, to cast our crowns at Your feet and worship You.*

*This morning, Father, we come to share those portions of Your Word, which deal with the future, that are not quite so encouraging and exciting. Yet, they are exciting, because they reveal so much about the reality of Your nature.*

*So, we ask You this morning, Father, just to quiet our hearts, open our minds and speak to us through Your Word.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen.*

I have enjoyed teaching these last four lessons because they are encouraging, and by nature, I like to be an encourager. And if you'll hang around and wait two more weeks, the last two get really exciting. But, this week and next, it's more difficult to be an encourager. We're dealing more with stark reality. Please bear with us because it is just as much a part of the picture as have been the last two weeks.

Now, did anyone bring a television set with you to class this morning? Could I see your hands? The Cowboys don't start until twelve? Right? Okay. Did anyone bring your imagination? You need that, of course, in this class anyway. And especially this morning, because I am going to ask you to tune in to ESN, that's the Eternal Satellite Network, and view together with me, a most

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unusual happening. The program will be entitled, “When The Lights Go Out On Planet Earth.” That will be the title for next week’s lesson, as well.

The author of this event, incidentally, is none other than the Holy Spirit. He’s the same person, you’ll recall, who wrote such incredible true stories as “The Resurrection,” “The Ascension,” “The Rapture,” “The Marriage of the Lamb,” and “The Bema Seat of Christ.” These were stories produced and directed by His immediate family—Jesus Christ and His Father, Jehovah God.

Incidentally, you may recall, all of His stories are true stories. And though this, like so many He has written, has not yet happened, it *will happen* precisely at the time and in the manner, He has portrayed it. But unlike most of the other stories He has written, this one is rated “R” because of excessive violence; violence the likes of which mankind has never seen before! As I said earlier, we will not try to view it all in one sitting. In fact, the heavy stuff comes next week, if you would like to intentionally remain home.

Perhaps we should outline what we will see today. Now, recognizing the limitations of both the time frame we have to work with, and in particular, the inadequacies of the teacher you have to work with, this will be a “wash ‘n wax” study. How many of you know what a “wash ‘n wax” study is? That’s one where you only touch the surface. And that’s what we are going to have. To study this subject in-depth would take perhaps a year, and a more qualified instructor to say the least.

### I- What Is It?

- A- The title
- B- The type
- C- The time

### II- What Will Happen?

- A- The purposes
- B- The personalities

So, we will be gleaning the highlights, accenting the basics, and uncovering just enough pertinent information to equip us to have foundational facts about what will really happen when the lights go out on planet earth. Our central focus will be that period in history many of you have come to know or study about, called the “tribulation.” We will be asking ourselves two basic questions.

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Number one, what is it? Number two, what will happen?

In answer to the first question, we will look at the title, the type and the time. In answer to the second question, we will look the purposes. And then next week, hopefully, we will look at the personalities and then finally the progression. We will actually walk through that seven-year period together.

We're going to ask ourselves as we go, what lessons can we learn as we view (some of us may be almost in a state of shock if you're not familiar with the passages), what life and death will be like when the lights go out on planet earth. Beloved, one day and perhaps quite soon, Scripture says, they will. Now, what you are about to witness may seem incredibly unlikely if you're not familiar with it. And you may be tempted to reason it away with the natural mind, but please don't, because, my friend, this *will* happen. God said it would. And it may happen very, very soon. So, in our thinking, let's dim the lights—some of us have done that already mentally—for the lights are about to go out all over planet earth.

In your imagination, listen as the music of eternity swells, and the screen lights up with a portrait of horror. The camera is scanning the landscape of what appears to be a country somewhere in the Middle East perhaps. It is a scene of gruesome reality. Everywhere there are bodies. Some are dead; some are dying. The camera zooms in for a close-up of men and women screaming in agony. Their bodies are covered with sores. Their faces are distorted until their features are no longer recognizable. In the background you see what appears to be a river of blood! At once you know, what you are about to witness is definitely not a rerun of "Mary Poppins." What you are about to see is sheer horror! The title looms on the screen, and it says, Living Word Studios Presents: "The Tribulation." Again, you know at once that even the title must be significant.

If we were to freeze that picture for just a moment and zoom in a little closer on the title, we would see that the names the Bible uses to describe this unbelievable time of human tragedy, in and of themselves, tell the story. There are at least twelve titles given in Scripture to this period of time known as the tribulation. All of them are descriptive. And please remember that anytime in Scripture when you want to know more of a person or an event, you study the meaning of the names God gives it in Scripture,

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because in Scripture, names always either speak of character or detail. So, let's look at the nature of what is about to happen by what God calls it.

The title used more frequently than any other title is, "The Day of the Lord," indicating that this is a time or a day when the Lordship of Christ will be revealed at last. That's the title God uses in Isaiah 2:12, Ezekiel 13:5, Joel 1, Acts 2, II Thessalonians 2 and II Peter 3, for example.

Now, "The Day of the Lord" and "The Day of Christ," are not the same. "The Day of Christ," you will find mentioned in I Corinthians 1 and 5. This normally refers to the millennial period, but "The Day of the Lord" always speaks of this seven-year period of misery in history. But there are eleven other names at least, given in Scripture to define these years. Isaiah 34:8 calls it, "The Day of God's Vengeance," indicating that at last, God will respond to evil.

In Jeremiah 30, it is called, "The Time of Jacob's Trouble," indicating Israel's great struggle just prior to her deliverance.

In Daniel 9, it is referred to as, "The 70th Week," which we will get to later, describing its place in prophecy.

In Daniel 12, it is called, "The Time of the Lord," indicating a specific time established in eternity past.

In Revelation 6, it is called, "The Great Day of His Wrath," indicating that at last, God will vent His anger on mankind.

In Revelation 14:7, it is called, "The Hour of His Judgment," which gives us the purpose of His anger—to judge sin and to judge the world.

In Matthew 13:40, it is called, "The End of This World," describing the final results of this conflict.

In Isaiah 26, it is called, "The Indignation," telling us about the severity of the anger of God.

In Daniel 9, it is called, "The Overspreading of Abomination," signifying the totality of God's disgust.

In Daniel 12, it is called, "The Time of Trouble Such as Never Was." That is about as descriptive as you can get.

In Matthew 24 and 29, Jesus calls it, "The Great Tribulation" or "The Tribulation." It's a word that comes from a Latin word,

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“tribulum”, which was an agricultural tool used to separate the husks from the corn. In a Scriptural sense then, it has the connotation of “pressing together”, or “afflicting” or “causing anguish”, to bring a final separation and a final preparation, as God exalts His name, and judges sin. So, the word “tribulation” has become the word that most of us have come to use through the centuries, to depict this time in history, this time of tragedy, that is about to unfold. So much for the title.

If we were to unfreeze the projector again, and view the panorama of bloodshed that serves as a backdrop for the cast of characters, we would hear the announcer read excerpts from the story line to set the stage as to the type of scenes we are about to witness. While the titles may be descriptive, they are nothing compared to the passages that I would like to share with you this morning. So, clear your minds, if you will, and listen to the picture God paints. Isaiah 13, starting in verse 6 says:

Wail, for the day of the LORD is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty.

Therefore all hands will be limp, Every man's heart will melt, (Isaiah 13:6,7 NKJV)

For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not give their light; The sun will be darkened in its going forth, And the moon will not cause its light to shine.

“I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. (Isaiah 13:10,11 NKJV)

The lights are going to go out on planet earth. The Light of the World, the One who is the Light, is going to withdraw the light in order to punish the world for sin. Isaiah 2:19 says:

They shall go into the holes of the rocks, And into the caves of the earth, From the terror of the LORD And the glory of His majesty, When He arises to shake the earth mightily. (Isaiah 2:19 NKJV)

A more graphic portrayal comes from Isaiah 34. It says:

For the indignation of the LORD is against all nations, And His fury against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them, He has given them over to the slaughter.

Also their slain shall be thrown out; Their stench shall rise from their corpses, And the mountains shall be melted with their blood.

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All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, And the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll; (Isaiah 34:2-4a NKJV)

Do you see why it's rated "R"? Joel 2 says:

Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the LORD is coming, For it is at hand:

A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong, The like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any such after them, Even for many successive generations.

(Joel 2:1,2 NKJV)

So, don't think it's a rerun, beloved. Don't try to compare it with Hiroshima or Nagasaki, or something you can relate to. Nothing like this has ever happened before and nothing like this will ever happen again. Zephaniah 1:14 adds:

The great day of the LORD is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out.

That day is a day of wrath, A day of trouble and distress, A day of devastation and desolation, A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness,

(Zephaniah 1:14,15 NKJV)

Jesus speaks of those days in Matthew 24, when He says:

For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. (Matthew 24:7 NKJV)

Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.

And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. (Matthew 24:11,12 NKJV)

For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

(Matthew 24:21,22 NKJV)

Luke 21, adds:

"And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring;



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men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. (Luke 21:25,26 NKJV)

### Revelation 6:12:

"I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.

And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.

Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,

and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us [crush us] and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!

For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" [No one.] (Revelation 6:12-17 NKJV)

I trust you see what God is saying. He is saying, "I am about to describe for you a period in history unlike any time man has ever seen or will see. During this time, the elements will be out of control. Mankind will no longer be the captain of his fate. Man will no longer appear to rule his destiny with his own technology or his own psychology or his own theology. He will be out of control, totally." And the scales of justice, that for so long, have held in derision the absolutes of God, will be weighted by the counter balance of His wrath, and at long last, our God, who seems to have been silenced so long, because of His love, will rise up in righteousness and deal with mankind.

Now, I know what you are thinking. "I'd like to go out for popcorn and never come back." But I'd advise you to sit still, because this may be awesome, and it may be gruesome, but it's real. It's not something you can walk away from. These are actual photographs from the archives of eternity taken sometime in the near future and relayed back by Scriptural satellite into this age, so we can honestly know what is in store when the lights go out on planet earth.

So, the film rolls on. In one corner, perhaps you can see flash

across the screen, “Copyright, Living Word Studios,” and a date. I don’t know about you, but I couldn’t quite read the date. It seemed almost intentionally blurred. But I could almost swear it said nineteen-hundred and something. Now, I know what you are thinking, “You must be kidding. That’s too soon!” Of course, we don’t know. So, let’s assume for a moment, it could take place at any time today, tomorrow or years from now. So, as for the time, it could be very soon. It could be any time. But, it’s not safe to assume that it’s generations away, because the Scriptures give us signs to look for. And the signs are in place.

But while we’re talking about time, the next question is, “How long will it last?” The Scripture says, *except those days be shortened, there should be no flesh saved* (Matthew 24:22). How long will this tribulation last? Many of you know, but at least, the events you are about to witness are real, and they will take place in the future. And all the horror, judgment, deception, and warfare, believe it or not, will be compressed into a period of only seven years! And that’s one reason the Scripture says, *except the days be shortened*.

Now while we haven’t really the time to look at Daniel’s prophecy of the 69 or 70 weeks of years, it would be a good study for you to do on your own if you haven’t done it before. We will just touch on it. As one famous Bible scholar said, “The fulfillment of the first 69 weeks of years, came to pass on April 6, A.D. 32, precisely the day that Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem.” And apparently, according to Luke 19, it was the very day the Pharisees plotted to murder Christ. So, Daniel, writing some 5½ centuries before Christ, prophesied the date of His presentation and rejection to the day! But Daniel, listening to Gabriel, spoke of another week as well—a week we now understand, has been mysteriously separated from the first 69 weeks by a supernatural season, inserted by God, for Him to call out a bride for His Son.

But like a “frozen time out” at a sports event, one day very soon the whistle will blow and play will resume again. One noted author said it this way, “God stepped in and stopped the clock of prophecy at Calvary.” This divine “time out” has lasted for nearly twenty centuries, but soon now, the Redeemer will blow the trumpet and play will resume.

What we see, is a great part of the Book of Revelation devoted

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to a concentrated look at these seven years, divided into two equal parts of 3½ years each, or as Scripture says, 1,260 days or 42 months, or 3½ years. The Scripture references are: Revelation 11:2, Revelation 12:6, Revelation 12:14, and Revelation 13:5.

So, our feature film, one we don't particularly want to watch, is entitled, "When the Lights Go Out on Planet Earth." It tells us about a time in history known as the tribulation. It will be a time of great suffering, of great anguish and of great judgment. It will be a time so devastating that the Holy Spirit tells us, nothing like that has ever happened before, and praise God, nothing like this will ever happen again. The Holy Spirit also guarantees us it will be not one day longer, and not one day shorter than seven years.

Well, that tells us about the time. What about the timing? When will this take place? So far, in the last four weeks, we have looked at the rapture of the church, at the Bema Seat of Christ, where we will cast our crowns before Him in worship, and last week, at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Now we turn our focus from such messages of hope and joy to this one of gloom and despair. We must ask, where does it all fit together? Where does this momentous time in history fit in the plan of God? I gave you a timeline at the very beginning of this study, and if you have it to refer back to, it may help you some. But the question is, where will we be when the lights go out on planet earth; when the earth starts to tremble and the God of eternity, after years of love, begins to breathe the breath of judgment upon this earth? Where will we be?

As I said at the beginning of this series, we are approaching this subject from a pre-tribulation rapture position. That means that the material we are sharing, comes from those who believe Scripture teaches that when these seven years begin their course of affliction, the church will just have been taken into the presence of Christ. In other words, when the lights go out on planet earth, you and I will be bathed in the light of the glory of God. We will be in heaven, while a literal hell is going on, on planet earth.

Now, some of you here disagree, and I want you to know we'll be praying for you from heaven while you're sweating it out down here. No, seriously, some of you believe in a mid-tribulation rapture; that we go through the first 3½ years and then you'll be caught up together to be with the Lord before the heavy artillery.

Others of you, at least a few of you, may hold a post-tribulation

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posture, meaning that you think you are going to be here for the whole nine yards, or the whole seven years. Now, if either of you are right, I've decided that I would rather live in ignorant bliss for now and find out later when the time comes. But, in either case, whatever God gives us to go through, He will give us the grace to go through.

We are not here, as I said five weeks ago, to argue theology, but I would like to give you just a few facts to help you look at this illustration.

Dr. John Walvoord has listed 50 arguments (please relax, we're not going to read 50 arguments) to support the pre-tribulation position. I'm just going to share 12 of them with you, in passing, very quickly.

1- This position allows us a literal interpretation of all Old Testament and New Testament passages on the subject, which other positions do not.

2- Only this position, pre-tribulation, makes a clear distinction between the role of Israel and the role of the church in prophecy, and this is key to sound doctrine.

3- No Old Testament passage speaking of the tribulation refers to the church.

4- No New Testament passage referring to the tribulation speaks of the church either.

5- The rapture of the church, which must take place, is never mentioned in Scripture when dealing with the Second Coming of Christ after the tribulation.

6- The church, according to Romans 4 and I Thessalonians 5, has not been appointed unto wrath.

7- God, in history, has always delivered His children prior to judgment. II Peter 2:5-9 is one example. Perhaps Sodom and Gomorrah would be another.

8- The Scriptures clearly teach that all of the church will be raptured together. So, this destroys the argument that part of the church will go through the tribulation and part of it won't.

9- According to I Thessalonians 4, we are to be comforted by the thought of His coming, not fearful.

10- According to Titus 2:13, we are to be looking, not for the

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signs of the tribulation, but for the signs of His glorious appearing.

11- The Restrainer, who is the Holy Spirit—and we will be looking at that next week—according to II Thessalonians 2, must be taken out of the world as an indwelling force *before* the lawless one can turn loose all that will take place.

12- Nowhere in Scripture, are The Bema Seat of Christ and the Marriage of the Lamb, shown to occur after the tribulation period.

These are just a few of the dozens of Scriptural illustrations you can use to apply to this decision as to when Scripturally, we think this will take place. But, that's not really the issue. We will conclude however, for our study, that according to the time, it will last for seven years; two 3½ year periods. That we are certain of. As to the timing, we will assume then, that you and I and all the saints who have ever come to God through Christ up until the rapture, will be looking on from the celestial coliseum of glory rather than from the foxholes and the firing lines of the battlefield itself. At least I choose to believe it, and I love believing it!

Anyway, time is short and we have not even really allowed the projector to run the actual film. Next week, Lord willing, we are going to look at the personalities and their roles in the drama. We are going to name them this morning. We are going to be looking at: Satan himself, the Anti-Christ, the False Prophet, the 144,000, the Ruler of the North, and the Vile Harlot, to name a few.

Now, if you're not familiar with this story, you're saying, "What kind of story is this?" This is a *true* story. We're going to look at the cast of characters, then the progression, then the sequence of events next week. And we're going to look at what happens just at that very moment...well never mind. If you don't know, I don't want to tell you now.

Before we unplug the projector, we must look, this morning, at the purposes or at least some of the reasons as to why God would allow such a moment to take place in history—a parenthesis between this era of grace and this millennium of glory. There are many reasons, and I'm just going to name three.

Reason 1- The tribulation must be allowed to prepare Israel to receive the Messiah at last. Dr. Pentecost explains it this way,

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“The Good News is that the King is about to return and it will be preached so that Israel may at last turn to their Messiah. As John the Baptist preached to prepare Israel for His first coming, Elijah will preach to prepare Israel for His Second Coming.” Multitudes, the Scripture says, will be converted during those seven years as Israel waits at last for Messiah to come.

Reason 2- To allow God to pour out His judgment on unbelieving man and unbelieving nations at last. Russia will get hers. All the godless nations of the world who have shaken their fists in the face of a holy God, will be punished. And it won't be a disarmament treaty that allows God's people to align themselves with God's enemies so they can all live happily ever after, no matter what the newspapers say will bring it about. Those nations that blaspheme the name of God will have to deal with the God they have blasphemed.

One day, every knee will bow in heaven, on earth and in hell (Philippians 2:10). One day, they will know the “I AM” is, and His enemies will fall at His feet in defeat at last.

Reason 3- To let the devil have his day before the devil has his due. Satan has been trying for generations to sell the lie that he is the heir apparent to planet earth. He does not know, or at least will not admit, that were the Restrainer, the Holy Spirit removed, this earth would crumble in chaos and rebellion. But he is about to find out.

He will remove the church. Israel will be licensed to represent Him to the world once again. Seven years of horror will prepare them as a nation for His Coming. And at last, He will demonstrate His power to judge the nations and He will give the devil his day before He gives the devil his due. More about that next week, Lord willing.

But isn't it chilling, this incredible time that's to come,  
When God in His wrath  
Will chart out a path  
To prepare for the reign of His Son?

And doesn't it make you aware and then take you  
To see what in truth you can glean?  
For God has revealed it, and now He has sealed it,  
So Christians can know what it means.

There was no need for that, but I had to get a poem in there

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somewhere. But, what does it mean? What does it mean to you? I would like us to catch a glimpse beyond the event. Next week, we get into it in all of its detail. But, this morning, before we do, I would like to ask you to look at three things we can learn from the tribulation itself.

We can learn about the matchless power of God, about the marvelous patience of God, and about the magnificent plan of God. Do you ever waken in the morning and just simply begin to praise God for His power? Do you ever waken in the morning? The neatest thing you can do is roll out of bed (and that's what most of us do; or fall out of bed) and immediately, before the enemy begins to get any of our attention, begin to praise God for some element of His nature. And the most awesome thing we can begin to praise Him for is His power. Job declared in Job 26,

The pillars of heaven tremble, And are astonished at His rebuke.

He stirs up the sea with His power, And by His understanding He breaks up the storm.

By His Spirit He adorned the heavens; His hand pierced the fleeing serpent.

Indeed these are the mere edges of His ways, And how small a whisper we hear of Him! But the thunder of His power who can understand?  
(Job 26:11-14 NKJV)

My friend, you and I have not yet grasped the awesomeness of the power of God. If we did, we would not live as we do. When the heavens tremble with thunder and the lightning flashes from sky to sky, we think we have seen God's power, but He has only blinked His eye. When a mighty volcano erupts, and man flees in total helplessness from its fiery furnace, we think we have seen God's power, but He's just moved His finger. When an entire world is paralyzed by the tremors of an earthquake, we think we have witnessed the power of God, but He has yet to reveal His power in any magnitude at all; we've just seen a thread of it. But the Scripture says, one day soon, this God who has kept in chains, by choice, His matchless omnipotence, will in righteous judgment move His arm and nations will collapse. He'll turn His head and a part of the universe as we know it will dissolve. God has that kind of power, and the Scripture says, that kind of power lives in us!

Secondly, we ought to stand in awe of His patience. The

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miracle and the mystery is not that one day God is going to exercise judgment; the miracle is, that He has waited so long.

Dr. Criswell wrote these words, and I don't think it can be said any better. He said:

*"The mystery of God is the long delay of our Lord in taking the kingdom and establishing righteousness. The mystery of God is seen in these thousands of years in which sin and death run riot."*

He goes on:

*"The pages of history, from the first murder until this hour, are written in blood, tears and death. The mystery is that God has waited so long to take the Kingdom. That is the inexplicable mystery that the mind of man can't understand, the mystery of the presence of evil. For thousands of years, God has allowed Satan the freedom to wrap his vicious, slimy, tentacles around human life.*

*Oh, the mystery of the delay of God! But," Dr. Criswell closes, "somewhere, beyond the starry sky there stands a herald angel with a trumpet in his hand. By the decree of the Lord God Almighty, there is a day, there is an hour, there is a moment, there is an elected time when that angel will sound and the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our God Son, Jesus Christ."*

The power of God! The patience of God! But oh, beloved, the plan of God. That plan, foreknowing the searching and the suffering of man, foreordained a way of escape. To be holy, He had to one day execute judgment; He had to. But His holiness was not in conflict with His love. So, one day, 2,000 years ago, the living God paid an indescribable price to purchase our salvation. We belong to a God who had a plan!

The price had to be paid for sin. The books of eternity read like this by your name: Debits: Unlimited, for you have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Credits: Zero, for all of your self-righteousness amounted to nothing; filthy rags in the sight of God (Isaiah 64:6).

So, God executed His plan, even as man executed His Son. In a moment, a new bookkeeping system was inaugurated, where God transferred all of your sins to His Son's account, and all of His Son's righteousness to your account. Now the books are



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balanced. There is no need to fear the judgment of God once you have tasted the grace of God. There is *no* condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1).

But mankind has been lulled to sleep by what he construes to be the inactivity or unconcern of God. They think a God of love, is either too impotent to act or too unconcerned to judge. So, they have redesigned God as a puppet to give man what man wants, and denied the existence of the righteousness of God that cannot be separated apart from the Cross. That same world refuses to believe that what they construe to be a slumbering God, will ever awaken and judge this world.

My friend, the God of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps. He is simply patient. But, because He is holy, sin must be judged, and the world must one day taste the cup of the wrath of God. And every man and every woman who has ever inhabited planet earth must one day stand before a holy God, either clothed in the garments of His holiness, fitted by a carpenter on a Roman cross before a forgiving Father and hear Him say, “enter thou into the joy of the Lord.” Or, they will stand before a righteous Judge, clothed only in the filthy garments of their own righteousness and with tears in their eyes, they will hear God say, “You must depart from Me. I never knew you.”

The amazing thing, beloved, is that the choice is yours. The bill has been paid. All man has to do is reach out and accept the gift of salvation; the canceled note that God has stamped across it: *the debt of your sins—paid in full!* When you do that, heaven opens, Jesus enters your heart as Friend, as Savior and as Comforter. And there swells up within you a confident assurance that no matter what happens on planet earth, *you shall not be moved.*

You cannot study a subject like this without recognizing the importance of the reality, that every man or woman who has ever walked the face of the earth, and every man or woman who is in the auditorium, this morning, or listening to these tapes, is either born again into the family of God and bound for an eternity of joy in the presence of God; or no matter how righteous he or she might be, is eternally lost and bound for hell. If you are not a Christian; if you are not a believer, or if you're not sure, I beg you right now, to quietly turn loose the steering wheel of your life and place it in the hands of God. You might want to pray

When the Lights Go Out on Planet Earth (Part 1)

something like this:

*“Lord Jesus,*

*I’ve made a mess out of my life. I was never meant to be the pilot; I was supposed to be the passenger. I’m sorry for my sins; for operating independently of your control. Jesus, come into my heart and take over.”*

If you pray like that, acknowledging your need and your acceptance using whatever words God gives you, you receive eternal life. Do you know what that means? It means you will never die. It means you will spend eternity in the presence of a holy God. And it means you need never fear the curse, the crisis or the consequences of what is about to happen, when the lights go out on planet earth.

When the Lights Go Out on Planet Earth

When the lights go out on planet earth  
And the stars from heaven descend  
When this old earth so trembles  
Sinful man can sense its end.

When the heavens like a scroll are rolled  
And volcanoes spew their sod  
Till men cry out for the rocks to fall  
Lest they face the face of God.

The precious love of God, our Lord  
Will show itself to be  
His pure and holy righteousness  
Which mercy has set free.

And all mankind will know is  
Now destruction floods its path  
If you choose to live apart from Christ  
You one day face God’s wrath.

But, oh, praise God for the answer  
It’s called by grace, new birth  
The light of God indwelling man  
As the lights go out on planet earth.

When the Lights Go Out on Planet Earth (Part 1)

What joy in heaven there will be  
Even as pillars shake  
But do you know, beloved,  
The choice is yours to make?

You can receive the Lord today  
And all that name is worth  
Or you can face His judgment  
When the lights go out on planet earth.

Let's pray.

*Our Father and our God, we worship You.*

*We thank You, Father, that You are a God of righteousness; that You are a God of perfect truth. And that to be a God of righteousness, You must, one day, judge sin. But more than that, Father, we thank You that You are a God of grace, and that you have chosen, that no man needs ever stand before the judgment bar and be condemned, but You have offered to each of us a way of escape.*

*We pray, our Father, that any person, even here this morning, or listening at this moment, who has never said yes to Christ, might understand the gravity of the judgment that is to come, not only in those seven years on this earth, but more in the eternity that is yet to unfold in hell. And may that person or persons, even this moment, quietly submit to the Lordship of Christ and ask Jesus to come into their life. What joy! What anticipation! What glory!*

*And may each of us leave this place, this morning, more sensitive to those around us who may not know Christ as Savior. The days may yet be short. It may be only weeks; we do not know. But we do know that one day soon we will be captured together to be with You. And the lights on planet earth will begin to dim as all of the horror of the judgment falls upon man and upon this earth.*

*God grant us a burden for those who are lost, and God grant us a delightful expectancy of our eternal home.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen.*

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