



Will God Save the Earth? Part 2

2 Peter 3:10: (NKJV) *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.*

Last week we discussed God being the inventor of green - we looked at many scriptures that helped us to understand that God's intention is not to destroy the Earth, but to in fact preserve it. There are many scriptural symbols used, such as "mountains," seas," "heavens being burned up," and others. We then looked at the great time of trouble predicted. So, if God isn't going to destroy the physical world, why is it in such turmoil now? There is another important aspect of this called the Day of Judgment. This program will build upon 1) the fact that the Earth abides forever, 2) the fact that the Scriptures talk about a great day of trouble, and 3) is the Day of Judgment in the time of trouble or are they two separate events. And what happens after Judgment Day?



Questions for consideration:

1. What is the purpose of the Day of Judgment?
 2. What happens *after* the Judgment?
1. What is the purpose of the Day of Judgment?

First of all, when does this "day of judgment" occur?

Matthew 24:21-22: (KJV) ²¹*For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.* ²²*And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*

Jesus' prophecy focused on the time of his own return. Except those days of great tribulation be shortened, man would destroy himself.

How do we know that the Day of Judgment follows the day of trouble?

Daniel 12:1-4: (NKJV) ¹*At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book.* ²*And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.* ³*Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.* ⁴*But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."*

Daniel prophesied about this trouble many years prior to Jesus' reference. The order of events established: First this time of trouble, and then a resurrection

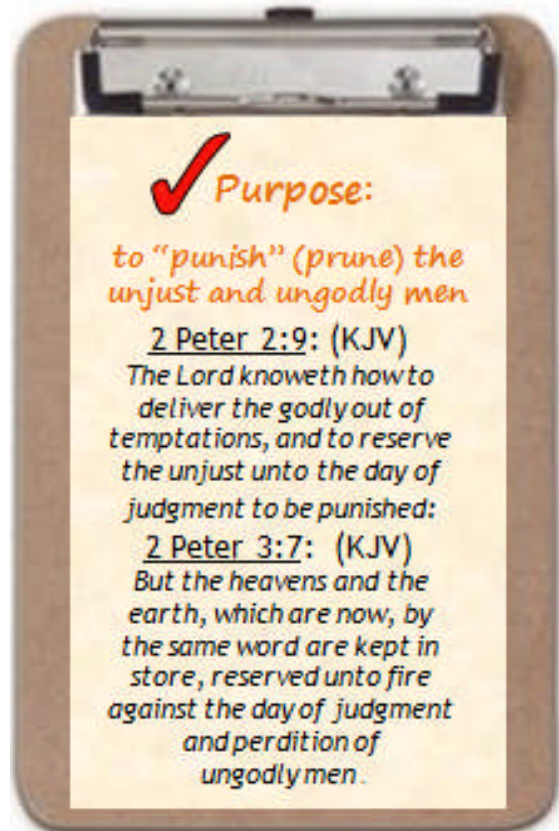
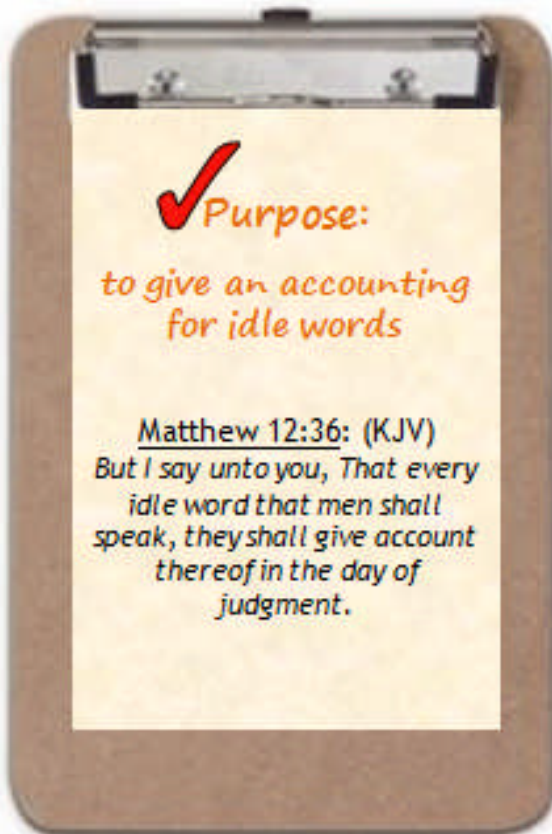


but the understanding of this is sealed until the "time of the end," which is when the trouble comes!

Hebrews 9:24-28: (NKJV) ²⁴For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; ²⁵not that he should offer himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another ²⁶he then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, (this word for "ages" is often translated "world;" the system ended there - there was a changing of ages when the call went to the Gentiles) he has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, ²⁸so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for him he will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

This scripture shows there was one offering for sin, one ransom paid. The Day of Judgment is *after* the resurrection.

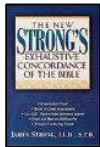
Now that we know WHEN the Day of Judgment is, the next question WHAT HAPPENS at that time?





Is the Day of Judgment 24 hours long? Not reasonably. Many scriptures speak of the "day of the Lord is one thousand years," and we speak of "the day of a Noah," meaning his lifetime.

So, what does judgment mean?



Judgment: Strongs #2920 krisis (kree'-sis); decision (subjectively or objectively, for or against); by extension, a tribunal; by implication, justice (especially, divine law): AV- a separating, sundering, separation; a trial, contest

This is more like a process than a proclamation.

Matthew 12:16-18: (KJV) ¹⁶And charged them that they should not make him known: ¹⁷That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, ¹⁸Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall show **judgment <2920>** to the Gentiles.

In this example, is he showing a final judgment to the Gentiles, or is he giving them a period of trial? It sounds more like a period of trial.

John 5:30: (KJV) I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my **judgment <2920>** is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

His assessment is a just assessment. There is not a final proclamation here, but rather an assessment process.

John 7:24: (KJV) Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous **judgment. <2920>**

So, this judgment seems to fit more into the category of an "assessing, dividing and considering" process rather than a final pronouncement of sentence.

Here is another type of judgment that we may get confused with #2920.

Condemn: Strongs #2632 katakrino (kat-ak-ree'-no); to judge against, i.e. sentence

In this case, you are no longer deciding; you have decided.

Matthew 20:18: Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall **condemn <2632>** him to death,

Hebrews 11:7: By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he **condemned <2632>** the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.





2 Peter 2:6: And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes **condemned <2632>** them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

This is the difference between the process of gathering evidence and trial vs. the final proclamation.



Practical Example: Consider pre-season training camp for football.

Everyone shows up and goes through testing and assessments. Players prove themselves and are accountable for their actions. At the end of training camp, the roster is cut and the sentencing is the final decision of whether a player made it or not. The process of training camp is a good picture of what the Day of Judgment looks like. It is a proving ground, a process to go through.

Matthew 12:41: (KJV) *The men of Nineveh shall rise in **judgment <2920>** with this generation, and shall **condemn <2632>** it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.*

The Day of Judgment is a period of discernment and accountability of who you are and what you have been. The Day of Judgment can be defined by the difference in the relationship of Jesus to his true followers now vs. his relationship with the world later that starts with a resurrection.

John 5:28-29: (ASV) ²⁸Marvel not at this: for the hour cometh, in which all that are in the tombs shall hear his voice, ²⁹and shall come forth; **they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of judgment.**

Jesus is creating a dividing line between his true followers and others. The followers were already judged, because they took on the commitment to be followers of Christ and their accountability happens now.

1 Timothy 5:24: *Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to **judgment <2920>**; and some men they follow after.*

See the difference? Some men's sins are accountable beforehand - true followers. Either way, there is judgment.

This is the difference between having an "Advocate" and a "Mediator:"

1 John 2:1-2: (ASV) ¹My little children, these things write I unto you that ye may not sin. And if any man sin, we have an **Advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: ²and he is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the whole world.

Advocate: an intercessor, consoler, somebody who sits by your side and represents you, who has your personal interests in mind

1 Timothy 2:1-6: (ASV) ¹I exhort therefore, first of all, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings, be made for all men; ²for kings and all that are in high place; that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and gravity. ³This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; ⁴who would have all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God, **one mediator** also between God and men, himself man, Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself a ransom for all; the testimony to be borne in its own times;

Mediator: one who intervenes between two parties, either to make or restore peace and friendship



There is one mediator between God and men, but WE have an advocate. The relationship and end result is different. Jesus as our Advocate works with true Christians through our period of judgment now; Jesus' role as the Mediator intervenes between man and God later.

Isaiah 26:9:

...when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

John 5:24: *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into **condemnation** <2920>; but is passed from death unto life.*

2 Corinthians 5:17-21: (ASV) ¹⁷Wherefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature: the old things are passed away; behold, they are become new. ¹⁸But all things are of God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and gave unto us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹to wit, that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not reckoning unto them their trespasses, and having committed unto us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰We are ambassadors therefore on behalf of Christ, as though God were entreating by us: we beseech you on behalf of Christ, be ye reconciled to God. ²¹Him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf; that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself...bringing things back into balance. The trespasses committed are not terminal. Judgment, therefore, is for the purpose of reconciliation, not destroying.

Jude 1:14-16: (NRSV) ¹⁴It was also about these that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, "See, the Lord is coming with ten thousands of his holy ones, ¹⁵to execute judgment on all, and to convict (convince of their wrong) everyone of all the deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him." ¹⁶These are grumblers and malcontents; they indulge their own lusts; they are bombastic in speech, flattering people to their own advantage.

Jesus with his true followers will be executing this judgment (having been already judged).

The resurrected are to be judged on the basis of righteousness, justice and mercy:

Hebrews 4:12-13: (ASV) ¹²For the word of God is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³And there is no creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

God will judge with righteousness, justice and mercy. All mankind will have the opportunity to be held accountable and to do something about it.

2 Peter 3:9: *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

God doesn't want men to perish, he wants them to come to repentance. Jesus opened up that opportunity. There is justice in giving people an opportunity in a pure environment.

Some might say "all religion is useless because it is used as a tool of fear." When you see things done in the name of "religion" that are hideous, we have to agree! But here's the point - the true meaning of the word of God has



nothing to do with that nonsense. The true meaning of the Day of Judgment is not a tool of fear, but a tool of accountability. We believe in justice and in people having to be accountable for their words and actions. The Bible believes that as well and will present that accountability in the context of complete absolute righteousness, justice and mercy. Fear is a tool used by Satan. The Day of Judgment is not to be feared, but it is a doorway to something even greater because the accountability is done perfectly. Imagine a world where justice perfectly prevails in the context of mercy and righteousness. Imagine a world where when you go before the judge, he always gets to the exact reason and source of the issue and proclaims judgment perfectly. This is what will happen for the entire world and should be respected.

The Day of Judgment will work through the Nation of Israel, guided by Jesus and his Church:

Genesis 22:17-18: (NKJV) *¹⁷blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. ¹⁸In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."*

Galatians 3:26-29: (NKJV) *²⁶For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

The promise was given to Abraham. There are two parts to the seed of Abraham with a purpose to bless the earth. This is something to look forward to, not something to be afraid of.

Jeremiah 31:28-34: (ASV) *²⁸And it shall come to pass that, like as I have watched over them to pluck up and to break down and to overthrow and to destroy and to afflict, so will I watch over them to build and to plant, saith Jehovah. ²⁹In those days they shall say no more, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge. ³⁰But every one shall die for his own iniquity: every man that eateth the sour grapes, his teeth shall be set on edge. ³¹Behold, the days come, saith Jehovah, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: ³²not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was a husband unto them, saith Jehovah. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith Jehovah: I will put my law in their inward parts, and in their heart will I write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people: ³⁴and they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know Jehovah; for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith Jehovah: for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin will I remember no more.*

Mankind will no longer have to bear the sins of those that have gone before us. Each will be responsible for his or her own self.

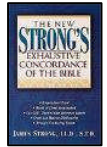
The Day of Judgment will be easier for some and harder for others depending on the level of accountability each has created in his or her life. It will also depend on each person's willingness to comply with a righteous, just, loving and merciful governing of God.



2 Peter 2:9: (KJV) *The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be **punished**:*

Punished: Strongs #2849 to lop or prune, as trees and wings

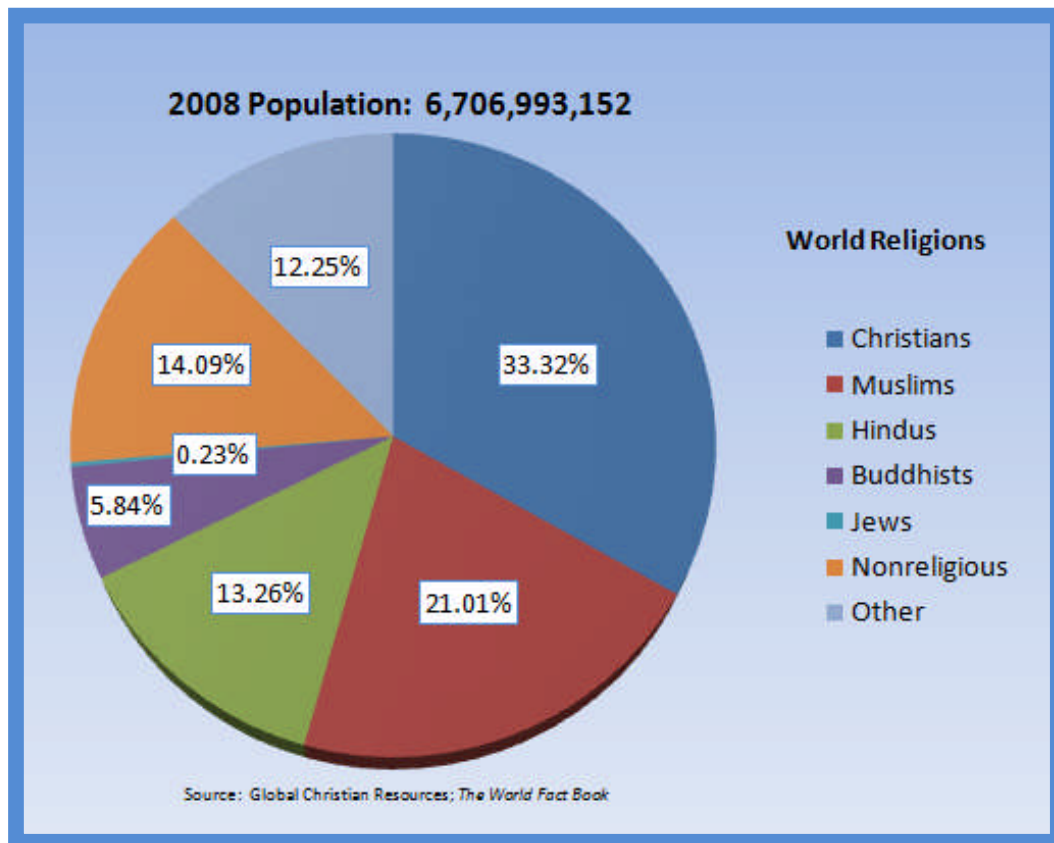
The object of pruning is not to kill the tree, it is to bring more fruit.



Observations on what this coming Day of Judgment includes:

- A resurrection of all men;
- A time of accountability - no one is excluded;
- A high standard - God's righteousness is the uncompromising template for all;
- A clear order - Jesus, his true followers, Israel and the world;
- Even angels will meet with judgment for wrong doing.

2. What happens *after* the Judgment?



Most of the world is non-Christian.

God let us know what was to come:

Acts 3:18-21: (NKJV) *¹⁸But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. ¹⁹Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, ²⁰and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, ²¹whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.*



Jesus had been held in heaven until the times of restoration. Restoring something puts it back to its original form. God said in Acts that Jesus is coming to restore all things. We were previously told that Jesus would return during the time of trouble. Our belief is that Jesus is here organizing the falling of the governments so that the building of God's government can take place during the resurrection.



Practical Example: A woodworker repairing a chair involves taking it all apart. There are pieces laying all over the place. Someone coming in during this process would find it hard to believe that all of these pieces could become a chair. The woodworker has to clean each piece, refit them, reglue them, recondition them and put them all back. The taking apart is the restoration process.

Old Testament Prophecies:

The Big Picture:

Daniel 2:44: (NRSV) *And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall this kingdom be left to another people. It shall crush all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever;*

Many of our previous references to Daniel these past few weeks have been about trouble. This is an end time prophecy about the never ending kingdom set up by God. There is a process of replacement going on.



"The Song of Ruth," as sung by four young sisters
Lisette, Estelle, Gabriella, and Audelia

The four-part harmony demonstrated with this song is a representation of the harmony that will be in the Day of Restitution. There will be a harmony upon the earth that is unimaginable.

The release from death:

Psalms 102:18-22: (NKJV) ¹⁸*This will be written for the generation to come, that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD.* ¹⁹*For He looked down from the height of His sanctuary; From heaven the LORD viewed the earth,* ²⁰*to hear the groaning of the prisoner, to release those appointed to death,* ²¹*to declare the name of the LORD in Zion, and His praise in Jerusalem,* ²²*when the peoples are gathered together, and the kingdoms, to serve the LORD.*

The salvation of the nations:

Psalms 67:1-4: (NKJV) ¹*God be merciful to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us, Selah* ²*That Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations.* ³*Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You.* ⁴*Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy! For You shall judge the people righteously, and govern the nations on earth.*

One of the problems we have today is getting beyond the personal agendas and perceptions to get to true righteousness. Here it says we don't have to worry about that - it's God's righteousness and the right thing will always be done for



the people. That is what comes after the Day of Judgment - reconciliation, restitution, bringing back the people who were once lost.

Psalms 22:27-29: (NKJV) ²⁷All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before You. ²⁸For the kingdom is the LORD's, and He rules over the nations. ²⁹All the prosperous of the earth shall eat and worship; All those who go down to the dust shall bow before Him, even he who cannot keep himself alive.

Jesus quoted this Psalm when he was on the cross. It is a Psalm of victory and hope because of Jesus' sacrifice.

The process of Restitution for the people:

Isaiah 35:8-10: (ASV) ⁸And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for the redeemed: the wayfaring men, yea fools, shall not err therein. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast go up thereon; they shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: ¹⁰and the ransomed of Jehovah shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads: they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The path Jesus described for his followers was narrow and difficult. Matthew 7:14: (KJV) *Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.* This Isaiah scripture, however, is describing a different path - a super highway in which everyone can be on and come to righteousness. Peter called Satan a "roaring lion," looking for people to devour. On this highway, there will be no ravenous beast (Satan's influence, false understandings, evil peer pressure) to interfere. Each person will be accountable for their own decisions and will be able to learn from them to live in a good, righteous, wholesome, just loving world. This is the Good News of the Gospel!

The results of the process:

Habakkuk 2:14: (KJV) *For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

This is not a scripture of fear.

Isaiah 65:21-25: (NKJV) ²¹They shall build houses and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²²They shall not build and another inhabit; They shall not plant and another eat; For as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, and My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth children for trouble; For they shall be the descendants of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them. ²⁴"It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear. ²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain," says the LORD.

We live in a day of entitlement where people believe it is their right to have what they want. These scriptures do not describe a Day of Entitlement. Each builds and inhabits their own house, works their own field, and do the things necessary to support himself. Isn't that really what would make us all happiest? The gift is not free land and free food, the gift is opportunity.

It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer - God is very present in that day.



Wrapping up with the big picture:

Zephaniah 3:8-9: (NKJV) ⁸"Therefore wait for Me," says the LORD, "Until the day I rise up for plunder; My determination is to gather the nations to My assembly of kingdoms, to pour on them My indignation, all My fierce anger; All the earth shall be devoured with the fire of My jealousy. ⁹"For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the LORD, to serve Him with one accord.

Anger, indignation, fire, God's jealousy...but what do they produce? A pure language that ALL people may call upon the name of the Lord. This is a restoration of all things, just as all the holy prophets predicted.

Romans 5:18: (NKJV) ¹⁸Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.

The ransom of Jesus puts it all in the clearest, most understandable perspective. He died for the sin of Adam. Everybody dies in Adam's sin, everybody is resurrected because of Jesus' righteousness. They go through the Day of Judgment, which is a day of accountability, so they can get to a day of goodness, happiness, life, liberty, and the pursuit of godliness.

**So will God save the earth?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!**

