End Times and the Coming Crisis



judgment;

an opinion or decision especially concerning justice/injustice;

separating right from wrong

'But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human <u>court</u>' (1 Cor.4:3)

hemera = day

From the Fall and lasting until the rapture/Second Coming is the Day of Man

Then it will be the Day of the Lord

This is a major theme of the prophets, Jesus and the apostles

The Day of Man began at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil

It is characterized by:

1) Deception

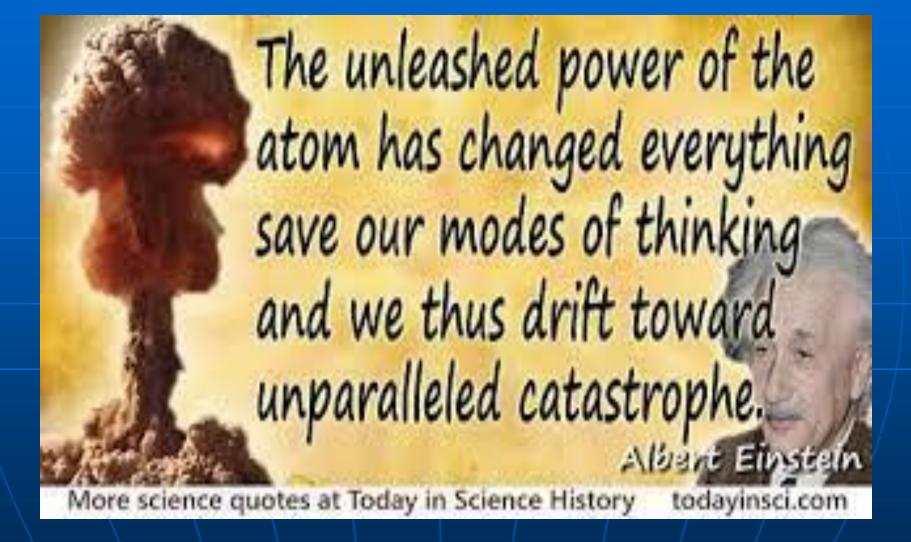
'...although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools...' (Rom.1:21-22)

Having left our moorings mankind has become more and more <u>crazy</u> and <u>confused</u>

2) Man's judgment or opinion 'In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God' (1 Cor.4:3-5)

3) A tendency towards self-destruction

- Two world wars in the last century
- Several wars between different nations since
- Nuclear weapons that have the potential to destroy the world
- Regardless of our environment we will find something to fight about



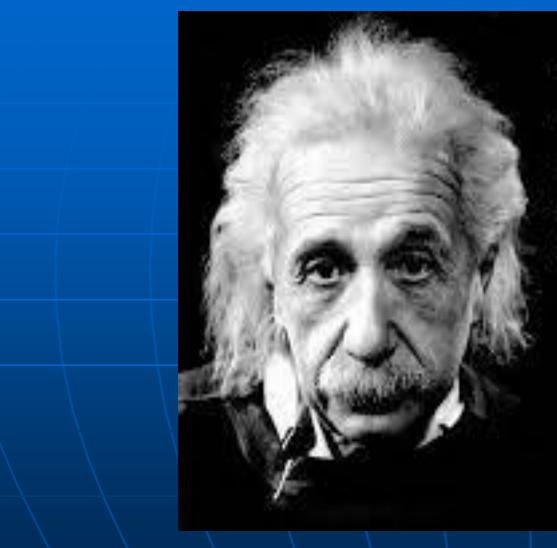
I do not believe that civilization will be wiped out in a war fought with the atomic bomb. Perhaps two-thirds of the people of the earth will be killed.



Albert Einstein

German Theoretical-Physicist (1879-1955)

QuoteHD.com



"I know not with what weapons WW3 will be fought, but WW4 will be fought with sticks and stones."

Albert Einstein

- ✓ Today is man's day because God has allowed it ✓ Tomorrow God will have His day ✓ History is not just circular; it is climactic The conflict between good and evil will culminate in a climax in which every deed is brought under the light God's truth and justice References and warnings to this span the whole Bible. It will be a day of judgment ✓ There will be a resurrection, both of the wicked and the righteous
- 'Man's day' is the time when things are judged from man's point of view. But in the Day of the Lord He will judge all things in righteousness

- But not before the Day of Man runs its course and half the world's population has been destroyed
- The events described by the prophets and Revelation confirm the testimony of history, that humanity, left to itself would finally destroy itself
- The terrible end of man's day is preceded by wars and an alliance of the whole world in defiance of God, 'These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful" (Rev.17:13-14)

'Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame." And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon'

(Rev.16:12-16)

`And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming' (2 Thes.2:8)

Following this is Christ's Millennial reign, then the Great White Throne judgment

> This is the coming crisis, the Day of the Lord

In the OT, mini 'days of the Lord' occurred when God stepped in to judge a nation, e.g. Babylon

So there are 'days of the Lord' that come and go upon nations or peoples

But the Bible refers to the Day of the Lord, the Day when judgment will come to the whole world

The Apostles' Creed says, 'Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead'

It is called the great day '...the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day' (Jude 6)

'For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness' (1 Thes.5:2-5)

Paul uses two metaphors to describe the Day of the Lord:

1) It will be like a thief in the night. Sudden, unexpected, fast, surprising. Just like the judgment of the Flood and of Sodom

2) Like a woman in labour. When the labour pains begin, there's no going back. The new birth is coming. It's unavoidable

Application: It will bring both <u>salvation</u> and <u>wrath</u>

Believers need not fear this day

'For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ' (1 Thes.5:9)

'Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life' (Jn.5:24)

'Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world' (1 John 4:17) "...who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor.1:8)

'And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption' (Eph.4:30) But then Paul says that those who have rejected Christ will experience the wrath of God

'...to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed' (2 Thes.1:7-10)

The fire which consumes the wicked makes way for the new heavens and the new earth wherein righteousness will dwell forever

'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. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells' (2 Pet.3:10-13)

The final outcome of the Day of the Lord will be:

'The loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be brought low; the LORD alone will be exalted in that day' (Isa.2:17) The Day of Man is not to be understood in a fatalistic way

God has broken into it by the death and resurrection of Jesus

It is now also called 'the day of salvation'

'He says:

"In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation' (2 Cor.6:2) 'Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead' (Acts 17:30-31)

'Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who "will render to each one according to his deeds" (Rom.2:4-6)

'But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God' (1 Cor.4:3-5)