



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

Presenting *every man perfect in Christ Jesus*. Colossians 1:28

Volume 31
Issue 764

"The Day of the Cord"

by — Otis Q. Sellers (1901-1992)

Part 1 of 2

THE FOUR GREAT DAYS

It would be quite simple to show from its usage in Scripture that the word "day" means the period of light between sunrise and sunset. However, if we fixed this meaning upon it and read it into all occurrences, we would end up in great confusion.

It would also be easy to show from other occurrences that it means a period of twenty-four hours, and this is usually the first idea that comes to mind when we hear this word. However, this word has other meanings, and the most important to the student of prophecy are the occurrences where it is used of a long period of time. There are four of these days named in Scripture, and they set forth four prophetic periods. These are called:

- (1) Man's Day;
- (2) The Day of Christ;
- (3) The Day of the Lord;
- (4) The Day of God.

These are God-given names. They are not meaningless expressions. Each one marks a separate and distinct period of time. They are of the utmost importance to all who seek to obey God's directive to "rightly divide the Word of Truth" (II Timothy 2:15). Let us consider each one of these.

Day One: *Man's Day*

This designation is found in I Corinthians 4:3 where it is almost lost to us due to the faulty translation.



The words "man's judgment" here should be "man's day," since the Greek word *hemeras* means "day" and does not mean "judgment." These words appear in connection with a statement made by Paul concerning the attempts of some in Corinth to examine him and come to conclusions as to whether his service was acceptable to the Lord. He declares that he counted it as a mere trifle that he should be examined by them or "by man's day." He had not received his commission from them, and he refused to acknowledge their right to examine him. Neither would he be examined "by man's day," since all judgments made on the basis of "man's day" will need to be revised by the Lord Jesus in the day when He does the judging.

This is somewhat as if a farmer would say, "Do not judge me or my abilities by the appearance of my fields in the winter, for you may have to reverse your judgment when the summer comes."

"Man's Day," which is the day of man's prominence, exaltation and glory, reaches its very zenith in this the Dispensation of the Grace of God. This began with Paul's declaration in Acts 28:28, and since that time all men and all nations have been utterly free to walk after their own ways without any fear of immediate divine retribution. Men commit the basest of crimes,

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they raise their voices against God every day; yet, He does nothing except show them a love and favor that they do not deserve.

“Does not God care?” “Is He really a God of love?” These are the questions regularly asked in view of the iniquities of mankind that exact such a great toll of suffering from the human race. The answer is that He cares and He loves; yet, because of His present purpose in grace, no sin or transgression receives its just recompense of reward, but this will not always be. Man’s Day will surely come to an end, and the prayer of the Psalmist will be answered:

Arise, O LORD; let not man prevail: let the nations be judged before Thee. Put them in fear O LORD: that the nations may know themselves to be but men (Psalm 9:19-20.)

Day Two: The Day of Christ

This designation is used in Philippians 1:6, 10 and 2:16. It is ignored by most expositors as they have no room for it in their ideas of things to come. The Day of Christ is another name for the “Kingdom of

God.”¹ It will begin on the day when God manifests sovereignty, when the creatures’ sordid governments come to an end and God’s government begins.²

The Day of Christ is the day of the manifest Kingdom of God. It will be the day when Christ will have His way with all of God’s creation. It will be the day of His manifest ascendancy, prominence and exaltation. He will see the glorious outcome of His death, burial and resurrection.

1. [Editor:] One must be careful to note both the differences and similarities of the “Kingdom of God” and the “Kingdom of Heaven.” For more information see:
 - *The Kingdom of Heaven and its Relationship with the Kingdom of God*, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student’s Notebook #290](#);
 - *God’s Holy Nation: Israel and Her Earthly Purpose*, by Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., specifically chapter 3 (Israel’s Earthly Destiny), chapter 13 (Israel’s Prophetic Program), Appendix 20 (The Kingdom of Heaven and its Relationship to the Kingdom of God), Appendix 2: Basic Distinctions Between Prophecy and Mystery (see order form);
 - *God’s Eonian Purpose*, by Adlai Loudy, specifically chapter 5 (The Kingdom of the Scriptures) and chapter 17 (The Millennial Kingdom – Israel’s Hope) (see order form);
 - *The King and the Kingdom in History and Prophecy*, William B. Hallman (see order form).
2. [Editor:] While Seller’s original wording (“when God assumes sovereignty over the earth and its inhabitants, when man’s sordid government”) suggested that this government was limited to the Earth, we believe that Paul revealed in his epistles that it extends to the Heavens as well.

Bible Student’s Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

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Scripture education in a weekly format!

This free electronic publication is dedicated to:

- the absolute sovereignty and deity of God (Romans 11:36);
- the proclamation of the riches of God’s abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation that God will save all through the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3, 4; 4:10; Titus 2:11);
- the “*preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret in ages past*” (Romans 16:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the Body of Christ (Ephesians 3:1-3);
- the Secret Administration, being the operational revelation for today (Ephesians 3:9);
- the unprophesied, Celestial hope and calling of the Body of Christ (Colossians 3:4);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Ephesians 3:1-3);
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15);
- the recovery of rich Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding and fear (Mark 7:7, 13);
- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with:
 - total freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14);

- union in His death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6);
- adult sonship position (Galatians 4).

This publication is the product of humble efforts of ordinary men intended to stimulate the earnest study of Scripture. We do not claim infallibility for the contents of this publication, thus they are not meant to imply finality on any subject discussed, or that further research would not add further light from the Word of God. God’s storehouse of truth is inexhaustible, so draw on its wealth by prayerful study. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

This publication is not connected with any “church,” “denomination,” “movement,” “organization,” “mission,” “creed,” “meeting,” “school,” “conference” or “fellowship.”

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For definitions of abbreviations/acronyms, see index after the order form.

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He shall see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied (Isaiah 53:11).

It has *already* been declared of Him,

I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the Earth (Psalm 46:10).

Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently, He shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high (Isaiah 52:13).

The Day of Christ is the day of His manifestation (*epiphaneia*). In that day, we who are now believing in Him will be privileged to extol the glory of His grace, a task for which He will grace us in the beloved One (Ephesians 1:6).

Day Three: The Day of the Lord

“The Day of the Lord” follows the Day of Christ. No certain event is revealed that will mark its beginning since it comes as a thief in the night (II Peter 3:10). It begins when God removes all of the restraints that He placed during the time period of His government. This makes possible a divine testing of all who have lived under and enjoyed the blessings of the *“Kingdom of God.”*

There is a revolt against His Kingdom on the part of some, described in Psalm 2. However, the *“sons of light”* will not be in darkness that that day should overtake them as a thief (I Thessalonians 5:2-5).

In this long period of time, we find the final week of Israel’s seventy weeks (seven years) as prophesied by

Daniel. It comes into full manifestation at the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus; it includes the entire 1000 years of His *parousia*, the *“little season”* which follows the *parousia*, and the time period of the Great White Throne judgment.

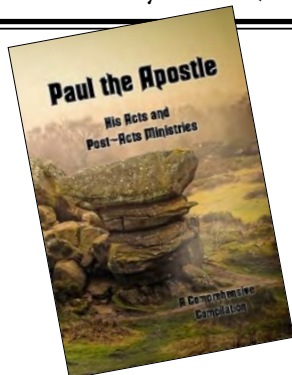
The entire Book of Revelation, except the first nine verses and the last two chapters, belongs to the *“Day of the Lord,”* and it deals with events that will come to pass in that day. *Not one word of it deals with anything that will transpire in the dispensation in which we now live, the Dispensation of Grace, and it has no bearing on the next dispensation: the Kingdom of God.*

This explains why today we can see the mountain peaks of certain great events in it, but cannot comprehend the valleys in between. *We do not face the fulfillment of any of its prophecies at this time.* We are facing divine intervention which will result in God’s government in and over all, and *all events in the Book of Revelation are many centuries in the future.*

The *“Day of the Lord”* is not to be confused with other *“days of the LORD”* mentioned in the Old Testament. Peter made this distinction clear when he spoke of it as *“the great and notable day of the Lord”* (Acts 2:20). The word *“notable”* here is *epiphanes*, which Robert Young defines as meaning “very manifest,” but which I would define as signifying a “blazing forth.”

Malachi emphasized this distinction when he called it, *“the great and dreadful [awe-inspiring] day of the LORD”* (4:5). It is a definite part of *“rightly dividing the Word of Truth”* not to confuse these days. This phrase still needs a vast amount of study.

(see **DAY OF THE LORD**, page 6536)



624 pp, PB

See order form.

Paul the Apostle: His Acts and Post-Acts Ministries

(A Comprehensive Compilation)

This ultimate dispensational collection of 97 works by 28 authors spans over 130 years. It is an extensive reference work that is essential for every library. Authors include: Sir Robert Anderson, Oscar Baker, A.E. Bishop, Robert C. Brock, E.W. Bullinger, J.J.B. Coles, E.H. Clayton, Vladimir Gelesnoff, Stephen Hill, Richard Holden, M. Jaegle, Win Johnson, A.E. Knoch, Adlai Loudy, William Mealand, D.L. McCroskey, William R. Newell, Alan Reid, Danny Russino, John D. LaVier, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Frank Neil Pohorlak, A.A. Sandoz, R.B. Shiflet and Charles H. Welch.



Editor's Desk

Knowing Father



My dad in 1994 at age 83.

I was exceptionally privileged to have a model earthly father who served as a wonderful illustration of our heavenly Father. This is the design of fathers: a way to convey to us the nature of God. Unfortunately, in so many fathers, especially today, this design has been marred beyond use or recognition. This “*present evil age*” has taken its irrevocable toll on the family, especially the image of the father.



My dad and me (1959).



My dad, mom and me (1961, 1962).



I knew my father for 37 years, from the time I was born until he died in 1996.² Even after his death I have continued to grow in the realization of him.

1. “Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us out of the **present evil age**, according to the will of our God and Father” (Galatians 1:4).
2. For more about my father see, “A Memorial – Clyde L. Pilkington, Sr.,” *Bible Student’s Notebook* #172.



(1964)

A couple of years ago I visited my brother Billy and his wife Janet who live in Wilmington, NC. Now 85, he shared with me some things that I never knew about our father. Of course, why wouldn’t he be able to do so, since he knew him for 25 years

before I was born? Yet there are still things about our father that neither of us knows (but there will be plenty of time to remedy this in the resurrection!)

The father that I “knew” as an infant increasingly changed as I became a toddler, juvenile, adolescent, teenager, adult, and then a father myself. Some of what I learned *expanded* my knowledge of him, while other things *dispelled misconceptions*.



My brother Billy and me.

One thing I have learned over the years is that we all have our own paradigms. For some, those paradigms were given to them as children, and barely if ever change. For others, like myself, these paradigms are ever-changing. Either way, we sometimes perceive ourselves to have “arrived” at the truth at a given stage or place in our lives. Among our greatest hindrances is to mistake our doctrinal frameworks for the truth. Over time, however, some of us have come to see that these conceptual scaffoldings, more often than not, reflect our human inability to grasp

The Unveiling of Jesus Christ

by — A.E. Knoch

605 pp., PB See order form.

The Unveiling of Jesus Christ

A. E. KNOCH

Study on the Book of Revelation, commonly called The Revelation of St. John. Including: The Mystery of the Seven Stars, The Mystery of God Finished, The Mystery of Babylon.



fully the things of God outside of divine revelation and illumination.



(1965)

Just as with my earthly father, I have always “known” God, to some degree, for as long as I can remember; and, like my earthly father, I have known Him in many different, progressive and ever-changing ways. In my early days I understood

Him in my immaturity – “as a child.”³ That perception was to a certain degree *in truth*, and to another extent *in error*, and certainly *out of focus*.

Now, though, I am grateful for a more mature view of God – “when I became a man, I put away childish things;”⁴ yet, even with all of my progress, it would be more likely for an ant to fully understand me and my world than for me to fully grasp that of the Deity.



My dad, my son Clyde III and me (1988).

Little wonder that I have so many dear brothers who have so many varied differences in their understandings of God. Really, how else could it be? What kind of God would He be were He so fully and easily understood by humanly-constructed models, His infi-

niteness comprehended by our finiteness?

This does not mean that we do not have a revelation of Him in His Word, or that our perceptions of Him are not now beyond the mere groping of Him.⁵ Such a progressive realization was Paul’s constant, passionate desire and prayer for us.

*Therefore, I also, when hearing of the faith which relates to you in the Lord Jesus, and that for all the saints, do not cease giving thanks for you, making mention in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father glorious, may be giving you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in its **realization of Him**, the eyes of your heart having been **enlightened**, for you to **perceive** what is the expectation of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of the enjoyment of His allotment among the saints, and what the transcendent greatness of His power for us who are believing, in accord with the operation of the might of His strength, which is operative in the Christ, rousing Him from among the dead and seating Him at His right hand among the celestials, up over every sovereignty and authority and power and lordship, and every name that is named, not only in this eon, but also in that which is impending: and subjects all under His feet, and gives Him, as Head over all, to the ecclesia which is His body, the complement of the One completing the all in all (Ephesians 1:15-23, Concordant Literal New Testament, adjusted to the 1930 edition).*

Paul greatly longed for the saints to have a genuine

3. I Corinthians 13:11.
4. Ibid.

5. “They may surely **grope** for Him and may be finding Him, though to be sure, not far from each one of us is He inherent” (Acts 17:27).

The Divine Calendar

— A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)

This is an excellent primer for those just learning of God’s glorious plan and purpose of the ages. It displays the principal time periods of the Scriptures and their relation to one another. Failure to distinguish the various time periods has resulted in great confusion as to the ultimate destiny of God’s creation. This work covers the 5 ages, 3 heavens and earths, 2 creations, 5 worlds, 12 economies, 4 monarchs, and 3 days, with chart.

See order form.

56 pp., PB



“realization of God” – an *epignōsis* (ἐπίγνωσις)!⁶

*Gnōsis*⁷ is the Greek word for “knowledge,” while *epi*⁸ is the prepositional prefix meaning “on,” “over,” “above.” The English words translated for *epi* (on-over-above) can be seen in **bold** type in the following examples:

... *Jesus walking **on** the sea* (John 6:19).

... *a superscription also was written **over** him* (Luke 23:38).

... ***above** all these things put on love* (Colossians 3:14).

Epi is defined as “superimposition,”⁹ and can be seen in our English words *epidemic*,¹⁰ *epitaph*,¹¹ and *epi-center*.¹² Thus, *epignōsis* reflects that which is dead-center, spot-on, and *over-and-above* all previous knowledge. It is defined as:

- full discernment (*Strong*)
- clear and exact knowledge (*Bullinger*)
- precise and correct knowledge (*Thayer*)
- exact or full knowledge (*Vine*)

Epignōsis was possible based on only the pinnacle of the revelation found in Ephesians – an advanced unveiling of truth that Paul received from Christ.

A.E. Knoch (1874-1965) writes concerning this crucial point,

“*The faith which relates to you*” [1930 CLT] refers to the new truth set forth in this epistle. ... His prayer for “*a spirit of revelation*” makes it evident that this epistle deals with a *secret* (Ephesians 3:9) of God’s purpose (:11) quite distinct from His *counsels* which had been revealed before.¹³

6. *Strong’s* G1922.

7. *Strong’s* G1108.

8. *Strong’s* G1909.

9. *Strong’s*. Superimposition meaning “to place or lay over or above something” (*Merriam-Webster*).

10. A disease that comes “over” the people.

11. The writing “over” a tomb.

12. The location directly “over” the center of an earthquake.

13. *Concordant Commentary on the New Testament* (Ephesians 1:15).

The advancement in the realization of God is a life-long process, one that will culminate in resurrection. However, I now know that the Sovereign¹⁴ is “one,”¹⁵ that He is “happy,”¹⁶ that He is our “Father,”¹⁷ and that He loves us unceasingly and unfailingly.¹⁸

I did not always have such knowledge (*epignōsis*) of these things. This is a far different understanding from what my paradigm has always allowed. As I remain on a constant, passionate pursuit of Him and His ways (*i.e.*, the truth), what more could I desire now than the knowledge of a sovereign, happy, loving Father?

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.
Pilkington Abbey
Paint, PA

Topics:

Major: Editor’s Desk; Epignosis; Father; Clyde L. Pilkington, Sr.

14. “*Seeing that out of Him and through Him and for Him is all*” (Romans 11:36), “*Who is operating all in accord with the counsel of His will*” (Ephesians 1:11).

15. “*There is one God, the Father, out of Whom all is, and we for Him, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through Whom all is, and we through Him*” (I Corinthians 8:6).

16. “*The evangel of the glory of the happy God*” (I Timothy 1:11).

17. “*One God and Father of all, Who is over all and through all and in all*” (Ephesians 4:6).

18. I Corinthians 13:8:

“*Love never fails*” (*Twentieth Century*);

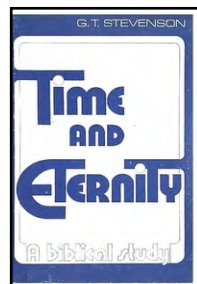
“*Love, at no time, faileth*” (*Rotherham*);

“*Love never ends*” (*Holman*);

“*Love never disappears*” (*Moffatt*);

“*Love is never lapsing*” (*Concordant*);

“*Love will never die out*” (*Goodspeed*).



Time and Eternity:

A Biblical Study

by — G.T. Stevenson

The research in this book is offered in the hope that it may contribute a little to the strengthening of faith in the readers as it has done for the writer.

74 pages, PB (*See order form.*)





In January your editor, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., turned 60. The fourteen residents of the Pilkington Abbey went out to a birthday dinner together. It was a great day for “Grandpa.”

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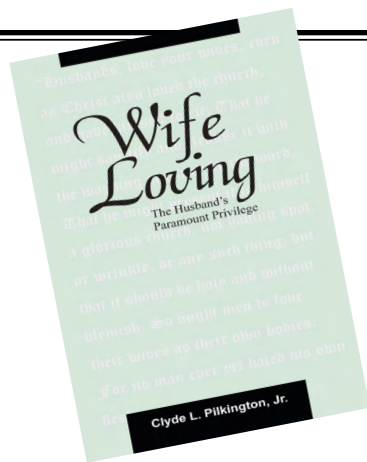
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185 pp., PB

See order form.

Wife Loving: The Husband's Paramount Privilege

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

This book is about Christ-mentored husbandry; a look at husbands’ important and honored role of loving their wives. So lofty and divine is its pursuit, Paul presents none other than Christ Himself as the mentor: “*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church.*”

“What wonderful thoughts. They are so true and practical. I love it!” – *The Netherlands*

“I have seldom read so much wisdom on marriage in relation to biblical principles.” – *Denmark*

“Powerful, powerful stuff! As a woman I am honored by it. I am deeply grateful for your boldness to honor women and to portray the marriage relationship as simply yet profoundly as God intended.” – *CA*

DAY OF THE LORD (continued from page 6531)

It is in the “Day of the Lord” that,

*The Heavens shall pass away with a great noise,
and the elements shall melt with fervent heat,
the Earth also and the works that are therein
shall be burned up (II Peter 3:10).*

This is the process by which God makes “*all things new*” and sets the stage for the next great day.

Day Four: The Day of God

Peter speaks of this great day in his second epistle. In a more exact translation this would read,

Hoping for and hurrying the actual presence [parousia] of the day of God, because of which the heavens, being on fire, will be dissolved and the elements will be decomposed with fervent heat. Yet, we, according to His promises, are hoping for a new Heavens and new Earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness (3:12-13).

Revelation 21 tells us about all that we can now know about the “Day of God.”

I saw a new Heaven and a new Earth: for the first Heaven and the first Earth were passed away (21:1).

The “Day of God” is the new Heavens and new Earth.

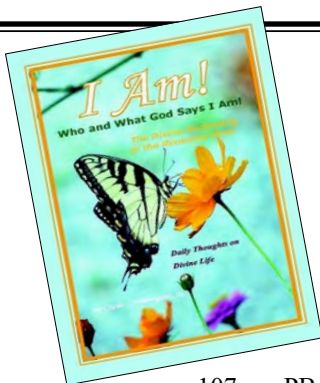
It is a whole new order which is so far removed from anything we have ever known or experienced that we have no basis for comprehending it. God has made no attempt to tell us what it will be like. **BSN**

(to be continued)

TOPICS:

Major: Elijah; Great Tribulation; Kingdom of God; Pre-Millennial Kingdom; Right Division

Minor: Man's Day; Day of God; Day of Christ; Day of the Lord; Malachi; Prophecy



107 pp, PB

See order form.

I Am! Who and What God Says I Am!

The Divine Reckoning of the Renewed Mind; Daily Thoughts on Divine Life

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

People are always talking about their attempts to discover their true selves – of trying to “find themselves.” The believer in the Lord Jesus Christ needs to find out who they *really* are. This doesn’t need to be such a difficult search. All that is really needed is a careful look at the Scriptures, and a simple faith in the words of who and what God says we are. God knows who we are; all we need to do is to *believe Him*. This book catalogs the Divine Record of who and what God says that you are. It is a short encyclopedia of faith – the truth about you. It is the truth about you, simply because it is *God* Who has said it. God has spoken these truths concerning you – the *real* you. Believe His record! Refuse to be the shell of a person, pushed into a mold of Adamic conformity. Be the real you that God has uniquely designed you to be. Refuse to be bullied out of your divinely designed identity that our Father has given you.