

The Day of Doom

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Companion Paper to the Sermon Preached March 13, 2022

“Woe to you who put far off the day of doom” (Amos 6:3)

*“Woe to you who put far off the day of doom,
Who cause the seat of violence to come near;
Who lie on beds of ivory,
Stretch out on your couches,
Eat lambs from the flock
And calves from the midst of the stall;
Who sing idly to the sound of stringed instruments,
And invent for yourselves musical instruments like David;
Who drink wine from bowls,
And anoint yourselves with the best ointments,
But are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.
Therefore they shall now go captive as the first of the captives,
And those who recline at banquets shall be removed.
The Lord GOD has sworn by Himself,
The LORD God of hosts says:
“I abhor the pride of Jacob,
And hate his palaces;
Therefore I will deliver up the city
And all that is in it.”” (Amos 6:3-8)*

Look at how quickly things have changed as of late. The Covid plague came upon us suddenly. Lives were lost. Freedoms were assaulted and lost. Those who burn, assault, vandalize, loot, steal, and kill in the name of social justice do so with impunity. Law abiding citizens must live in this world. Both in the United States and abroad, those who wish to live unmolested by tyrants must be wary of their own governments. Consider also the Russian invasion of Ukraine. *“The day of doom”* has come suddenly upon those poor civilian peoples. And meanwhile, all the while, though you may live in peace today, death marches on to your door. *“Where the word of a king is, there is power; And who may say to him, “What are you doing?” He who keeps his command will experience nothing harmful; And a wise man’s heart discerns both time and judgment, Because for every matter there is a time and judgment, Though the misery of man increases greatly. For he does not know what will happen; So who can tell him when it will occur? No one has power over the spirit to retain the spirit, And no one has power in the day of death. There is no release from that war, And wickedness will not deliver those who are given to it” (Ecclesiastes 8:4-8).* Friend, will you not hear Amos in our text, *“Woe to you who put far off the day of doom”*?

“Woe to you who put far off the day of doom” because of carnal security. A certain Christian may be thinking, ‘But I am a sinner saved by grace! What have I to do with the day of doom?’ Does it not frighten you what the end will be for the unsaved? Or are you too selfish a ‘spiritual person’ to care? Do you put far off the day, and live a spiritually profitless life? Have you taken the sobering challenge of Scripture, *“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified”* (2 Corinthians 13:5). Are you a young person, saying, ‘My whole life is ahead of me. This thought is for other people, especially the older people.’ Are you certain about that? Are you wiser than Solomon, who warns you, *“Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth”* (Proverbs 27:1)? *“Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil”* (James 4:13-16). Perhaps you are doing well. You are comfortable in your home. You have a nest egg. The Lord has blessed you. But have you forgotten your Maker and Source? It is possible that God must take further measures to gain your attention. Inflation may take all of your earthly things away, but it cannot take away your salvation. Trust in that. Consider the Lord’s judgment upon the carnal prideful man. *“All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of the twelve months he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon. The king spoke, saying, “Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?” While the word was still in the king’s mouth, a voice fell from heaven: “King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you! And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.””* (Daniel 4:28-32).

“Woe to you who put far off the day of doom” because of presumption. *““Son of man, what is this proverb that you people have about the land of Israel, which says, ‘The days are prolonged, and every vision fails’? Tell them therefore, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “I will lay this proverb to rest, and they shall no more use it as a proverb in Israel.”’ But say to them, “The days are at hand, and the fulfillment of every vision. For no more shall there be any false vision or flattering divination within the house of Israel. For I am the LORD. I speak, and the word which I speak will come to pass; it will no more be postponed; for in your days, O rebellious house, I will say the word and perform it,” says the Lord GOD.’”* Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying, *“Son of man, look, the house of Israel is saying, ‘The vision that he sees is for many days from now, and he prophesies of times far off.’ Therefore say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “None of My words will be postponed any more, but the word which I speak will be done,” says the Lord GOD.’””* (Ezekiel 12:22-28). Will the Just One fail to judge us because we live in America, when He even did so to His people Israel, because of their sin? Do you think that

because you are in a godly family or are in a church that you are automatically 'in'? Do you not know that judgment begins with the house of God? *"For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?"* (1 Peter 4:17-18). *"Yet you say, 'Why should the son not bear the guilt of the father?' Because the son has done what is lawful and right, and has kept all My statutes and observed them, he shall surely live. The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself. "But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him; because of the righteousness which he has done, he shall live. Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?" says the Lord GOD, "and not that he should turn from his ways and live?"* (Ezekiel 18:19-23).

"Woe to you put far off the day of doom" because of procrastination and laziness. *" Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, "Lord, I will follow You wherever You go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God." And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house." But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.""* (Luke 9:57-62). These would-be disciples said, 'Just a little more world', just as the drunkard says, 'Just a little more drink', and the drug addict says, 'One more fix and then I shall be clean.' They thought that there would be more time, another opportunity, another day. You are hearing the gospel today, *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16). *"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures"* (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). Friend, *"Today if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts"* (Hebrews 4:7). Do not say to the harm of your own soul as Felix said to Paul *"concerning the faith in Christ...Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you"* (Acts 24:24-25).

"Woe to you who put far off the day of doom" of your family, friends, and co-workers. I speak to you, Christian, having first spoken to myself. Are too often a Christian who comes to *"Jesus by night"*, under cover of darkness, when no one can see you? (John 3:2). *"Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in*

this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.'" (John 4:35-38). Only four months! The time is short. Did your Savior, given only three or four years of time, take leave of the Father and men's souls to seek the world and check His social media accounts? Do you live as though the 'Day of the Lord', the Second Coming of Christ, is "*far off*"? "*The great day of the LORD is near; it is near and hastens quickly*" (Zephaniah 1:14).

Christian friend, get busy today working for the Lord, however you can!
Unbeliever, I make a final plea to you. Make your peace with God through Jesus Christ today!