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In Trust With The Gospel

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Sun, Moon and Stars

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain: Ecc 12:1-2

When times are good, when we are walking in gospel obedience, and God is adding His manifold blessing in our lives we are told remember our creator. These times in the life of God's people are expressed as cloudless days of sunshine as the stars twinkle and shine brilliantly in the heavens. God also sends the refreshing rains that nourish the tender plants and give increase in the land. Again, this expression; While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain; Speaks of good times of our youth, light and life, and abundance of God's blessings towards His obedient people. There are the times when the evil days come not!

Keep this in mind as you read the scripture. Why? Because there were times in the life of the children of Israel that God was not blessing them. There were times when God was not giving them light nor sending the refreshing rains. He was not smiling on them. All on account of their sin and disobedience. Evil came upon the people.

Regarding God's displeasure with the children of Israel leading up to the Babylonian captivity he says this;

Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. Isa 13:9-10

If you read this out of context you might think this is talking about the end of time. Thinking this is speaking of a literal darkening of the constellations, or the stars falling from heaven. It is not. It is figurative language expressing God's displeasure and cutting off of His people on account of their disobedience. Days of evil.

This same is true regarding the language in Joel 2:10

The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:

And in Matthew 24:29

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

These last two expressions prophesy of God's wrath (days of vengeance) and cutting off of His people, the children of Israel. This event saw its fulfillment in A.D. 70 when Herod's temple was destroyed by the Romans armies of Titus.

If you take these expressions literally, you will create some huge inconsistencies in your understanding of God's word. Remember the language is figurative, not literal.