

## The Day of the Lord (Yom YHWH)

We think of it as the final day – the day of God’s wrath.

Sometimes it is referring to events that have already occurred historically. But, the concept of the Day of the Lord may include the increase of such events until the final unfolding of God’s direct invention into human history eschatologically. The Old Testament passages referring to the day of the Lord often speak of both a near and a far fulfillment, as does much of Old Testament prophecy.

Amos warned “prepare to meet your God” (4:12-13)

Amos 5:16-20

That may be a reference to the impending deportation to Assyria.

The phrase “the day of the Lord” is used 19 times in the Old Testament and 5 times in the New Testament. In the New Testament we also have the phrase “the day of Christ” which appears 3 times.

It is not a reference to a particular day (like Tuesday) and does not refer to a 24-hour events. Some theologians even say that the day of the Lord covers the time from the beginning of the seventieth week until the end of the Millennium and the inception of the eternal age to come.

Some Old Testament references to the Day of the Lord are fulfilled already – for instance:

Isaiah 13:6-22 – refers directly to the fall of Babylon, yet is couched in language that stretches all the way to the signs Jesus will refer to concerning His own coming in judgment.

Ezekiel 30:1-19 – refers to God’s punishment on Egypt via Nebuchadnezzar.

*Barnes notes on the bible* writes, “That time .. is said to be God's Day, in which He doth any new, rare, or special thing, such as is the Day of Judgment or vengeance.” All judgment in time is an image of the Judgment for eternity. “The Day of the Lord” is, then, each “day of vengeance in which God doth to man according to His will and just judgment, inflicting the punishment which he deserves, as man did to Him in his day, manifoldly dishonoring Him, according to his own perverse will.” That Day is said to be “at hand;” meaning it will come suddenly.

In Joel 3, God’s judgment against Tyre and Sidon becomes a figure of His final judgment of all nations that have oppressed Israel.

The Day of the Lord and the Time of the Great Tribulation are synonymous, or they at least overlap because they are described the same way. It's impossible to separate the two as if they are distinct events.

Read Zephaniah 1:14-18. Notice the names that parallel to the day of the Lord.

The Scriptures indicate that "the day of the Lord" will come quickly, like a thief in the night – 1 Thess. 5:2 (Notice that Paul uses the language of Jeremiah's "time of Jacob's trouble" to describe the Day of the Lord)

Jeremiah 30:1-8 --

*1The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, 2"Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Write all the words which I have spoken to you in a book. 3'For behold, days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will restore the fortunes of My people Israel and Judah.' The LORD says, 'I will also bring them back to the land that I gave to their forefathers and they shall possess it.'"*

*4Now these are the words which the LORD spoke concerning Israel and concerning Judah:*

*5"For thus says the LORD,  
I have heard a sound of terror,  
Of dread, and there is no peace.*

*6'Ask now, and see  
If a male can give birth.  
Why do I see every man  
With his hands on his loins, as a woman in childbirth?  
And why have all faces turned pale?*

*7'Alas! for that day is great,  
There is none like it;  
And it is the time of Jacob's distress,  
But he will be saved from it.*

*8'It shall come about on that day,' declares the LORD of hosts, 'that I will break his yoke from off their neck and will tear off their bonds; and strangers will no longer make them their slaves.9'But they shall serve the LORD their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.*

Notice that Jesus does not use the term "Day of the Lord" in Matthew 24, yet He described the time of trouble and the sign of His return using similar language to that utilized by the OT prophets when describing the Day of the Lord.

Take a look at what the Old Testament says will characterize the day of the Lord:

1. A day of Reckoning - Isa. 2:12

2. A day of Judgment - Isa. 2:13-17

3. A day Cruel, with Fury and Burning Anger - Isa. 13:9
4. A day of Destruction from the Almighty - Isa. 13:6; Joel 1:15
5. A day of Panic, Subjugation, and Confusion - Isa. 22:5
6. A day of Vengeance - Jer. 46:10
7. A day that Belongs to the Lord God of Hosts - Jer. 46:10
8. A day of Tumult - Eze. 7:7
9. A day of Doom - Eze. 7:10; 30:3
10. A day of Battle - Eze. 13:5; Zech. 14:3
11. A day of Clouds - Eze. 30:3
12. A day of Judgment for Egypt - Exe. 30:19
13. A day of Gloom and Darkness - Joel 2:2; Amos 5:18, 20; 8:9
14. A day that is Great and Awesome - Joel 2:11; 3:1
15. A day when the Sun and Moon grow dark - Joel 3:15
16. A day when Justice is Dealt Out - Obadiah 15
17. A day of Punishment - Zeph. 1:8
18. A day of the Lord's Anger - Zeph. 2:23
19. A day that is Unique - Zech. 14:7a

Looking at all the passages that deal with the day of the Lord in the Old Testament, it is clear that this is the time that God's Wrath will be poured out upon an unbelieving world sometime in the future.

2Peter 3:10 includes the final conflagration that destroys the earth.

Joel 2:28-32 is cited by Peter on the day of Pentecost and includes signs in the Heavens that Jesus says are the signs of His return.

Read Malachi 4 (future fulfillment).

The Day of the Lord is the Day of God's wrath.

Jeremiah 30:23-24 -- *Behold the storm of the Lord! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked. The fierce anger of the Lord will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intentions of his mind. In the latter days you will understand this. (ESV)*

But His wrath is often expressed and executed through human means – God uses human agency to punish Israel and it's called the wrath of God.

Re: 1Samuel 15:1-9

1Samuel 28:16-18

2Kings 23:26-7 (How was it done? By the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities – human agency.)

2Chron 12:2-7 (It's not the "wrath of shishak")

2Chron 36:15-17 (Nebuchadnezzar executes the wrath of God)

the parallel is: Ezra 5:12

Lamentations 2:1-3

Ezekiel 21:31-32

So, no surprise that part of God's "day of Lord" / great tribulation is bringing a final world ruler onto the scene, whom He will use to punish Israel.

So, the Day of the Lord, the Great Tribulation, and the wrath of God are all foreshadowed and described in the Old Testament and all culminate in God's final day of tribulation, wrath, and "Day of the Lord."