

## Day of the Lord

This term spans both the OT in the literary prophets and NT in references to establishing God's new heaven and new earth. This term refers to a day in which the Lord will put on full display that "I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God..." (Is 45:5) and "Then you will know that I am in Israel, that I am the LORD your God, and there is no other..." (Joel 2:27)

In short, it is both a "great and dreadful day" (Joel 2:31) for those who have not acknowledged God as their one true God and a day of rest/peace (sabbath) for those who have believed (Heb 4:3) with the hope that "...I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness" (Jeremiah 31:3).

To be sure "the Day of Yahweh" is for His name's sake (Isa. 43:25; Ezek. 36:22). In His grace, His chosen will reap the undeserved benefit of His eternal fellowship,

### OT References to the "Day of the LORD"

The "Day of the LORD" can be encapsulated as a day in which God's authority is in full force over His creation.

The "Day of the LORD" refers to a day in which the LORD (Yahweh) will purge the land of idolatry and foreign religion practices. The purging does not exclude those of Israel that persist in polytheism and injustice. Through this purge and God's grace, Israel's kingdom will be restored, with one from the Davidic dynasty. From the perspective of Israel, this is a day of both dread (those who are disobedient) and restoration (those faithful to God's covenant).

"Day of the LORD" references in the prophetic books carry a warning of dread due to God's coming judgment. The warnings are two-fold applying to both Israel and foreign nations.

1. Israel: Punishment due to their idolatry (specifically, worshiping multiple gods) and injustice inflicted on their own poor and vulnerable people. All of which are direct violations of the covenant that God (Yahweh) established with them.
2. Foreign nations: Punishment for their pride, arrogance, idolatry, and irreverence.

Interestingly, as only an all-wise and eternally powerful God can orchestrate, the "Day of the LORD" also sets forth His "unwavering love" for Israel (Is. 54:7-8, Jer. 31:3, 20). Despite Israel's rejection, the "Day of the LORD" includes His promise of restoration to their God-gifted land and His presence among them. God does return His remnant (Is. 10:21) after 70 years, yet they are dispersed again under the Roman empire (70 AD); due to disobedience.

### NT References to the "Day of the Lord"

While mentioned only a few times in the NT and all after the resurrection, the word "LORD" (Yahweh) is shifted over to "Christ". Additionally, all references are associated with Christ's return; His second coming. As such, the meaning is completely consistent with the OT usage; specifically, punishment for the unfaithful and the gathering of God's chosen into their gifted land. The great news is that God's sovereign plan and "unwavering love" has expanded His chosen people to include more than just the descendants of Abraham!

## **Source Material**

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