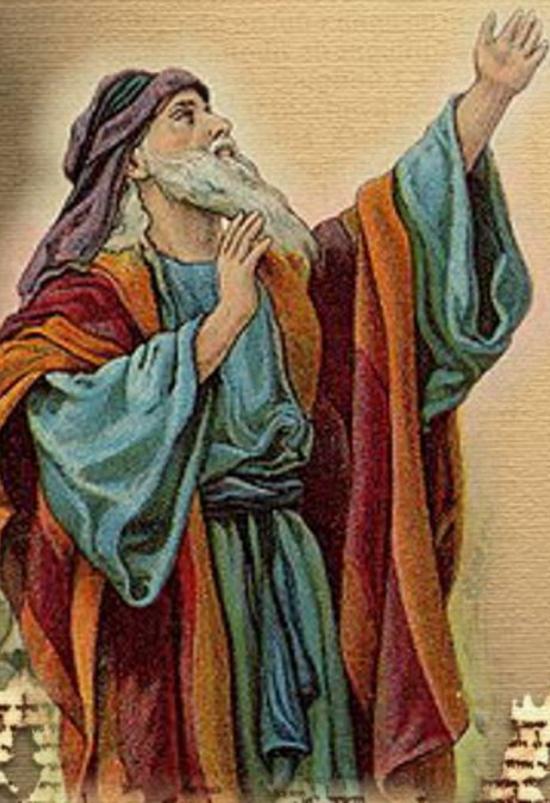


# THE “DAY OF THE LORD”



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BI 305  
HEBREW  
PROPHETS

OR,  
“THE DAY OF YAHWEH”



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# **ORIGIN**

**Recent studies on the Day of Yahweh have focused on the origin of the concept in the Prophets. There are 4 major suggestions:**

- 1. Holy War Tradition**
- 2. An enthronement festival for Yahweh**
- 3. The execution of the covenant curses**
- 4. The motif of theophany descriptions.**

**It seems most probable that the concept of the Day of Yahweh originated with the conquest of Canaan – a conquest which was in fact Yahweh’s war (Deut. 1:30, 3:22, Josh 5:13-15, 6:2, cf. Exod. 14:14, 15:3).**



# *THE NATURE OF THE DAY*

- Most of the specific references to “the Day of Yahweh” in the Prophets speak of future historical or eschatological events,
- But 5 texts describe and interpret the Day of Yahweh in terms of past historical events (Lam. 1-2, Ezek. 13:1-9, Jer. 46:2-12 Isa. 22:1-14). These texts portray circumstances of military tragedy, defeat, and judgment.



# *THE NATURE OF THE DAY (CONT)*

- These events (the five) may have provided the basis for the prophetic concept of a future historical or even eschatological “day” or period of divine judgment on the disobedient of Israel and the nations (Isa. 13:6-9, Joel 1:15, Zeph 1:14-18).

Often there is a blending of the historical and eschatological as an historical judgment serves as a type or precursor of a greater, future day of judgment.



## *THE NATURE OF THE DAY (CONT)*

- The Day of Yahweh is not just a day of wrath and judgment on the disobedient. In eschatological contexts it is also seen to include deliverance and restoration for the righteous.

The Day of Yahweh is a day of future hope, prosperity and blessing ( Isa 4:2-6, Hosea 2:18-23, Joel 3:18-21, Amos 9:11-15, Micah 4:6-8).



## *THE NATURE OF THE DAY (CONT)*

- The eschatological Day of the Lord may be defined as that period of time during which God will deal with Israel and the nations through judgment and deliverance. While the 2<sup>nd</sup> advent is to be preceded by signs (Matt 24:29-30), the day of the Lord is said to come unexpectedly (1 Thes 5:2).



**Isa. 13:6, 9**  
Using an image of battle, "the day of the LORD" refers to the judgment of Babylon and promises terror and wrath (see 2:12; 34:8)

**Mal. 4:5**  
"The day of the LORD" refers to the coming of the Lord himself, the "messenger of the covenant" (3:17), who brings justice, purifies worship, and claims those who are his

**Jer. 46:10**  
Using an image of a devouring sword, "the day of the Lord God of hosts" refers to the judgment of Egypt and promises the Lord's vengeance

**Ezek. 13:5; 30:3**  
False prophets have not prepared Israel for "the day of the LORD" (13:5), which later is portrayed as a "day of clouds" and a "time of doom" for the nations (30:3)

**Zeph. 1:7, 14 (2x)**  
Using the image of "sacrifice," "the day of the LORD" refers to judgment coming upon Judah and the nations, or to refuge in the Lord for all who humble themselves

## The Day of the Lord

**Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14**  
With broad usage, "the day of the LORD" brings a locust invasion, judgment of Israel and the nations, or final vindication of God and his people

**Obad. 15**  
Using the image of "drinking continually" (v. 16), "the day of the LORD" refers to coming judgment upon Edom and the nations but salvation for God's people

**Amos 5:18 (2x), 20**  
Using several metaphors, "the day of the LORD" refers to the darkness of judgment—by the hand of the Assyrians—upon the northern kingdom (Israel)



# *THE DAY OF THE LORD – OT USAGE*

- Is 13:6** Wail, for the day of the LORD is near; as destruction from the Almighty it will come!
- Is 13:9** Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it.
- Is 58:13** “If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly;
- Je 46:10** That day is the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance, to avenge himself on his foes. The sword shall devour and be sated and drink its fill of their blood. For the Lord GOD of hosts holds a sacrifice in the north country by the river Euphrates.
- Eze 13:5** You have not gone up into the breaches, or built up a wall for the house of Israel, that it might stand in battle in the day of the LORD.
- Eze 30:3** For the day is near, the day of the LORD is near; it will be a day of clouds, a time of doom for the nations.
- Joe 1:15** Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is near, and as destruction from the Almighty it comes.
- Joe 2:1** Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near,
- Joe 2:11** The LORD utters his voice before his army, for his camp is exceedingly great; he who executes his word is powerful. For the day of the LORD is great and very awesome; who can endure it?
- Joe 2:31** The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.
- Joe 3:14** Multitudes, multitudes, in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.



# ***THE DAY OF THE LORD – OT USAGE***

*Continued*

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- Am 5:18** Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why would you have the day of the LORD? It is darkness, and not light,
- Am 5:20** Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?
- Ob 15** For the day of the LORD is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head.
- Zep 1:7** Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests.
- Zep 1:14** The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there.
- Mal 4:5** “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.



# *THE DAY OF THE LORD – NT USAGE*

- Ac 2:20** the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.
- 1 Co 5:5** you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.
- 1 Th 5:2** For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.
- 2 Th 2:2** not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.
- 2 Pe 3:10** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

