

## The Day Of the Lord

### I. What is the Day of the Lord?

- A. “The day of the Lord refers to a decisive action of Yahweh to bring his plans for Israel to completion. This action may be an act of punishment or of salvation for Israel, but in either case it carries forward the purposes of God. The day of the Lord is thus the thematic link that binds together events as disparate as a locust plague, a foreign invasion, the gift of the Spirit empowering people of all social classes to prophesy, and the last judgment.”<sup>1</sup>
- B. “J. Nogalski aptly summarizes the broad sweep of the Day of the Lord in Book of the Twelve with the idea that the texts that evoke the Day of the Lord reflect an indication of Yahweh’s intervention into human affairs. This intervention can be foretold or remembered (Nogalski, 196). It can also have both positive and negative effects on Israel and Judah, depending on the prophet’s particular message.”<sup>2</sup>
- C. **Several points of clarification:**
1. The presence of the Day of the Lord in the Book of Twelve may function like an introduction to a book. An introduction is connected to the book in a broader sense, it is pointing ahead to what’s coming, yet it is not the full consummation of what is to come in the book.
  2. To say that the “Day” is not a 24 hour period should not concern us as young earth creationists. We need to remember that context determines meaning. It is safe for us to conclude that this refers to a period of time in this context, rather than to a 24 hour day.

### II. When God Invades — The Day of the Lord

- A. **In the Old Testament** — the Day of the Lord is primarily concentrate in the Book of Twelve. However, there are references to it in some of the major prophets as well, though we will not cover those.
1. **Joel** - The Day is referred to five times throughout the book of Joel (1:15; 2:1; 2:11; 2:31; 3:14). Joel uses the locust plague as a harbinger for the coming of the Day. In some sense, it could be said that the locust plague is an aspect of the Day. We see that the army of the Lord is described as the Day (2:1-2). The pouring out of the Spirit is a facet of that Day (2:28-32). Furthermore, the judgment on the nations and the future blessing of Israel is tied to the consummation of the Day (3). Consequently, this Day brings blessing or judgment depending on repentance and a call upon the Lord.
  2. **Amos 5:18-20** — It is a day of judgment that should be avoided. Some Israelites may have thought it was something to look forward to, a time when Yahweh would judge the nations. However, they missed the point that it is a Day when Yahweh is going to deal with all people (Israel included).<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Duane Garrett, 306.

<sup>2</sup> J.D. Baker in Dictionary of the Old Testament Prophets, 139.

<sup>3</sup> Barker, 140.

3. **Obadiah 15** — It will result in judgment on the nations (in particular Edom in this case).
4. **Zephaniah 1:7-18** — There will be judgment on Judah. Before the Day comes there will be opportunities for repentance (2:2-3). For those who do repent, there will be hope of future restoration (3:9-20).
5. **Zechariah 12-14** — Zechariah provides a description of salvation, judgment, and blessing in the context of the Day of the Lord.
6. **Malachi 4** — Malachi explains that Elijah will be sent “before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.” **Who is this “Elijah”?** As we look in the NT it appears that John the Baptist is the fulfillment of this. However, it seems as though there is room to say that he is a partial fulfillment, while there is someone else still coming (Jesus calls John the Baptist Elijah in Matthew 11:14 and 17:11-12 [see also Luke 1:17]. However, John the Baptist denies he is Elijah in John 1:19-23). Regardless, God was going to send someone to prepare the way before the Day of the Lord should come. What does this demonstrate about the character of God?

**B. In the New Testament** — The Day of the Lord is not just an Old Testament theological theme, but it stretches across to the New Testament until its full consummation.

1. **Acts 2:17-21** — The Day of the Lord is being fulfilled.
2. **Rom 2:5, 16; 1 Cor 1:8; Phil 1:6; 1 Thess 5:1-11; 2 Thess 1:9-10; 2:2** — The Day of the Lord is coming.
3. **2 Peter 3:1-18** — The Day of the Lord is coming and we are called to live for Christ in light of it.

### III. Application

A. Secular Sam

B. In light of 2 Peter 3, how should the imminency of Christ’s return impact our lives practically this week?