

The Day of the Lord, of which the prophets of old spoke, is understood as a time of judgment on cities, nations, and the inhabitants of the world that would occur at the end. This expression (The Day of the Lord) occurs at least 20 times in the Old Testament and is also mentioned in the New Testament. The day of the Lord is depicted as being near at hand, and it is essentially characterized as a day of terror, vengeance, darkness, and gloom. The prophet Joel, speaking of that dreadful day declares, "And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?" (Joel 2:11). While the wicked will be destroyed when the day of the Lord comes, the righteous will be sheltered and saved at last! Let's study this critical subject and gain more insight on What God Says About…"The Day of the Lord."

THE DAY OF THE LORD

1. **Why will God punish the world in the day of the Lord?**

   "And I will punish the world for their _____, and the wicked for their _____; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible." *Isaiah 13:11*

2. **Who shall be destroyed out of the land when the Lord lays it desolate?**

   "Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy _____ _____ thereof out of it." *Isaiah 13:9*

   Note: *There are two types of sinners—repentant and unrepentant. God will save the repentant sinner and spare his life in the day of the Lord. However, He will destroy the unrepentant sinner due to his deliberate choice to reject God's Word and free gift of salvation. God will rid the world of sin. Anyone who chooses to cling to his sins will be destroyed. The prophet Ezekiel clearly states that the Lord has "no pleasure in the death of the wicked." (Ezekiel 33:11).*

THE PLAGUE OF LOCUSTS

Note: *In the book of Joel, the prophet speaks of a terrible locust plague that invaded the land and devoured the crops. These tiny insects swarmed through the land destroying all vegetation, stripping the foliage off all the trees, reducing them down to a stump! This natural disaster brought a real threat of famine, economic collapse and a closure of services in the temple. The prophet Joel seeing a striking similarity between the locust plague and the coming day of the Lord, calls Judah to deep grief-stricken repentance of heart and life. He also speaks of God's promise of restoration and salvation at the day of the Lord for all who truly repent and seek the Lord wholeheartedly.*

3. How does Joel 1:1-3 indicate that the prophet Joel's message didn't originate with him?

[1]"_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ that _____ _____ _____ the son of Pethuel. [2]Hear this, ye old men, and give ear, all ye inhabitants of the land. Hath this been in your days, or even in the days of your fathers? [3]Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation." *Joel 1:1-3*

4. How does Joel describe the utter devastation of the locusts?

"That which the _____ hath left hath the _____ _____; and that which the locust hath left hath the _____ _____; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the _____ _____." *Joel 1:4*

5. How are the terrible effects of the locust plague further described in Joel 1:7?

"He hath laid my vine _____, and _____ my fig tree: he hath made it _____ _____, and _____ _____ _____; the branches thereof are _____ _____." *Joel 1:7*

Note: *The first thing locusts do is attack and consume everything that is green and succulent, and then they attack the bark of trees. They eat it down to the very stump. This is a picture of extreme desolation.*

6. What further devastation is described in Joel 1:10?

"The _____ is wasted, the _____ mourneth; for the _____ is wasted: the _____ _____ is dried up, the _____ languisheth." *Joel 1:10*

7. What further devastation is described in Joel 1:12?

"The _____ is dried up, and the _____ _____ languisheth; the _____ _____, the _____ _____ also, and the _____ _____, even _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____, _____ _____: because joy is withered away from the sons of men." *Joel 1:12*

Note: *Clearly, the swarming locusts moving through the land wasted the fields, destroyed the crops, and devoured all the trees to the point where "the land mourned" (Joel 1:10). The total devastation of this natural disaster was a harbinger of the coming day of the Lord. As terrible as the locust plague was it cannot equate to what the unrepentant sinner will experience at the dreadful day of the Lord!*

SOUND AN ALARM

8. According to the prophet Joel, who shall be gathered into the house of the Lord? What shall the people do?

[14]"Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the _____ and _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ into the house of the LORD your God, and _____ _____ _____ _____. [15]Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come." *Joel 1:14, 15*

9. What shall be blown in Zion? What shall be heard in God's holy mountain?

"Blow ye _____ _____ in Zion, and _____ _____ _____ in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand." *Joel 2:1*

Note: *As the day of the Lord approaches, God instructs His people to sound an urgent alarm that will reach throughout the ends of the earth. All should be warned that the end of all things is at hand! Christians have a responsibility, both individually and collectively, to ensure that we do all within our power to alert and prepare the world for the fast approaching dreadful day of the Lord.*

10. Who else shall be gathered for the solemn assembly as the day of the Lord approaches?

[15]"Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: [16]Gather the _____, sanctify the _____, assemble the _____, gather the _____, and _____ _____ _____ _____ _____: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet." *Joel 2:15, 16*

11. What were the ministers to do during the solemn assembly? What were they to say to God on behalf of the people?

"Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____, and let them say, _____ _____ _____, O Lord, and _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?" *Joel 2:17*

12. How much of our heart does God require especially as the day of the Lord approaches? What else does He require?

"Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with _____ _____ _____, and with _____, and with _____, and with _____." *Joel 2:12*

13. What are God's people to do and also refrain from doing indicating deep heartfelt repentance and sorrow for sin?

"And _____ _____ _____, and _____ _____ _____, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil." *Joel 2:13*

Note: *When a Jew tore his garment, this was often an outward sign that he was experiencing sudden overpowering grief. The rending of his garment under such circumstances might occur publically or privately. It was possible for a Jew to express this outward sign of grief without experiencing true feelings of sorrow. Hence, Joel commands Israel to rend their hearts in deep heartfelt repentance and not their garments.*

14. According to Joel 2:18, for whom would God be jealous? What did He promise to do for His repentant people?

"Then will the LORD be jealous for _____ _____, and _____ _____ _____." *Joel 2:18*

Note: *God promised to have pity on His people. He promised that during their day of renewal He would provide physical sustenance and spiritual blessings through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:18-32). However, Israel as a nation never wholeheartedly repented or fully heeded Joel's or the other prophets' earnest appeals. Many centuries later, the Jewish nation was rejected when Stephen was stoned as the first Christian martyr in 34 A.D. Hence, God's conditional promises made to ancient Israel would now be fulfilled through spiritual Israel, the church (Galatians 3:29; Romans 2:28, 29). In Acts 2:16-21, Peter referenced the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost as a partial fulfillment of Joel's prophecy—of which a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit would occur in the last days before the second coming of Christ.*

THE DAY OF THE LORD IS NEAR

15. How does the prophet Zephaniah describe the rapid approach of the day of the Lord?

"The great day of the LORD is _____, it is _____, and _____ _____, even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly." *Zephaniah 1:14*

Note: *Students of prophecy clearly understand that the day of the Lord is very near and that it approaches rapidly. Christians should warn transgressors of God's law on how to avoid the judgments of God before He unleashes His fury and it's too late! The Lord's coming is at the door and we have a responsibility to warn the world in advance.*

16. How does the prophet Ezekiel describe the rapid approach of the day of the Lord? How does he describe this dreadful day?

"For the day is _____, even the day of the LORD is _____, a _____ _____; it shall be the time of the heathen." *Ezekiel 30:3*

17. According to the prophet Obadiah, the day of the Lord is near upon whom? In what way does he describe their punishment?

"For the day of the LORD is near upon _____ _____ _____: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: _____ _____ shall return upon thine own head." *Obadiah 1:15*

PROPHECY IS FULFILLING

18. The apostle Paul warned that the day of Christ couldn't come until what two things occurred?

[1]"Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, [2]That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. [3]Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ and _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____, the son of perdition. [4]Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. [5]Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?" *2 Thessalonians 2:1-5*

Note: *In 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, the apostle Paul writes to the church of Thessalonica warning them not to be deceived into believing that the day of Christ's return was near at hand. He explained that Christ could not return until after the great apostasy in the Christian church had occurred. In other words, according to the sure word of prophecy, the man of sin must reign and persecute the saints for the 1260 year period spoken of in Daniel 7:25. Incidentally, this occurred during the Dark Ages when the Roman papacy reigned from 538 A.D. to 1798 A.D. Therefore, Christians today should live in anticipation of the imminent return of Jesus seeing that we are living on this side of Daniel's fulfilled prophecy.*

19. Who does Malachi name in the closing words of his prophecy which characterizes the work to be done prior to Christ's First and Second Advent?

[5]"Behold, I will send you _____ _____ _____ before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: [6]And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." *Malachi 4:5, 6*

Note: *The prophet Malachi prophesied that Elijah the prophet would come before the great and dreadful day of the Lord. According to the Gospels, the work represented by John the Baptist as the forerunner of Christ's first coming fulfilled the first part of this prophecy (Luke 1:13-17; Matthew 17: 10-13). In like manner, those who prepare the way of Christ's second coming represent Elijah in the last days. Indeed, they will proclaim God's last warning message to a doomed and dying world in preparation of Christ's second coming (Revelation 14:6-12; 18:1-5).*

A THIEF IN THE NIGHT

20. According to the apostle Paul, how will the day of the Lord come upon the wicked?"

[1]"But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. [2]For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as _____ _____ _____ _____ _____." *1 Thessalonians 5:1, 2*

21. What happens when the wicked say "peace and safety?"

"For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then _____ _____ _____ _____ _____, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." *1 Thessalonians 5:3*

22. Who will not be surprised when the day of the Lord comes as a thief? How are these people described?

[4]"But _____, _____, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. [5]Ye are all the _____ _____ _____, and the _____ _____ _____ _____: we are not of the night, nor of darkness." *1 Thessalonians 5:4, 5*

THE DAY OF GOD'S WRATH

23. According to Revelation 16:13 and 14, the three unclean spirits gather kings of the earth and the whole world to which battle?

[13]"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. [14]For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that _____ _____ _____ _____ _____." *Revelation 16:13, 14*

"Apostate religious forces will lead all political powers on earth to unite in one common cause, waging war against God's people! Herein is the murderous plot of the last demonic war in the Apocalypse. Here is the cause of evil that will trigger God's dramatic involvement: The judgement of His holy war against Babylon." LaRondelle, H. *End-Time Prophecies of the Bible,* p. 385.

Note: *This brief study does not allow time to conduct a full study of Revelation's false trinity—the dragon (Paganism/modern Spiritism), the beast (the papacy), and the false prophet (Protestant America/Apostate Protestantism). Spiritualism unites this false trinity (For further study see Revelation 13; 19:20; 20:10).*

24. What solemn question will be asked by the wicked when the great day of God's wrath comes?

[14]"And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. [15]And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; [16]And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: [17]For the great day of his wrath is come; and _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____?" *Revelation 6:14-17*

25. What vivid description does the prophet Amos give regarding the trouble the wicked will face during the day of the Lord?

[18]"Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end is it for you? the day of the LORD is darkness, and not light. [19]As if a man did _____ from a _____, and a _____ _____ _____; or went into the house, and leaned his _____ on the _____, and a _____ _____ _____. [20]Shall not the day of the LORD be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?" *Amos 5:18-20*

26. Who alone will be exalted in the dreadful day of the Lord?

[10]"Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty. [11]The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and _____ _____ _____ shall be exalted in that day. [12]For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low." *Isaiah 2:10-12*

27. Where do the faithful find shelter in the day of the Lord?

"Come, my people, enter thou into _____ _____, and _____ _____ _____ about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast." *Isaiah 26:20*

28. According to the prophet Joel, who is in the valley of decision as the day of the Lord approaches?

"_____, _____ in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision." *Joel 3:14*

SUMMARY

The day of the Lord, of which the prophets of old spoke, is understood as a time of judgment on cities, nations, and the inhabitants of the world that would occur at the end. The Old Testament prophet, Joel, as well as many other Bible writers spoke of this dreadful day as being at hand or very near. The day of the Lord is described as being a cloudy, dark and vengeful day in which the wicked will receive their reward by reaping what they've sown. While unrepentant sinners will be destroyed out of the land, the righteous will be saved! The righteous are not in darkness and consequently will not be surprised by the day of the Lord as a thief surprises the wicked who are caught off guard and unprepared. Political and religious powers will unite to destroy God's people in earth's final battle. However, God will intervene, save the righteous, and destroy the wicked at the dreadful day of the Lord.

29. Dear friend, will you accept Jesus and find shelter in Him today as the day of the Lord approaches? _____

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