

## SPECIAL STUDY SEVEN

### THE DAY OF THE LORD

The day of the Lord follows this general outline:

Judgments upon covenant people  
 Redemptions of covenant people  
 Judgments upon nations  
 Redemptions of nations

The day of the Lord is any great manifestation of God's power in judgment and redemption.

Joel 1:15  
 Mal. 3:1-6  
 Is. 2:2-5  
 Amos 9:11ff.

Each day of the Lord points to THE day of the Lord; when Christ makes His final return, and, it also means the reign of God. This meant a day when God would be exalted. The prophets applied the term to days of doom and days of deliverance.

In the carrying out of the day of the Lord, God made use of what we today term natural calamities, of captivity, and of oppressions. A few of the manifestations of the day of the Lord are the destruction of Edom, the locust plague of Joel, the destruction of Jerusalem, the destruction of Babylon, and perhaps even more recent ones such as the defeat of Hitler, and other enemies of God.

The people of God in the Old Testament had a false concept of the day of the Lord. The rather complex and involved idea grew up in connection with the messianic hope of Israel and was later used in an eschatological sense. The fundamental idea seemed to be that the "day of Jehovah" was to be the time of God's manifestation as the Savior of Israel, actual of ideal. God's enemies, and enemies of his people, would be punished and His purposes for His people would be accomplished. Amos indicates that punishment will fall upon the unrepentant of Israel as well as upon Israel's enemies. The people talked glibly about the Day of Jehovah—the day when Jehovah would deal in judgment with His enemies. But they did not realize that iniquity would be punished in whomsoever it was found. And if it were found in Israel, it would be punished more severely there than in others, for other nations had not enjoyed the knowledge of Jehovah and His will as

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Israel had done. Israel had become morally and spiritually corrupt. If God's people remain impenitent, God sends His final effusion of physical wrath, Death, Death plunges the impenitent into the hands of an angry God.

Every department of the universe is used by God to carry out His judgments. For the faithful child of God who meets death during calamities, wars etc., it means deliverance, a ceasing from labor and a blessed state. For others it may only be a judgment of warning, a trumpet blast. And for still others it may be the final wrath of God on those who have had enough warnings. In each instance of God's judgment, people fall into one of these three categories. Example: Herod Agrippa, eaten of worms, served as a warning while it was his final. "The wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all unrighteousmen" (Acts 17 and Romans 1:8ff) and this wrath is revealed in nature says Paul.

The complete overthrow of all opposition and triumph of righteousness awaits only the consummation of all these Days of Jehovah at the Lord's second coming—THE GREAT DAY OF JEHOVAH. At that time, all those on the side of the Christ will enjoy a day of redemption and all those who are not on the side of Christ will suffer a day of judgment.

The following pages list the scripture passages which refer to the Day of the Lord, with explanations of the meanings of the O.T. prophets. Living under the New Dispensation we are presently in the day of Jesus Christ and do await The Great Day of the Lord.

This expression, "the day of the Lord," although frequently used in both the Old and New Testaments, is often misunderstood and limited. "The day of the Lord" or one of its equivalent phrases can refer to events or intervenings of God other than the Second Coming of Christ. The application of this phrase can refer to: the day that Jehovah would intervene to put Israel at the head of all the nations; the day of judgment for other nations or an individual nation (including Israel and Judah); the day Jehovah intervenes to punish sin. It could be said that any day of judgment or redemption is the day of the Lord, the culmination of which is in the return of our Lord Jesus.

For specific applications and examples of God's judgment and redemption, the day of the Lord in each of these references (Amos 5:18; Isaiah 2:12; Ezekiel 8:5; Joel 1:15, 2:1, 11; Zephaniah 7:14; Zechariah 14:1) refers to judgment of Israel. Just as Israel and Judah are judged so are the nations—Babylon, (Isaiah 13:6, 9); Egypt, (Jeremiah 46:10); Edom, (Obadiah 15); many nations, (Joel 2:31, 3:14, and Obadiah 15). The day of the Lord is usually an occasion

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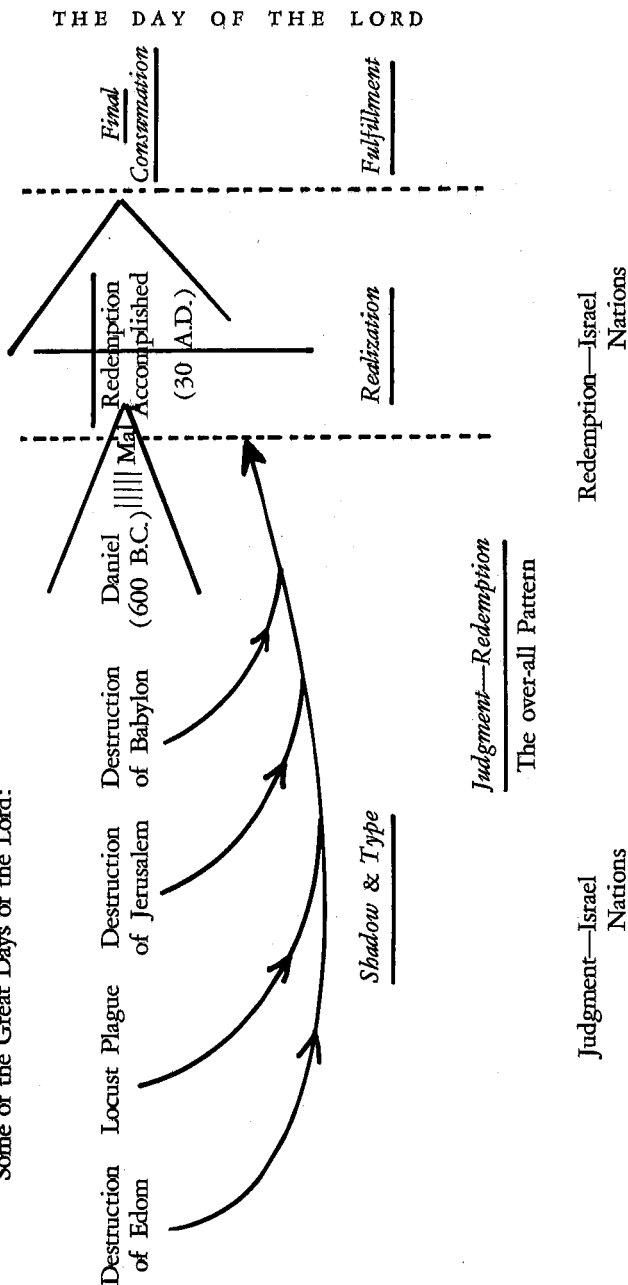
when God intervenes and uses an event to punish. The punishment may come by means of an invasion, (cf. Amos 5, 6; Isaiah 13; Ezekiel 8:5); or through a natural disaster such as the locust plague, Joel 1, 2. These days which the Lord has used have significance not only for the time in which they were written but also part of the Judgment and Redemption cycle of the Old Testament which points to fulfillment in the Coming of Christ as Messiah and His Return.

As the Old Testament is a type and a dark shadow of the brilliant reality set forth in the New, the contrast is seen too in the Old and New Testament perspectives of the "Day of the Lord." The darkness of the presentation of the day of wrath, or day of punishment in the Old Testament is foreboding. While the New Testament, for the most part, presents the Day of the Lord as a great day of joy, hope and victory through Jesus Christ. The Lord still does point out the Day of judgment, His Second Coming,—II Peter 3:7, 12; Matthew 7:22; I Thessalonians 5; 2ff.—as a day of wrath and judgment which will come as a thief in the night. To the unbeliever it is a day of terror, but to the believer it is a day of joy and victory. The entire conception of the day centers around Christ and points to the eternal establishment of the Kingdom of Heaven.

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As Seen Throughout History

Day of the Lord—Any day of judgment or redemption used by the Lord, through any means.  
 Some of the Great Days of the Lord:



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The following reference list of "the day of the Lord" or an equivalent phrase is mainly categorized into the four main divisions: judgment on Israel, redemption of Israel, judgment on the nations, and redemption of the nations. Specific application and Messianic Prophecies are also mentioned.

ISAIAH 2:11, 12, 17, 20	Judgment of Israel, with Messianic hope
3:18, 4:1	Judgment of Israel—Jewish Women's degradation
7:18	Judgment of Israel by Assyria and Egypt
7:20, 23	Judgment of Israel by King of Assyria, "God's Razor"
9:4	Day of Midian, past judgment on Midian
9:14	Judgment of Israel
10:3	Judgment of Israel
10:20, 27	Redemption of the remnant of Israel
11:10	Redemption of <i>all</i> nations, Messianic Prophecy
11:11, 16	Redemption of Israel, Messianic Prophecy
12:1	Redemption of Israel, Messianic Prophecy
12:4	Redemption of <i>all</i> nations
13:6, 9, 13	Judgment of Babylon
17:4, 7, 9, 11	Judgment of nations
19:16, 18, 19	Judgment of nations
19:21, 23, 24	Redemption of nations
23:15	Judgment of Tyre by the Chaldeans
29:18	Redemption, Messianic Prophecy
34:8	Judgment of nations, Redemption of Israel
39:6	Judgment of Israel
52:6	Redemption of Israel, Messianic Prophecy (?)
60:11, 19	Messianic Prophecy (?)
61:2	Redemption, Messianic Prophecy
63:4	Judgment
JEREMIAH 4:9	Judgment of Israel
7:22, 25	Redemption from Egypt
11:4, 5, 7	Redemption from Egypt
12:3	Judgment of Israel
16:19	Judgment, Individual's Refuge in the Lord
17:16	Judgment, Individual's Refuge in the Lord
18:17	Judgment of Israel
25:33	Judgment of All Nations
30:7, 8	Redemption of Israel, Messianic Prophecy
31:6	Redemption of Israel, Messianic Prophecy
31:31	Redemption, Messianic Prophecy

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	39:16	Judgment of Ethiopia, Egypt
	44:2, 22, 23	Judgment of Israel
	46:10, 21	Judgment of Egypt
	47:4	Judgment of Philistines
	48:41	Judgment of Moab
	49:22	Judgment of Edom
	49:26	Judgment of Damascus
	50:27, 30	Judgment on Babylon
	51:2	Judgment of Babylon
LAMENTATIONS	1:12	Judgment (?)
	1:21	Judgment on enemies—nations and Israel
	2:1	Judgment of Israel
	2:21, 22	Judgment of all
DANIEL	None?	
HOSEA	2:16	Redemption
	5:9	Judgment of Ephraim, Israel
JOEL	1:15	Judgment of Israel, as well as nations
	2:1, 2, 11	Judgment—Locust Plague
	2:31	Remnant saved in Day of Judgment
	3:14	Judgment of Nations
	3:18	Redemption, Messiani? or Heaven?
AMOS	1:14	Judgment on Ammonites
	2:16	Judgment of Israel—Nazarites
	3:14	Judgment of Israel
	5:18, 20	Judgment
	8:3, 9, 10, 13	Judgment of Israel
	9:11	Redemption of Remnant—Messianic Prophecy
OBADIAH	8, 11, 12, 13, 14	Judgment of Edom
	15	Judgment of all nations
JONAH	None?	
MICAH	4:6	Redemption
	5:10	Judgment
	7:11	Redemption—to include Gentiles, Messianic
NAHUM	1; 7	Redemption of His
HABAKKUK	3:16	Judgment of the nations
ZEPHANIAH	1:7, 8, 9	Judgment on all
	1:10	Judgment of Israel
	1:14, 15, 16, 18	Judgment
	2:2, 3, 4	Judgment of the Nations
	3:8, 11	Judgment of the Nations
	3:11, 16	Redemption of the Remnant, Messianic (?)

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HAGGAI None?

ZECHARIAH	2:11	Redemption, Messianic—All Nations
	9:16	Redemption of Israel
	12:3, 4, 6, 8, 9	Judgment of the nations
	13:1	Redemption, Messianic Prophecy
	13:2, 4	Judgment
	14:1, 3, 4	Judgment of all Nations, including Israel
	14:6, 8, 9	Redemption, Messianic Prophecy
MALACHI	3:2	Messianic Prophecy
	4:1, 3, 4	Judgment