

I. The Original Day of the Lord: a beginning & an end

² And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. (*Genesis 2:2-3*)

⁸ Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (*Exodus 20:8-11*)

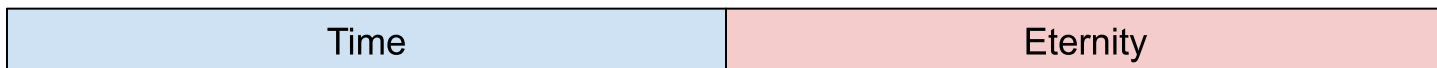
II. The Day of the Lord in the OT Prophets

a. Terminology:

1. “The Day of the Lord” (15x)
2. “The Day belonging to the Lord” (4x)
3. “The Day of the wrath of the Lord” (3x)
4. “In those Days”/ “On that Day” (121x)
5. “A Day is coming” / “days are coming”
6. “The latter days” (9x)

b. A Clean Break

The Day of the Lord



c. The Day of the Lord is...

1. Near

“The great Day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast” (*Zephaniah 1:14a*)

“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.” (*Joel 2:1*)

2. Terrifying

a) A Day of War (*Zechariah 1:14-16, Joel 2:1-3*)

b) A Day of Judgment

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, ¹⁹ as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. ²⁰ Is not the Day of the Lord darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?” (*Amos 5:18-19*)

c) A Day of Death (*Isa 66:24*)

“And they shall go out and look on the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against me. For their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh.” (*Isaiah 66:24*)

3. Wonderful

a) A Day of Restoration & Abundance

¹¹ “In that day I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen and repair its breaches, and raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old, ¹² that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations who are called by my name,” declares the Lord who does this. ¹³ “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when the plowman shall overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows the seed; the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it.” says the Lord your God. (*Amos 9:11-15*)

b) A Day of Peace & Union with God

¹⁸ “I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and I will make you lie down in safety. ¹⁹ And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. ²⁰ I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the Lord... ²³ and I will sow her for myself in the land. And I will have mercy on No Mercy, and I will say to Not My People, ‘You are my people’; and he shall say, ‘You are my God.’” (*Hosea 2:18b-20,23*)

c) A Day of Fulfillment

¹⁴ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem

will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’ (*Jeremiah 33:14-16*)

d) A Day when Death is Destroyed

⁸ “He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. ⁹ It will be said on that day, ‘Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.’” (*Isaiah 25:8-9*)

e) A Day of the New Covenant

³¹ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” (*Jeremiah 31:31-34*)

4. A Contradiction?

² It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, ³ and many peoples shall come, and say: ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.’

¹⁰ Enter into the rock and hide in the dust from before the terror of the Lord, and from the splendor of his majesty. ¹¹ The haughty looks of man shall be brought low, and the lofty pride of men shall be humbled, and the Lord alone will be exalted in that day. ¹² For the Lord of hosts has a day against all that is proud and lofty, against all that is lifted up—and it shall be brought low... ¹⁷ And the haughtiness of man shall be humbled, and the lofty pride of men shall be brought low, and the Lord alone will be exalted in that day. ¹⁸ And the idols shall utterly pass away. ¹⁹ And people shall enter the caves of the rocks and the holes of the ground, from before the terror of the Lord, and from the splendor of his majesty, when he rises to terrify the earth.” (*Isaiah 2:2-4, 10-12, 17-19*; cf. *Hosea 2, Joel 2*)

“For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God.” (*1 Thessalonians 4:16*)

2. Christ’s return will be *sudden*

“The day of the Lord will come like a thief.” (*2 Peter 3:10*; cf. *Matt. 24:42*; *Jas. 5:8*; *Rev. 1:3, 22:7, 12, 20*)

3. Christ’s return *separates*

³¹ When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world...’ ⁴¹ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels...’ ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” (*Matthew 25:31-34, 41, 46*; cf. *Revelation 20:11-15*)

¹⁷ The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, “It is done!” ¹⁸ And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake. ¹⁹ The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath. (*Revelation 16:17-19*)

● *Scenes from the Crucifixion:*

- “When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, ‘It is finished,’ and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.” (*John 19:30*)
- “And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.” (*Matthew 27:51*)
- “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me.” (*Luke 22:42*)

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” ⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” (*Revelation 21:3-5*)

IV. Application: The Lord's Day in the Present Tense

a. Be Patient

⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness. (2 Peter 3:8-9a)

b. Stay Faithful

¹ But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ² For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

c. Don't Listen to the Crazyies

¹ Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, 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 Thessalonians 2:1-2)

d. Long for the Day of the Lord

“He who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (Revelation 22:20)

e. Prioritize the Lord's Day (go to church)

“I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet.” (Revelation 1:10)

²⁴ Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Book Recommendations

- *The Bible & the Future*, Anthony Hoekema
- *Making All Things New: Inaugurated Eschatology for the Life of the Church*, Glaad & Harmon
- *Reading the Prophets as Christian Scripture*, Eric Tully