

THE DAY OF THE LORD AND THE DAY OF CHRIST: AN IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE

The exact phrase “the day of the LORD” appears twenty-four times in the Old Testament and three times in the New Testament.

Old Testament

Isaiah 2:12, 13:6, 13:9, 34:8

Jeremiah 46:10

Lamentations 2:22

Ezekiel 13:5, 30:3

Joel 1:15, 2:1, 2:11, 2:31, 3:14

Amos 5:18, 5:20

Obadiah 1:15

Zephaniah 1:7, 1:8, 1:14, 1:18, 2:2, 2:3

Zechariah 14:1

Malachi 4:5

New Testament

Acts 2:20 (quoting Joel 2:28-32)

I Thessalonians 5:2

II Peter 3:10

The exact phrase “the day of Christ” appears three times only in the New Testament. There are other references to the same event found elsewhere in other Scriptures in the New Testament. Notice how the “day of Christ” is found only in Paul’s epistles.

New Testament

Philippians 1:10, 2:16

II Thessalonians 2:2

I Corinthians 1:8

Philippians 1:6

I Corinthians 5:5

II Corinthians 1:14

{I Corinthians 15:49-58}

{I Thessalonians 4:13-18}

There are more references to “the day of the LORD” in the OT just not phrased exactly in this way (i.e. Isaiah 61:1-3). Nevertheless, we will look at all these passages and analyze them in order to come up with a clear representation of what “the day of the LORD” is and what it consists of. Afterwards we will compare that with texts addressing “the day of Christ” and other passages such as I Thessalonians 4 and I Corinthians 15. In light of this comparison and analysis, and obeying the mandate of God Almighty to “rightly divide the word of truth” we can only conclude that “the day of the LORD” and “the day of Christ” are different in almost all aspects: when they occur and what occurs.

Overview

The day of the LORD refers to the day of God's wrath and judgment upon this world. The day of the LORD occurs at the end of the tribulation (see Revelation 6:12-17; 11:15-19) when the Word of God comes with the saints, who are clothed in fine linen, clean and white (Revelation 19:7-16). It is the Second Coming of Christ and he comes back to Jerusalem, his feet land upon the mount of Olives and he fights against all the nations that come against Jerusalem. The slain of the LORD is many and his garments are stained with blood. The saints fight alongside the Lord. He judges the nations in the valley of Jehoshaphat and those that have treated the Jew well during the tribulation, will enter into the kingdom, those that have mistreated the Jew during the tribulation will be cast into everlasting fire. The day of the LORD spans not just one literal day, but also the entire millennial reign of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The day of Christ has nothing at all to do with wrath or judgment upon this earth. Rather it is the day when the church meets her Lord and Savior in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. It is when those dead and alive in Christ shall get their new bodies. We shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. The corruptible shall put on incorruption, and the mortal immortality. Praise the LORD. We don't know exactly when the day of Christ will occur, HOWEVER, there are some prerequisites in order for this to occur according to the Book which we will look at. The judgment seat of Christ most likely occurs here as well.

The Day of the LORD

The Book of Isaiah

13:6-22

13:6 - a destruction from the Almighty

13:9 - cruel with wrath and fierce anger, lay land desolate, destroy sinners

13:10 – stars and constellations shall not give light, sun darkened, moon not cause her light to shine (Matthew 24:29)

13:11 – punish the world for their evil and the wicked

13:12 – will make man more precious than fine gold

13:13 – heavens and earth shake, earth removed out of her place

13:19 – Babylon shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah

14 - Is this what occurs after the day of the LORD?

14:1-2, 7, 12-23 (Lucifer) compare with Revelation 20

34:1-8

34:2 – indignation of the LORD upon all nations

34:4 – all the host of heaven shall be dissolved (II Peter 3:10-13), heavens rolled up together as a scroll (Revelation 6:14), all their host shall fall down as a falling fig from a fig tree (Revelation 6:13)

34:8 This is the day of the LORD's vengeance

The Book of Jeremiah

Jeremiah 46:1-10

This is the day of the LORD God of hosts

The Book of Joel

1:15 – a destruction from the Almighty

2:1-32

2:1-2 - a day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness

2:3-11 (Zechariah 14:5, Revelation 19:11-16) The saints shall fight!

2:8 – They cannot be killed

2:11 – The LORD utters his voice before his army, The LORD is our commander

2:28-32 This occurs before the day of the LORD

3:1-21

3:2 – gather them into the valley of Jehoshaphat, (east of Jerusalem) he shall plead for his people Israel and his land

3:9-17 The LORD taunts the Gentiles to prepare for war, he will judge the nations in the valley of Jehoshaphat.

The Book of Amos

*5:18 -20 Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD, it is a day of darkness not light

The Book of Zephaniah

1:14-18 a day of wrath and distress, a day of gloominess, the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy

The Book of Zechariah

14:1-21

14:2 – he gathers all nations to battle against Jerusalem, half of Jerusalem goes into captivity,

14:3 – then the LORD shall go forth and fight against those nations

14:4 – his feet stand upon the Mount of Olives (Acts 1:9-12)

14:5 – The LORD comes with all his saints

14:6-7 This day is known only unto the LORD (Matthew 24:36) and it takes place during the evening, but it shall be light

14:16 – all that are left worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and keep the feast of tabernacles

14:21 – sacrifices made again unto the LORD

The Book of Malachi

4:5 – Elijah to come before the great and dreadful day of the LORD (Matthew 17:11-13, Luke 1:17, John 1:21-25, Revelation 11:3-6)

The Day of Christ

I Corinthians 1:4-8

- Paul is praying for the Corinthian saints

- confirmed “unto the end,” that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ

I Corinthians 5:1-5

- is about fornication among the brethren at Corinth
- that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus

II Corinthians 1:13-14

- ye also are ours in the day of the Lord Jesus

Philippians 1:3-6

- Paul praying for the Philippian saints
- God which began a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ

Philippians 1:10-11

- Paul’s praying that their love may abound more and more in knowledge and in all judgement
- approve things that are excellent
- to be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ

Philippians 2:12-16

- Exhortation on working out your own salvation with fear and trembling
- It is God which works in you to will and do of his good pleasure
- Do all things without murmurings or disputings
- that ye may be blameless sons of God holding forth the word of life
- that I may rejoice in the day of Christ (Amos 5:18-20)

II Thessalonians 2:1-4

- the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him
- don’t be shaken in mind by spirit, word, or letter from Paul
- as that day of Christ is at hand
- Shall not come until falling away (Greek: apostasia, apostacy) first, and the man of sin be revealed

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

- “coming of the Lord”
- The Lord descends from heaven with a shout
- the dead in Christ rise first, then those that are alive
- shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, meeting the Lord in the air: so shall we ever be with the Lord
- comfort one another with these words

I Thessalonians 5:1-10

- day of the Lord cometh as a thief in the night
- destruction comes upon the world
- “But ye brethren”
- are not in darkness that that day should overtake you
- Ye are children of the light and of the day: we are not of light nor of darkness

- God hath not appointed us unto wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ

I Corinthians 15:49-58

- we will bear the image of the heavenly

- we shall all be changed (Job 14:12-14; Psalm 17:15) in a moment at the last trump (I Thessalonians 4:16), the trumpet sounds (Revelation 4:1-2)

Look at Numbers 10:1-7

- the dead shall be raised incorruptible

- immortality and incorruption