

FIVE BASICS ON THE DAY OF THE LORD

The *Day of the Lord* is the major emphasis of O.T. prophecies yet to be fulfilled. A general definition:

1. *The Day of the Lord* is a title used in both the Old and New Testaments for a future period of time when God in the person of Jesus Christ will intervene uniquely in earth history, preparing, establishing and perpetuating the kingdom of God on earth.
2. The number of references along with their historical settings illustrate the importance of the Day of the Lord.
 - There are ____ references to it in the Old Testament writing prophets (____ specific, 25 to “that day,” “that great day,” etc.) Thus the Day of the Lord is a major O.T. doctrine with specific references in the prophets as follows: Isa. (3), Ezek. (2), Joel (5), Amos (3), Obad. (1), Zeph. (3), Zech. (1), Mal. (1). The *Book of Joel* emphasizes the Day of the Lord: It is the theme of every chapter. See Isa. 2:12; 13:6,9.
 - The New Testament refers only ____ times to the Day of the Lord (Acts 2:20; 1Thess. 5:2; 2Thess. 2:2; 2Pet. 3:10). The Thessalonian references are critical in relating N.T. eschatology to Old: we will examine these later.

The Day of the Lord and the doctrine of the kingdom are two themes that bind Old and New Testament eschatology together. One must “add up” what both Testaments have to say in order to get the full picture (as per the progressive revelation of God’s Word).

See my “Goal-Post” Illustration on page 3.

3. The pattern of the Day of the Lord in the Old Testament is wrath first, always followed by social, political, economic, and spiritual blessings meted out to the world by the very presence of Jehovah (Christ) from Jerusalem. Do examine each of the passages listed below for this pattern.

DAY OF THE LORD PATTERN IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

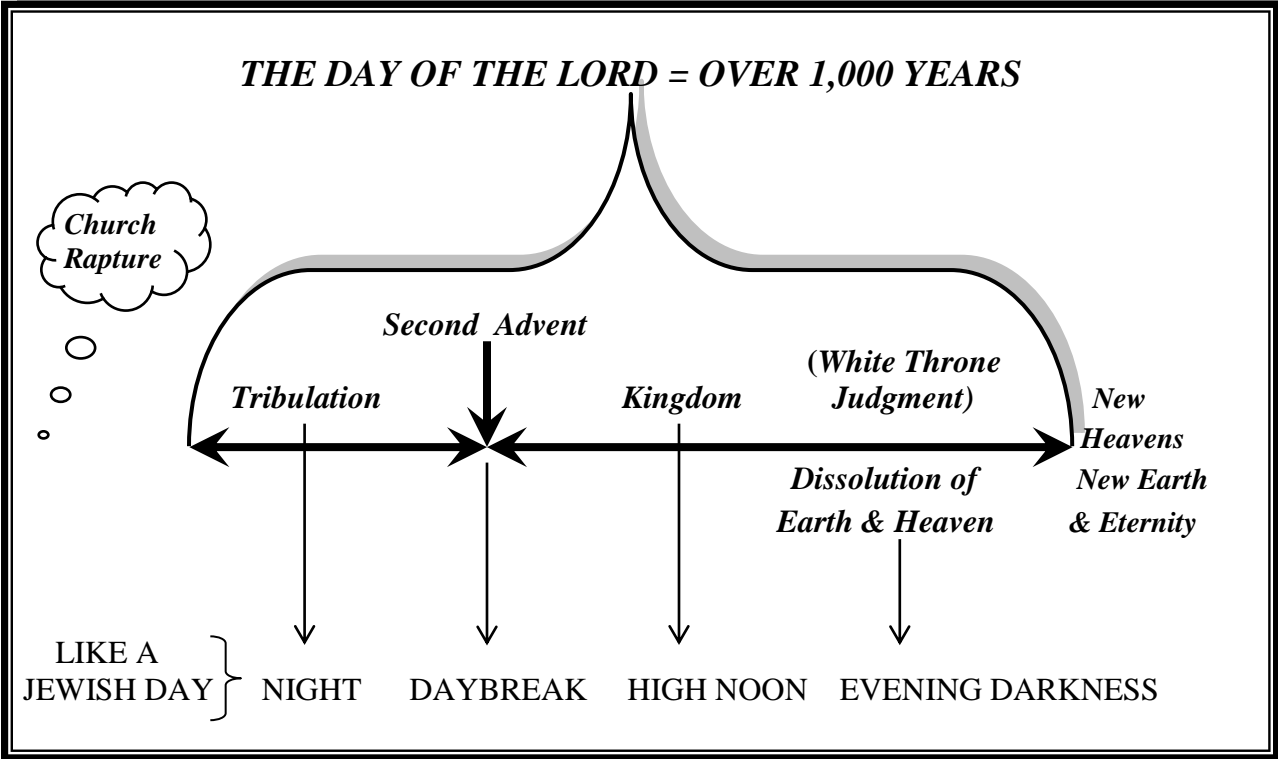
<i>Wrath</i> —————→ <i>then</i> —————→ <i>Blessings</i> armies/war/blood	social/political/spiritual
Isa. 2:12-21	Isa. 2:1-4
Joel 3:9-16	Joel 3:17-21
Zech. 14:1-7	Zech 14:8,9,16
Zeph. 1:14-18	Zeph. 3:13-20
Amos 5:16-20	Amos 9:11-15

New Testament Collation:

WRATH = The Great Tribulation
 - as predicted by Jesus, Mt. 24:21

BLESSINGS = The Millennium
 - as fulfilled by Jesus’ 2nd Advent,
 Mt. 24:29-31

4. The Day of the Lord is not a 24-hour day; rather a time period of over 1,000 years which is to be viewed in a way similar to a Jewish-day cycle; that is, with nighttime first - corresponding to the tribulation, followed by daybreak - corresponding to Christ's second advent, high-noon - corresponding to the kingdom, then evening-darkness - corresponding to the final dissolving of the heavens and the earth (spoken of in 2Peter. 3:10-13).



5. Both Peter and Paul state that the Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, i.e., secretly, with stealth, 1Thess. 5:2; 2Pet. 3:10; therefore it does not begin with the Second Advent, since every eye sees that event, Mt. 24:30; Rev. 1:7.

CONCLUSIONS

- ❖ The Day of the Lord is a comprehensive term in the prophetic literature of the Bible designating all events which attend the consummation of time-space-history when God brings the nations into complete subjugation to His Son.
- ❖ The term includes the wrath cycle of the Great Tribulation, the blessings cycle of the Millennial Kingdom of Christ, and the final dissolution of the present cosmology by fire.
- ❖ The Day of the Lord is illustrative of progressive revelation in Scripture. Had you only an Old Testament, your understanding of last things would include anticipation of the coming DAY OF THE LORD with its wrath cycle and blessing cycle, the first corresponding to the Great Tribulation, the latter to the Triumphant Kingdom blessings of Messiah. In the N.T., the chronology is clarified as it relates to the church.
- ❖ Thus the Day of the Lord is an eschatological imperative of both the Old & New Testaments.