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Future Day of the Lord Fact Sheet

The Day of the Lord...

...begins with the apostasy and the man of sin being revealed (2 Thess 2:2)

...is a day of darkness (Joel 2:2; Isa 13:10; Zeph 1:15; Zech 14:6; 1 Thess 5:4-7)

...is a day of clouds¹ (Joel 2:2; Zeph 1:15; Ezek 30:3)

...is a day of gloom (Joel 2:2; Zeph 1:15)

...is a day of wrath (Zeph 1:14; 1 Thess 1:10; 5:9)

...is a day of trouble and distress (Zeph 1:15, 17)

...a day of battle (Zeph 1:14, 16)

...is a day of destruction from the Almighty² (Isa 13:6; Zeph 1:15; 1 Thess 5:4)

...is a day of punishment (Isa 13:11; Zeph 1:8-9)

...is a day to exterminate sinners (Joel 2:11; Isa 13:7-9, 12; Zeph 1:17-18; 2 Pet 3:7)

...is a time of doom for the nations³ (Obad 15-16, 18; Joel 3:1-14; Ezek 30:3)

...is a day when Elijah⁴ will return (Mal 4:5)

...is near (i.e. imminent, Joel 2:1; Isa 13:6; Zeph 1:7, 14; Ezek 30:3; 2 Pet 3:8-9⁵)

...is that day and hour no one knows⁶ (Matt 24:36)

...comes just like the Flood of Noah's day⁷ (Matt 24:37-39)

...comes like a thief in the night (Matt 24:42-44; 1 Thess 5:2; 2 Pet 3:10)

...comes when the world is saying "Peace and safety!" (1 Thess 5:3)

...once entered is inescapable⁸ (1 Thess 5:3)

...initiates a change in the times and the epochs⁹ (1 Thess 5:1)

...destroys the present heaven and earth¹⁰ (Joel 2:10; 3:16; Isa 13:13; Matt 24:35; 2Pet 3:10, 12)

...issues forth the great and terrible day of the Lord¹¹ (Joel 2:11, 31; Mal 4:5)

...results in a day of light¹² (Zech 14:7)

...results in a day of blessing for Israel¹³ (Obad 17, 19-21; Joel 2:18, 20)

Systematic analysis: The day of the Lord is a period of time characterized by God's personal-sovereign intervention catastrophically destroying the present heavens and earth and exterminating all sinners. It will come like a thief in the night when the world is saying peace and safety that God the Holy Spirit will unveil the identity of the Antichrist. At this point it is impossible to escape the sudden destruction that will come upon the world and exterminate sinners from the earth causing a major alteration in kingdoms. All Gentile kingdoms and their sinful contributions (i.e. economic, political, intellectual and military) will be utterly destroyed. In place of them a Jewish kingdom centered on the Lord Jesus Christ as the King of kings will be ushered in. He will establish a unique kingdom of righteousness in the Promised Land of Israel, through whom all blessing will be channeled.

¹Clouds often symbolize judgment. Some texts mention "thick clouds" signaling a unique time of judgment.

²Supernatural catastrophic judgments.

³These passages indicate a global rather than local judgment.

⁴Elijah may be one of the two witnesses or he may be a third individual that heralds the way of the King.

⁵Peter seems to be giving a commentary on what the OT meant by "near." His commentary means it is "soon" from God's perspective and "imminent" from man's.

⁶"day and hour" in Matthew refers to a period of time and not 24-hour days or 60 minute hours (cf. Matt 7:22; 10:19; 24:42, 44, 50; 25:13; 26:45)

⁷This very significant parallel indicates an exact parallel and not mere similarity.

⁸This does not mean that no person can become a believer during this period. It merely means that the only means of escaping the period has already taken place. The only means of escaping is the Rapture.

⁹From a comparison with Dan 2:21 and Acts 1:7 this expression refers to changes in kingdoms.

¹⁰According to Peter's commentary there are only three universes; 1) Creation to Noahic Flood, 2) Noahic Flood to Day of the Lord, 3) Day of the Lord to Eternity Future.

¹¹Refers to the narrow 24-hour day of the coming of the Son of Man.

¹²Refers to the 1,000 year Davidic Kingdom.

¹³Israel will be the chief of the nations in fulfilling her role of Exod 19:5-6. Micah 4 is a major passage declaring the nation Israel's chief status during this period.

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