

The Day of the Lord

Examination of the various passages in which deal with the “*Day of the Lord*” show that the phrase is used for several different events. In some passages it is referring to events that will be fulfilled in that time period (near historical). Other passages refer to a time that will occur in the eschaton. Still other passages have a combination of both a near and future fulfillment.

Examples

- *Near historical - Ezekiel 13:5 & 30:3, Amos 5:18-20
- *Eschatological - Isaiah 2:12 & 13:9; Joel 2:31 & 3:14; Zechariah 14:1; Malachi 4:5
- *Near Historical with Eschatological too: Joel 2:1-11; Obadiah 15; Zephaniah 1:7-18

It is important to note that *the Day of the Lord* is also used in both a broad sense of a time period covering years and in a narrow sense of a time period of one particular day. (The length of time of the Hebrew “yom” is defined by context. Cf. Genesis 1:5).

Examples:

- *Broad - Joel 3:9-21; Obadiah 15-21; Zechariah 14
- *Narrow - Joel 2:1-11

It is also important to note that *the Day of the Lord* will encompass both judgement and blessings.

Examples

- *Blessings - Joel 2:31; Joel 3:14
- *Curses / Judgement - Isaiah 2:12; 13:6,9; Joel 1:15; Zephaniah 1:7-18
- *Both - Ezekiel 30:3; Obadiah 15; Zechariah 14

The various references to *the Day of the Lord* in the Old Testament vary widely in the particulars of the description of the events of that time.

See attached chart.

Great care must be taken when seeking to coordinate the various passages.

New Testament references to *the Day of the Lord* must take into consideration the Old Testament prophecies.

The Day of the Lord in the broad sense encompasses the whole of Daniel’s 70th week while the narrow use of *the Day of the Lord* in some passages may only encompass a specific time within the 70th week.