

# Fulfilled Prophecies

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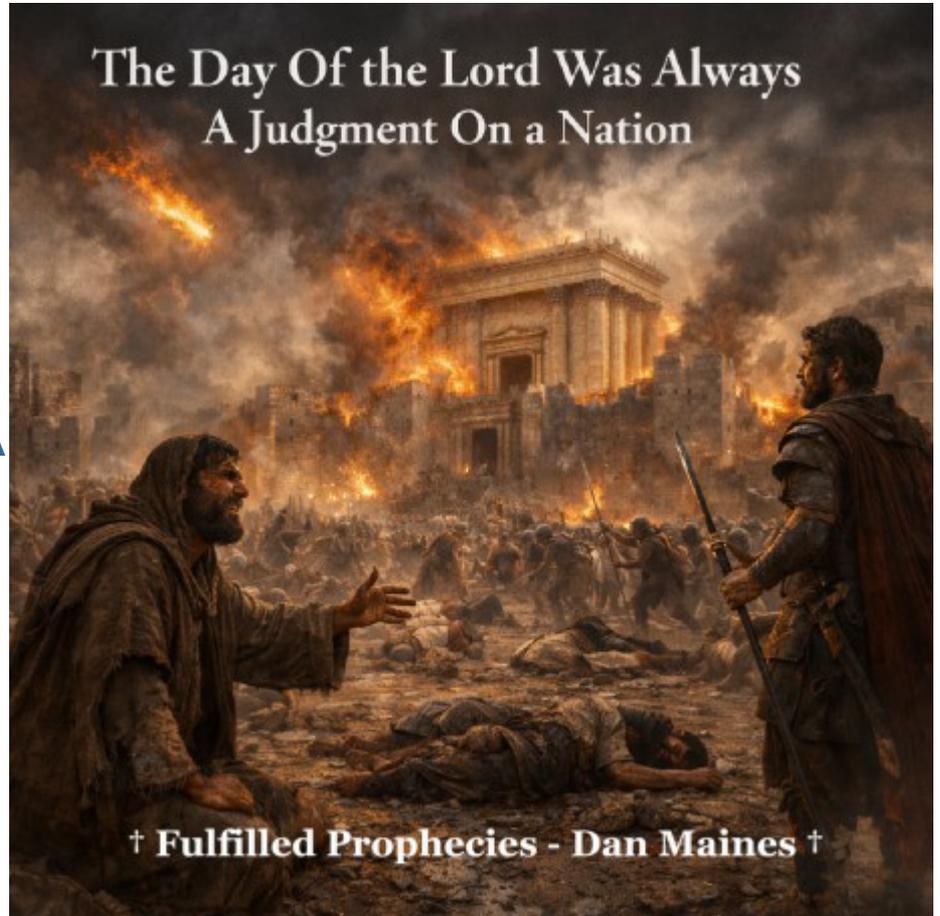
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## The Day Of The Lord Was Always A Judgment On A Nation



By Dan Maines

## The Day Of The Lord Was Always A Judgment On A Nation

### Introduction

† If we're going to settle this issue honestly, we must examine every major Day of the Lord reference and identify who it was against and when it occurred.

† When we do that, a consistent historical pattern emerges.

† The Day of the Lord was covenant judgment upon nations, not the end of the physical universe.

† The prophetic language is dramatic, but the fulfillment was

always historical and identifiable.

### **Amos 5:18, 20**

Woe to you who are longing for the day of the LORD,  
For what purpose will the day of the LORD be to you?  
It will be darkness and not light; Will the day of the LORD not be  
darkness instead of light,  
Even gloom with no brightness in it?

† This Day of the Lord was against the northern kingdom of Israel.

† It was fulfilled in 722 BC when Assyria destroyed Samaria and carried Israel into captivity.

† The language of darkness described national collapse, not cosmic extinction.

### **Zephaniah 1:14-15**

The great day of the LORD is near,  
Near and coming very quickly;  
Listen, the day of the LORD!  
In it the warrior cries out bitterly.  
That day is a day of anger,  
A day of trouble and distress,  
A day of destruction and desolation,  
A day of darkness and gloom,  
A day of clouds and thick darkness,

† This warning was against Judah and Jerusalem.

† It was fulfilled in 586 BC, sometimes dated 587 BC depending on accession reckoning, when Babylon destroyed Jerusalem and the temple.

† Near meant near, and history confirms it.

### **Isaiah 13:6, 9-10**

Wail, for the day of the LORD is near!  
It will come as destruction from the Almighty.  
Behold, the day of the LORD is coming,  
Cruel, with fury and burning anger,  
To make the land a desolation;  
And He will exterminate its sinners from it.  
For the stars of heaven and their constellations  
Will not flash their light;  
The sun will be dark when it rises  
And the moon will not shed its light.

† This Day of the Lord was against Babylon.

† It was fulfilled in 539 BC when Cyrus the Persian captured Babylon.

† The sun darkened and stars not shining described the fall of a kingdom, not the destruction of the universe.

### **Jeremiah 46:10**

For that day belongs to the Lord GOD of armies,  
A day of vengeance, so as to avenge Himself on His foes;  
And the sword will devour and be satisfied,  
And drink its fill of their blood;  
For there will be a slaughter for the Lord GOD of armies,  
In the land of the north at the river Euphrates.

† This Day of the Lord was against Egypt.

† It was fulfilled at the Battle of Carchemish in 605 BC when Nebuchadnezzar defeated Pharaoh Necho II.

† Later Babylonian campaigns into Egypt occurred around 568 to 567 BC, further confirming the judgment.

† Again, this was national devastation, not planetary destruction.

### **Ezekiel 30:3-4**

For the day is near,  
Indeed, the day of the LORD is near;  
It will be a day of clouds,  
A time of doom for the nations.  
A sword will come upon Egypt,  
And there will be trembling in Cush;  
When the slain fall in Egypt,  
They will take away her wealth,  
And her foundations will be torn down.

† Ezekiel confirms Egypt's Day of the Lord.

† It unfolded during Babylon's later invasions around 568 to 567 BC.

† The prophetic imagery remained consistent with other national judgments.

### **Obadiah 1:15**

"For the day of the LORD is near for all the nations.  
Just as you have done, it will be done to you.  
Your dealings will return on your own head.

† This refers specifically to Edom.

† Edom's downfall began in the 6th century BC following Babylon's destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC.

† Their power declined progressively and they were later absorbed historically by surrounding peoples in the 5th to 4th centuries BC.

† The Day of the Lord here was retributive national judgment.

### **Isaiah 34:4, 6**

And all the heavenly lights will wear away,  
And the sky will be rolled up like a scroll;  
All its lights will also wither away  
As a leaf withers from the vine,

Or as one withers from the fig tree.

The sword of the LORD is filled with blood,  
It drips with fat, with the blood of lambs and goats,  
With the fat of the kidneys of rams.  
For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah,  
And a great slaughter in the land of Edom.

† Here the heavens are rolled together as a scroll.

† Yet the context clearly identifies Edom.

† Even universal sounding cosmic language was applied to specific historical judgment.

† This confirms the prophetic pattern.

### **Genesis 37:9-10**

Then he had yet another dream, and informed his brothers of it, and said, "Behold, I have had yet another dream; and behold, the sun and the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me." He also told it to his father as well as to his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have had? Am I and your mother and your brothers actually going to come to bow down to the ground before you?"

† Here the sun, moon, and stars clearly represent Jacob, Rachel, and the twelve tribes.

† They symbolize ruling authority within Israel.

† The imagery is political and covenantal, not astronomical.

† Notice the sun, moon, and stars never literally fell in Israel's history, yet their national authority structures collapsed.

### **Isaiah 14:12**

How you have fallen from heaven,  
You star of the morning, son of the dawn!  
You have been cut down to the earth,

You who defeated the nations!

† Babylon's king is described as falling from heaven.

† This is symbolic language for the fall of a ruler, not a literal star falling from space.

† Heaven language consistently describes authority and covenant standing.

### **Matthew 24:29-30**

"But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.

† Jesus uses the same prophetic language Isaiah used about Babylon and Edom.

† He applies it to Jerusalem.

† This Day of the Lord was fulfilled in AD 70 when Rome destroyed Jerusalem and the temple.

† The collapse of the covenant world of Israel is described in cosmic terms consistent with the prophets.

### **Acts 2:20**

THE SUN WILL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS  
AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD,  
BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD COMES.

† Peter quotes Joel and applies it in the first century.

† The Day of the Lord expectation was active in their lifetime.

† It was not postponed thousands of years into the future.

## **1 Thessalonians 5:2-3**

For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord is coming just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction will come upon them like labor pains upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

† Paul told them the Day of the Lord would come suddenly.

† It involved destruction that they would not escape.

† This aligns with the judgment that fell upon Jerusalem within that generation.

## **2 Peter 3:10**

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be discovered.

† Peter wrote to first century believers.

† He warned of scoffers in their last days, 2 Peter 3:3.

† The passing of heaven and earth echoes Jesus' words in Matthew 24:35.

† This was fulfilled in the covenantal collapse of Jerusalem in AD 70.

## **Matthew 24:34**

Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

† Jesus gave the time boundary.

† Every prior Day of the Lord was national judgment within history.

† The New Testament Day of the Lord follows the exact same prophetic pattern.

## **Historical References**

† Samaria fell to Assyria in 722 BC.

† Jerusalem fell to Babylon in 586 BC, sometimes dated 587 BC depending on accession reckoning.

† Babylon fell to Cyrus the Persian in 539 BC.

† Egypt was decisively defeated at Carchemish in 605 BC and later invaded by Babylon around 568 to 567 BC.

† Edom declined following the 6th century BC Babylonian period and was later absorbed historically.

† Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed by Rome in AD 70.

† Josephus recorded the AD 70 destruction in Wars of the Jews Book 6.

† Eusebius recorded the Christian flight from Jerusalem, Ecclesiastical History Book 3.

† Tacitus described the devastation of Judea, Histories 5.13.

## **How It Applies To Us Today**

† It teaches us to interpret prophetic language consistently.

† It proves that near meant near in every historical case.

† It confirms that Jesus kept His word within the generation He specified.

† It removes fear driven speculation about the destruction of the physical universe.

† It anchors us in the fulfilled kingdom reality Christ established.

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q** Did any Old Testament Day of the Lord end the physical universe?

**A** No. Amos 5:18, Zephaniah 1:14-15, Isaiah 13:6, Jeremiah 46:10, Ezekiel 30:3-4, Obadiah 1:15, and Isaiah 34:4, 6 all

describe historical national judgments.

**Q** Did the New Testament writers expect the Day of the Lord in their time?

**A** Yes. Acts 2:20, 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3, Matthew 24:34, and 2 Peter 3:10 place the expectation within the first century.

**Q** Did the sun, moon, and stars ever literally fall?

**A** No. Genesis 37:9-10 and Isaiah 14:12 show that this imagery represents ruling authority and covenant standing, not literal astronomical collapse.

**Q** If the Day of the Lord language is symbolic, why does it sound so catastrophic?

**A** Because prophetic judgment language always uses cosmic imagery to describe the fall of nations. Isaiah 13:6, 9-10 and Isaiah 34:4 use the same catastrophic language for Babylon and Edom, yet history confirms those were national collapses, not universal destruction.

**Q** What about the heavens passing away in 2 Peter 3:10?

**A** Jesus tied heaven and earth to the Law in Matthew 5:18 and said heaven and earth would pass away in His generation in Matthew 24:34-35. Peter's language reflects the covenantal collapse of that old order in AD 70.

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