

02 THE DAY OF THE LORD HAS HAPPENED MANY TIMES

The “day of the Lord” was an oft repeated occurrence in the Old Testament and never involved a physical appearance of Yahweh. However, what was visible was the utter devastation left by His judgment. With the New Testament anticipation of Jesus’ “Day of the Lord” we are told he would come in the “glory of the Father” (Lk. 9:26). Jesus came invisibly in judgment just as his Father had, but that which was visible was the utter ruin of Israel, the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple, the heart of the Jewish State. These events sealed the fulfillment of all prophecy and ushered in the fullness of the spiritual Kingdom of God. Please note the use of Hebraic apocalyptic hyperbolic language through-out and cloud reference in #2.

1. Yahweh used the Assyrians to Defeat Israel, 721 BC.

Day of the LORD: “Woe to you that desire the day of the LORD!..[It] is darkness and not light...” Amos 5:18f

Figurative Hyperbolic Description: “For behold the LORD is coming forth out of his place, and will come down and tread upon the high places of the earth. And the mountains will be molten under him and the valleys will be cleft like wax before the fire ...” Micah 1:3-4

2. Yahweh used Sargon of Assyria to Defeat Egypt, circa 712 BC.

Day of the LORD: “Behold, the LORD rides on a swift cloud and shall come to Egypt...” Isaiah 19:1

Figurative Hyperbolic Description: “...the idols of Egypt will tremble at his presence, and the heart of the Egyptians will melt in its midst.” Is. 19:1 (see ch. 19-20)

3. Yahweh used Nebuchadnezzar to Defeat Pharaoh at Carchemish, 605 BC.

Day of the LORD: “...Day of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance...” Jer. 46:10

Figurative Hyperbolic Description: “For they shall march with an army, and come against her with axes, as wood cutters. They shall cut down her forest, says Yahweh, though it can’t be searched; because they are more than the locusts, and are innumerable.” Jer. 46:22-23

4. Yahweh used the Babylonians to Defeat Jerusalem, 586 BC.

Day of the LORD: “For thus says the LORD, “The whole land shall be a desolation.” Jer. 4:27

Figurative Hyperbolic Description: “...the heavens had no light, the mountains were quaking and all the hills moved back and forth...there was no man, and all the birds of the sky had fled...the earth shall mourn and the heavens above be black...” Jer. 4:23-29

5. Yahweh used the Babylonians to Defeat Edom, 583 BC.

Day of the LORD: “For the LORD has a day of vengeance...” Is. 34:8

Figurative Hyperbolic Description: “All the host of sky shall be dissolved, and the sky shall roll up like a scroll. All their hosts shall fall...the Lord has a sword. It is sated with blood, it is gorged with fat....Its streams will be turned into pitch, its dust into sulfur, and its land will become burning pitch.” Isaiah 34:4,5,9

6. Yahweh used the Medes to Defeat Babylon, 539 BC.

Day of the LORD: “Behold the day the LORD comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger to make the earth a desolation.” Isaiah 13:9

Figurative Hyperbolic Description: “...The stars of the sky and its constellations will not give their light. The sun will be darkened in its going forth, and the moon will not cause its light to shine. I will make people more rare than fine gold... Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken out of its place in the wrath of Yahweh of Armies, and in the day of his fierce anger...” Isaiah 13:10-13

7. The Son of Man used the Romans to Defeat Israel AD 67-70.

Day of the LORD: “The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night...you* are not in darkness, brethren, for that day to surprise you like a thief.” I Thes. 5:2-4. (see also I Cor. 1:8)

Figurative Hyperbolic Description: “The sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from the heaven, ... they shall see the Son of Man coming upon the clouds of the heaven, with power and much glory....” Matt. 24:29f

* Paul was writing to first century believers (circa AD 52) some of whom would witness this event.

Note: Day of the Lord=Coming of the Lord=Coming of the Son of Man= coming in clouds=the day of Christ=the second coming=that day
Further study: Like Father, Like Son by Don K. Preston, Samuel G. Dawson, William Bell Jr., Daniel Rogers, etc.