

Acts 2:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:

Analysis

The Day of the Lord - 'great and notable' (Greek 'epiphane', shining forth) - represents both terror for the impenitent and triumph for believers. This day encompasses judgment and salvation simultaneously, as seen in Christ's first advent which brought both condemnation for rejecting Jews and salvation for believing remnant. The sun turning to darkness and moon to blood symbolize the overturning of creation's order under divine judgment.

Historical Context

Prophets consistently portrayed the Day of the Lord as judgment on Israel's enemies and purification of God's people (Isaiah 2:12, Zephaniah 1:14, Malachi 4:5). Peter connects Pentecost to this day's inauguration, suggesting the church age is the period of Spirit-empowered witness before final judgment.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does the Day of the Lord's dual nature - judgment and salvation - inform your evangelism's urgency?
2. What comfort does the Lord's 'notable' day offer believers awaiting vindication?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	ἥλιος	μεταστραφήσεται	εἰς	σκότος	καὶ	ἡ	σελήνη	
G3588	The sun	shall be turned	into	darkness	and	G3588	the moon	
	G2246	G3344	G1519	G4655	G2532		G4582	
εἰς	αἷμα	πρὶν	ἢ	έλθεῖν	τὴν	ἡμέραν	κυρίου	τὴν
into	blood	G4250	before	come	G3588	day	of the Lord	G3588
G1519	G129		G2228	G2064		G2250	G2962	
μεγάλην	καὶ	ἐπιφανῆ						
that great	and	notable						
G3173	G2532	G2016						

Additional Cross-References

2 Peter 3:10 (References Lord): But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Amos 8:9 (Darkness): And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord GOD, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day:

Matthew 24:29 (Darkness): Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

1 Thessalonians 5:2 (References Lord): For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

Malachi 4:5 (References Lord): Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

Joel 2:1 (References Lord): Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand;

2 Peter 3:7 (Parallel theme): But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

Mark 13:24 (Darkness): But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,

Luke 21:25 (Parallel theme): And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;

Joel 3:14 (References Lord): Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.