

Zechariah 14:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light.

Analysis

But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night—this mysterious phrase describes a unique day outside normal temporal categories. The Hebrew yom echad (יֶחָדַיּוֹם) uses the same "echad" (one) as Genesis 1:5 ("one day") and Deuteronomy 6:4 ("the LORD is one"), suggesting unified, unique quality. **"Known to the LORD"** (yivvade l-Yahweh) indicates only God knows this day's timing (Matthew 24:36, "of that day and hour knoweth no man") and nature—it transcends human understanding of day/night cycles.

"Not day, nor night" (lo-yom ve-lo laylah) describes abnormal celestial conditions—neither full light nor complete darkness, continued from verse 6's ambiguity. Yet the promise resolves: **"at evening time it shall be light"** (le-et erev yihyeh or). When natural light should fade (evening), supernatural light appears. This reverses normal order, demonstrating God's control over creation. The light source isn't the sun but God Himself, anticipating Revelation 21:23: "the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof."

This "one day" marks transition from old creation to new. Isaiah 60:19-20 similarly prophesies: "The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light." When Christ returns, He brings eternal day where there is no night (Revelation 22:5).

Historical Context

Ancient peoples marked time by solar/lunar cycles—day and night, months and years. A day that is "neither day nor night" defies natural order, signaling new creation. This echoes Genesis 1:3-5 when God created light before creating sun, moon, and stars (Genesis 1:14-18)—demonstrating light's source is ultimately God Himself, not celestial bodies. Zechariah's post-exilic audience would connect this to Exodus 13:21-22's pillar of cloud and fire providing continuous guidance, and to God's glory filling the tabernacle/temple. The New Testament develops this: John 1:4-5 identifies Jesus as the true light, John 8:12 records Jesus declaring "I am the light of the world," and Revelation depicts eternal light from God's glory.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does a day "known to the LORD" alone teach about trusting God's timing rather than demanding to know prophetic schedules?
2. How does the promise of light at evening time encourage believers facing darkness and despair that God will bring supernatural illumination?
3. What does God being the direct light source (rather than sun/moon) reveal about the new creation's God-centered rather than creation-centered focus?

Interlinear Text

יְהִי H1961	וְאֶחָד H3117	אֶחָד H259	וְהָיָה H1931	וְיָדָע H3045	לַיהוָה H3068	לֹא H3808
day	But it shall be one		which shall be known	to the LORD		
יְהִי H3117	וְלֹא H3808	לַיְלָה H3915	וְהָיָה H1961	לָעֵת H6256	וְיָבֹא H6153	
day	nor night		time	but it shall come to pass that at evening		
יְהִי H1961	אֶחָד H216					
it shall be light						

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 22:5 (Light): And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Isaiah 30:26 (Light): Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound.

Daniel 12:4 (Parallel theme): But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

Revelation 21:23 (Light): And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

Acts 17:31 (Parallel theme): Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Acts 1:7 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

Acts 15:18 (Parallel theme): Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.

Psalms 37:18 (References Lord): The LORD knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be for ever.

Jeremiah 30:7 (Parallel theme): Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

Mark 13:32 (Parallel theme): But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

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