

*Return Of Christ Jesus!')* No one knows the day or hour, but we are commanded to always be sober, watchful and ready, for His return will be unexpected. May God speed and bless that glorious day!

## **Scriptural References:**

Isaiah 2:6-22  
Isaiah 13:6-13  
Ezekiel 13:1-23  
Ezekiel 30:1-26  
Joel 1:15-20  
Joel 2:1-31  
Joel 3:14-16  
Amos 5:18-27  
Obadiah 1:15  
Micah 4:1-5  
Zephaniah 1:1-18  
Zephaniah 2:1-3  
Zephaniah 3:6-8  
Zechariah 13:1-9  
Zechariah 14:1-21  
Malachi 4:1-6  
Acts 2:17-21  
Romans 11:7-8  
Philippians 1:9-11  
Philippians 2:15-16  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
2 Thessalonians 2:1-17  
2 Peter 3:1-18  
Revelation 6:1-17  
Revelation 8:1-13  
Revelation 9:1-21  
Revelation 11:15-19  
Revelation 16:1-21

# **Heavenly Signs Introduce The Day Of The Lord**

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What are heavenly signs? What is the Day of the Lord? When, how and why will it occur? How long will it last? What does this period of time mean for you? What does the Bible say about your future destiny?

Jesus described dangerous conditions that will occur prior to His return. Skeptics say there have always been wars, famines and pestilences. But as we approach the Day of the Lord, the four horsemen of apocalypse will intensify their ride, and global catastrophes will occur with increasing speed, intensity and frequency Lk 21:10-11. Jesus stated that unless God intervenes, no flesh would survive Mt 24:22. God promises to intervene for His elect, to prevent annihilation and bring world peace. Horrifying events are described in Joel 2:1-5, that will occur at the close of this age, which coincide with the prophecies of Christ, Jeremiah and Daniel. Only in this day and age of nuclear weaponry is it possible to exterminate all life on the planet! God foreknew that man would be capable of inventing such weapons of mass destruction. The apostle John received revelations from God, while on the island of Patmos Rev 1:9. John described what he saw in a vision concerning end-time events. He spoke of scorpions which could symbolize the use of deadly military aircraft, including modern helicopters and tanks in Rev 9:1-21.

**What are Heavenly Signs?** In Matthew 24:29, the Olivet Prophecy, Jesus described the heavenly signs that will occur after the great tribulation. Earth's inhabitants will be shocked at the opening of the sixth seal, comprising of heavenly signs, which precede the Day of the Lord Lk 21:11; Rev 6:12-17. God will really capture people's attention with awesome, terrifying and astounding, astronomical and supernatural phenomena in the sun, moon and stars, visible to all who dwell on the earth Lk 21:25-26, including asteroids and meteorites, and a massive earthquake of unparalleled scale and intensity, that will shake the whole earth, as the apostle John saw in vision - "They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?" Rev 6:16-17. We find scriptural examples where God, in His anger, caused earthquakes to happen as a result of punishment for rebellion. For example, Korah and his rebel followers Nu 16:31-32. Countless volcanic eruptions emitting huge columns of ash will darken the sun, and cause the moon to appear blood red Is 13:10. Stars will fall from heaven, and the sky itself will recede as a scroll Is 34:4. These shocking cosmic signs and wonders not only signal the commencement of the Day of the Lord, but also serve as judgments upon a fallen and rebellious world. The Book of Isaiah also includes clear descriptive prophecies, which mention people hiding in the rocks "from the terror of the Lord." The Lord alone will be exalted; and man will be greatly humbled Is 2:10-12. God will really shake prideful and rebellious people to their senses. During this traumatic period, man will finally realize the worthlessness of their idols, which they will throw to "the moles and bats" Is 2:20. (Read Tract - 'No Idols!'). Sun darkened: In Rev 6:12, John compares the darkness of the sun as being black as goat hair, used to create sackcloth and tents in his day. This may represent a solar eclipse, or an immense dust storm produced by a volcanic explosion. As a result, visibility will be drastically reduced even during the daytime. Moon like blood: This may happen as a result of volcanic eruptions or earthquakes, where massive amounts of dust are suspended in the earth's atmosphere. The stars fall: This may indicate meteorites of gigantic magnitude, which give the impression that the stars themselves are falling Rev 6:13. The sky recedes: Compared to a scroll rolling up. John's vision may be referring to clouds building to thunderheads, rolling and flying swiftly across the heavens, which may give the impression that the sky is splitting apart Is 34:4; Rev 6:14. The mountains and islands move: Fierce shaking of the earth will cause immense land transformations and shifting mountains, which will result in unparalleled destruction and incredible loss of human life.

**What is the Day of the Lord?** The apostle John stated in Rev 1:10, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day." If he was referring to Sunday in this passage, then he would've called it "the first day of the week," as mentioned in the Gospel of John Jn 20:1, 19. Instead, John was referring to the prophetic "Day of the Lord" - the end-time sequence of events leading up to the return of Jesus Christ! In one sense, the Day of the Lord is the year preceding Christ's return. In another sense, it continues throughout the Millennium and on out to eternity. There are over 30 different prophecies concerning the Day of the Lord, primarily in the Old Testament. Bible prophecy reveals that just prior to Jesus Christ's return to the earth, there will be a period of time known as the 'Day of the Lord,' when God will personally and directly intervene in world affairs and judge the nations. He will reveal His sovereignty over all the nations of the earth. The prophets referred to the Day of the Lord as being a day of darkness and judgment Is 2:10-22; 13:6-10; Joel 1:15; 2:1-2, 30-31; 3:14-15; Am 5:20; Zep 1:1-18; Mal 4:5; and vengeance Jer 46:10. Isaiah prophesied of this future period Is 2:6-22; 24:1-23. The opening of the seventh seal begins with "silence in heaven for about half an hour" Rev 8:1. The Day of the Lord occurs at the opening of the seventh seal, following the heavenly signs (sixth seal) - where seven major prophetic events, or seven "trumpet" plagues - are unleashed consecutively over a period of months, culminating in the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords, and the administering of the seven last plagues Rev 8:1-2 (Read Tract - 'Signs Of The End Of The Age'). The 'Day of the Lord' is described in Rev 6:17, as "the great day of His wrath!" God's great wrath will be poured out upon an unrepentant and rebellious world Zeph 1:14-15; 2:2-3; Is 13:6-8; Ez 7:19. Truly, it is the most colossal event in history. This period of God's great and mighty wrath is defined as "terrible" Joel 2:31; "darkness" Am 5:18; "every man's heart shall melt" Is 13:7; "the mighty man shall cry there bitterly" Zep 1:14. God will destroy those who would otherwise destroy all life on the earth Rev 11:18. The Day of the Lord, is also referred to in Is 13:9-13 and Hag 2:6, where God will shake the heavens and the earth, and destroy the sinners, and punish the world for its evil. He will make man scarcer than pure gold. God promises to fully accomplish His plan and purpose, which is to prepare the earth for the establishment of His glorious Kingdom, and for the reign of Jesus Christ. Christ's final victory and judgment of sinners will be revealed on this day. In the New Testament, the Day of the Lord is referred to as the "day of Jesus Christ" Php 1:6; "day of our Lord Jesus Christ" 1 Cor 1:8; "day of the Lord" 1 Th 5:2; "day of Christ" Php 2:16; "day of God's wrath" Ro 2:5; "day of judgment" 1 Jn 4:17; "that day" 1 Th 5:4; 2 Ti 1:12.

**What are the seven trumpet plagues?** In the Old Testament, trumpets were used to communicate significant messages Nu 10:3-4; and sound warnings of approaching danger Nu 10:9. They were also used to draw people's attention, and on solemn feast days Ps 81:3. In the Book of Revelation, trumpets announce the main stages of God's wrath and judgment on an evil and rebellious world. The seven trumpets are symbolic of the horrifying, catastrophic events that will occur during the Day of the Lord (Read Tract - 'Signs Of The End Of The Age'). The seven trumpet plagues are described in greater detail in Rev chapters 8-11. As the first four trumpets are sounded in Rev 8:7-13, ecological disaster will occur. The major earth-shaking events include: **1st Trumpet (Rev 8:7)** - Rain of hail and fire. This extraor-

inary phenomena could be describing lightning mixed with icy hail, superheated volcanic substance from a massive eruption, or meteor storm. This results in one-third of all trees being burned up, including all the green grass. **2nd Trumpet (Rev 8:8-9)** - Burning mountain thrown into the sea. Could be referring to an asteroid impact or a destructive volcano. One-third of all living creatures in the sea will die. One-third of ships are destroyed. **3rd Trumpet (Rev 8:10-11)** - A falling star burning like a torch. May describe comet or asteroid impact. **4th Trumpet (Rev 8:12)** - One-third of the sun, moon and stars become darkened. This may be a consequence of the debris from the previous plagues. The first four trumpets are targeted towards "the earth and the sea" - and designed to devastate the environment Rev 7:2. God will demonstrate His sovereignty over all creation. Most people will still refuse to repent, even after experiencing more plagues and greater devastations Rev 9:20-21; 16:9-11. Stiff-necked, rebellious people who stubbornly refuse to repent of their evil ways, will face even greater disasters, as God multiplies and intensifies His punishments. The last three trumpet plagues are called woes because they will be poured out with devastating intensity. The word "woe" is an expression of anguish and despair for the inhabitants of the earth Rev 8:13. **5th Trumpet (1st woe) (Rev 9:1-12)**. When the fifth angel sounds his trumpet, military action begins that lasts five months. Satan the destroyer, gives power to this military force Rev 9:11. The "locusts" in this passage do not refer literally to insects, but figuratively symbolize machines - possibly deadly military aircraft, such as helicopters, used in chemical or biological warfare. Rev 9:9 - "And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle." People's painful affliction for five months is compared to that of a scorpion sting Rev 9:5, 10. This plague is targeted towards those who still refuse to repent. This punishment will cause such anguish that people will choose death Rev 9:6. According to verse 4, only those people who have the seal of God in their foreheads (God's Spirit) will be supernaturally protected. There are no destructive effects on vegetation. **6th Trumpet (2nd woe)**. Signifies intense military counterattack, and is pictured with symbols of horses and horsemen Rev 9:12-14. A 200 million-man army kills one-third (over 2 billion) of the world's population, in this phase of World War III - making World War I and II seem like a picnic in comparison! Rev 9:15-18. As Christ mentioned in Mt 24:22, unless He intervenes no flesh would survive - there would be total cosmicide! **7th Trumpet (3rd woe) (Rev 19:11-16)**. The seventh and final trumpet is also called the third woe, because it signals the horrifying seven last plagues, which will be poured out upon sinful and rebellious mankind. It announces the amazing news of the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords, and the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth Rev 11:15-19 (Read Tract - 'Glorious And Imminent Return Of Jesus Christ!'). Faithful saints who are alive will be rewarded with positions of co-rulership with Christ, assisting Him in ruling over the nations. Occurring simultaneously at the last trumpet, will be the resurrection of God's faithful servants, who will be resurrected to immortality, and inherit eternal life in the Kingdom of God. They too, will rule with Christ on earth throughout the Millennium, to produce everlasting happiness, peace and joy throughout the nations 1 Cor 15:51-52; Rev 20:1-6. (Read Tracts - 'Are You Born Again?' & 'Will You Inherit The Kingdom Of God?'). Only the Millennial reign of Christ will bring beauty, prosperity and restoration to this war-torn world.

**What are the seven last plagues?** The verses in Rev 14:9-10, completed "in the presence of the lamb" signify that all seven last plagues will happen within a brief period of time. Rev 1:7 mentions that every eye will see Christ descend through the clouds. This suggests that Christ's direct involvement with these plagues will be visible to all. The seven last plagues occur at the seventh trumpet, also called the third woe, at which point Christ will return. The main purpose for His return is "to destroy those who destroy the earth" Rev 11:18. Jesus will destroy Satan's kingdom. Seven is a symbol of perfection and completion in the Bible. The seven last plagues will complete God's vengeance and annihilation on the satanic system of government, religion and culture that commenced in ancient Babylonia. We are commanded to come out of this world's Babylonian system; and remain truly loyal, faithful and committed to Christ Rev 17:19; 18:4. **1st Plague** - Ugly and painful sores will afflict those who accept the mark of the beast and worship his image Rev 14:11; 16:2. They will experience the "full strength" of God's fiery wrath and "indignation." God will demonstrate that He alone is sovereign, all-powerful and worthy of praise. Man will ultimately see that the worship of Satan and his demons, including powerless, defenceless and worthless idols are an abomination to the Lord God Almighty! **2nd Plague** - The sea turns into blood. Heavily populated coastal areas will be covered with the stench of blood and dead sea creatures Rev 16:3. **3rd Plague** - Rev 16:4-7. Rivers and springs of water become blood. The impact of the earlier 3rd trumpet plague will be greatly intensified. These seven last plagues are occurring swiftly Rev 14:10. **4th Plague** - People will be scorched by the intense heat of the sun. They will still refuse to repent and glorify God Rev 16:8-9. God will demonstrate that He is against such modern customs as substituting Sun day - originally the day dedicated to sun worship - instead of the Biblical seventh-day Sabbath, which is an identifying sign between God and His people. Also, celebrating pagan, human traditions such as Christmas are unbiblical. According to the encyclopedia, December 25th was celebrated in ancient pagan religions as the birthday of the sun. It was later adopted into Christianity, as Christ's birth date (Read Tract - 'God's Holy Days Or Human Tradition?'). Jesus condemned the Pharisees who rejected God's commandments, and upheld their own human traditions Mk 7:7. **5th Plague** - The terror of complete darkness will be added to the already painful sores, excruciating heat and stench of blood that will be experienced Rev 16:10-11. **6th Plague** - The final cataclysmic battle the Bible calls 'Battle of the Great Day of God Almighty,' which is known as Armageddon Rev 16:12-16. Massive rebellious armies will gather near Megiddo, or on the Plain of Esdraelon, (also known as the Valley of Jezreel), before marching toward Jerusalem to attempt to fight Christ at His return. Satan will influence and inspire the world's armies to battle, but Christ will win an overwhelming victory and utterly vanquish all His enemies. He will conquer and defeat the nations, including the world's rebellious armies in the Kidron Valley (Valley of Jehoshaphat) Zech 14. **7th Plague** - Despite all these plagues that will be poured out upon them, they will still refuse to repent. The earth will shake with a great and mighty earthquake, that has never occurred before. Islands and mountains will disappear. Huge hailstones of about 100 pounds will hit the earth and its inhabitants. Satan's kingdom will be totally and utterly destroyed Rev 16:18-20.

**What is the Biblical Feast of Trumpets?** God's Holy Days are of great significance for Christians today. They are not just Jewish feasts (Read Tract - 'God's Holy Days Or Human Tradition?'). The Feast of Trumpets (Lev 23:24) announces the heart and core of the gospel message which is about the return of Jesus Christ, to establish the Kingdom of God on the earth; importance of repentance and judgment Mk 1:15; and the great and glorious day of the Lord, where God will dramatically intervene in world affairs on a global scale. Christ will return at the sounding of the seventh and final trumpet Rev 11:15. We are admonished to be spiritually awake and prepared for the Day of the Lord 2 Pe 3:10-13, and the glorious and imminent return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Read Tract: 'Glorious And Imminent