

The Day of the Lord in the Light of Genesis 1: Is Genesis 1:2 the Primal Day of the Lord?

<u>Genesis</u>	<u>Joel</u>	<u>Joel</u>	<u>Joel</u>
1:16a ...the greater light to govern the day,	2:31 The sun	2:10a ... The sun	3:15a ... The sun
1:2a ...and darkness was over the surface of the deep	will be turned into darkness,	2:10c grow dark	3:15c grow dark
1:16b and the lesser light to govern the night; <i>He made the stars</i> also.	and the moon into blood,	2:10b and the moon	3:15b and the moon
1:2b and the Spirit of God was moving ¹ over the surface of the waters.	before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes ² .	2:10d and the stars lose their brightness.	3:15d And the stars lose their brightness.
	2:32 And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD will be delivered; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem,	2:11 The day of the LORD is indeed great and very awesome and who can endure it?	3:14 For the day of the LORD is near....
1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.		2:13 Now return to the LORD your God... with fasting, weeping, and mourning	3:16 And the LORD roars from Zion and utters His voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth tremble. But the LORD is a refuge for His people and a stronghold to the sons of Israel.
	there will be those who escape, ...even the survivors whom the LORD calls.	2:10b the heavens tremble, 2:10a Before them the earth quakes,	
		2:16 Assemble the elders.	
<u>Isaiah</u>	<u>Isaiah</u>	<u>Matthew</u>	<u>Revelation</u>
13:10b the sun will be dark when it rises, and the moon will not shed its light.	24:23b and the sun will be ashamed,	24:29 But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened,	6:11 ...their fellow servants... were... killed....
13:10a For the stars of heaven... will not flash their light;	24:23a Then the moon will be ashamed	and the moon will not give its light , and the stars will fall from the sky....	6:12 ... and the sun became black... and the whole moon became like blood;
13:9 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming....		24:30 ...and they will see the Son of Man coming	6:13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth....
	24:23c for the LORD ...will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem,		6:17 ... for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?
13:13 Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken from its place	24:18 For the windows above are opened, and the foundations of the earth shake.		1:7 ...all the tribes ³ of the earth ⁴ will mourn ⁵ over Him.
	24:23e and His glory will be before <i>His</i> elders ⁷ .		14:1 ...the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion and with Him 144,000....
			6:14 And the sky ⁶ was split apart like a scroll.... and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

¹ The only other usage of the Hebrew word *rachap* in the Pentateuch is in Deuteronomy 32:11, where in describing the relationship between the glory cloud and Israel in the wilderness, Moses writes, "Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that hovers (Hebrew *rachap*) over its young...." The image of an eagle hovering over its young is one of rule, leadership, superintendence and guidance, depicting God's relationship to Israel during their forty year judgment of death and wandering. Which Person of the Trinity is primarily identified with the cloud? It is the Holy Spirit who has the role of leading and guiding (cf. Rom 8:14), the same Holy Spirit who was hovering over the dark water covered earth, ruling it on behalf of the Godhead (Gen 1:2).

² The day of the LORD is a return to the darkness of Genesis 1:2. The purpose of the sun is to govern the days, seasons and years (Gen 1:14). However, the darkening of the sun and moon means that they have at least temporarily ceased their reign over the day; this is now the day of the LORD, the day which He alone will rule as the Spirit of God ruled the darkened deep in Genesis 1:2. Another passage that describes the day of the LORD as a return to Genesis 1:2 is Jeremiah 4:23-28 where the day of the LORD (cf. Jer 4:9) is described as a reversal of the days of creation where chaos emerges from order (Peter C. Craigie, Page H. Kelley and Joel F. Drinkard, Jr. *Jeremiah 1-25* [vol. 26 of *Word Bible Commentary*; eds. David A. Hubbard and Glenn W. Barker: Dallas: Word, 1991], 80-82).

If Genesis 1:2 describes a day of the LORD, what sin would He be judging? The one other occasion in Scripture when there was a water covered earth was the great flood of Genesis 7:6-8:12. Since the flood was triggered by God's judgment on the fall of angels to the earth (Gen 6:1-6; cf. Jude 6--7), the water covered earth of Genesis 1:2 may similarly have been the result of God's judgment on the earth when it was first invaded at Satan's initial fall to the earth along with one-third of the angels of heaven (Rev 12:4). The Bible does not record the time of Satan's fall. If it occurred after the creation of Genesis 1, it was a very major event which was not mentioned in Genesis 1-2. The other possibility is that it occurred earlier and that Genesis 1:2 is a description of God's judgment on an earth filled with demons. Why otherwise would the Bible begin with a dark earth, since darkness in the Scriptures symbolizes evil (e.g. John 1:4-9; 3:19-21; 12:35-36; Eph 5:8-13; 1 John 1:5-7; 2:8-11)?

³ Cf. The twelve tribes of the 144,000 of Revelation 7:4-8.

⁴ This word can also be translated "land."

⁵ Cf. Joel 2:13 above.

⁶ The Greek word *ouranos* is also translated "heavens."

⁷ Cf. Joel 2:16 above.