

~'Sun, moon and stars' are symbols of OT war and people~

The various descriptions of God's war against nations is often described in terms of Cosmic proportions, but it is symbolic Hebrew hyperbole. These are not literal happenings as anyone reading them can see.

Hosea 10:8--Destruction of Samaria (Capital of Northern Israel) in 722 BC

The high places also of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed: the thorn and the thistle shall come up on their altars; and they shall say to the mountains, *Cover us; and to the hills, Fall on us.* (Compare Luke 23:28-30.)

Isa 5:30--Destruction of Israel in 722 BC

And in that day they shall roar against them like the roaring of the sea: and if one look unto the land, behold darkness and sorrow, and *the light is darkened in the heavens thereof.*

Amos, chapters 3, 5 and 8--Destruction of Judah by Assyria in 722 BC

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

Isaiah 34:4 Destruction of Idumea (Edom) by Arab Tribes in 703 BC

And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens *shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down,* as the leaf falls off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree. For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment.

Jeremiah, chapters 2-25 and Zephaniah, chapter 1--Destruction of Israel by Babylon in 586 BC

Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath. In the fire of his jealousy the whole world will be consumed, for he will make a *sudden end of all who live in the earth.*" {for land or country--this is not a whole planetary destruction, as some claim, as is obvious from the fact that it has already happened in the OT} -(bob)

Ezek 30-32:1-5--Destruction of Egypt by Babylon in 572 BC

- 1 And it came to pass in the twelfth year, in the twelfth month, in the first day of the month, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,
- 2 Son of man, take up a lamentation for Pharaoh king of Egypt, and say unto him, Thou art like a young lion of the nations, and thou art as a whale in the seas: and thou came forth with thy rivers, and troubled the waters with thy feet, and fouled their rivers.
- 3 Thus says the Lord GOD; *I will therefore spread out my net over thee with a company of many people; and they shall bring thee up in my net.*
- 4 *Then will I leave thee upon the land, I will cast thee forth upon the open field, and will cause all the fowls of the heaven to remain upon thee, and I will fill the beasts of the whole earth with thee.*
- 5 *And I will lay thy flesh upon the mountains, and fill the valleys with thy height.*
- 6 I will also water with thy blood the land wherein thou swims, even to the mountains; and the rivers shall be full of thee.

7 And when I shall put thee out, *I will cover the heaven, and make the stars thereof dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give her light.*
8 All the bright lights of heaven will I make dark over thee, and set darkness upon thy land, says the Lord GOD.

Isaiah 13:1-17--Destruction of Babylon by Medo-Persia in 539 BC

1 The burden of Babylon, which Isaiah the son of Amoz did see.
2 Lift ye up a banner upon the high mountain, exalt the voice unto them, shake the hand, that they may go into the gates of the nobles.
3 I have commanded my sanctified ones, I have also called my mighty ones for mine anger, even them that rejoice in my highness.
4 The noise of a multitude in the mountains, like as of a great people; a tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together: the LORD of hosts musters the host of the battle.
5 They come from a far country, from the end of heaven, even the LORD, and the weapons of his indignation, to destroy the whole land.
6 Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.
7 Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt:
8 And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travails: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames.
9 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.
10 *For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.*
11 And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.
12 I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.
13 *Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place,* in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.
14 And it shall be as the chased roe, and as a sheep that no man takes up: they shall every man turn to his own people, and flee every one into his own land.
15 Every one that is found shall be thrust through; and every one that is joined unto them shall fall by the sword.
16 Their children also shall be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses shall be spoiled, and their wives ravished.
17 Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them.

Joel 2:31--Destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD

The *sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood*, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.

And this very destruction of Jerusalem is represented by the Prophet Joel, <Joel 2:30-31>, by showing wonders in heaven and in earth-- darkening the sun, and turning the moon into blood. This general mode of describing these judgments leaves no room to doubt the propriety of its application in the present case.
(from Adam Clarke Commentary)

Matthew 24:29--Destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD

[Shall the sun be darkened ...] The images used here are not to be taken literally. They are often employed by the sacred writers to denote "any great calamities." *As the darkening of the sun and moon, and the falling of the stars, would be an inexpressible calamity, so any great catastrophe-- any overturning of*

kingdoms or cities, or dethroning of kings and princes is represented by the darkening of the sun and moon, and by some terrible convulsion in the elements. Thus the destruction of Babylon is foretold in similar terms <Isa. 13:10>, and of Tyre <Isa. 24:23>. The slaughter in Bozrah and Idumea is predicted in the same language, <Isa. 34:4>. See also <Isa. 50:3; 60:19-20; Ezek. 32:7; Joel 3:15>. To the description in Matthew, Luke has added <Luke 21:25-26>, "And upon the earth distress of nations,
(from Barnes' Notes)

In the *prophetic language*, great commotions upon earth are often represented under the notion of commotions and changes in the heavens:

Other Stars Falling, Heavens Shaking in OT and NT

Dan. 8:10--Destruction of the Jews by Antiochus Epiphanes in 167-164 BC

10 It grew until it reached the host of the heavens, and it threw some of the starry host down to the earth and trampled on them.

Hebrews 12:26-28--Destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD

26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, *Yet once more I shake not the earth only*, but also heaven.

27 And this word, Yet once more, signifies the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear

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Revelation 6:13-17--Destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD

13 And *the stars of heaven fell unto the earth*, even as a fig tree casts her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

16 And *said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us* from the face of him that sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Note: "Fall on us, and hide us!" *The entire Milky Way has just come down literally on the earth!!! The question that David Chilton rightly asked was: "WHAT ROCKS?" If this were literal, there would be no rocks--NO PLANET!!*

Luke 23:28-30: Israel in the NT--Destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD

28 But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children.

29 For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the breasts which never gave suck.

30 Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, *Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us.*

Compare:

Hosea 10:8--Israel in the OT--Destruction of Samaria in 722 BC

The high places also of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed: the thorn and the thistle shall come up on their altars; and they shall say to the mountains, *Cover us; and to the hills, Fall on us.*

At least 2 times God has destroyed Israel for her sins and in both cases, the cry from the Israelites is the same. It is not to be taken literally, because the hills falling on the people would kill them. The idea is for the hills to protect them. It is Hebrew hyperbole.

- The deliverance of Israel from Egypt (**Ex. 3-14**)
- The destruction of Judah by Assyria (**Amos 3, 5, 8**)
- The destruction and captivity of Israel by Babylon (**Zeph. 1; Jer. 2-25**)
 - The destruction of Egypt by Babylon (**Eze. 30-32**)
 - The destruction of Babylon by Medo-Persia (**Is. 13**)
- The judgment upon Edom by Arab tribes (**Is. 34; Mal. 1:2-5; Obadiah.**)

Gen 37:9--Joseph's dream of his father, mother and 11 brothers

And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, *the sun and the moon and the eleven stars bowed down to me.*

In this dream, Joseph likens his Father to the sun, his Mother to the moon and his brothers to the stars. Obviously, not literal, but figurative as is evidenced by much of the OT writings.