

# Day of the Lord

Joel 2:1-17

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**BIG BEND  
BIBLE  
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**The theme of the book of Joel is “Day of the Lord.”**

**What is the “Day of the Lord?”**

The term “Day of the Lord” is that period of time when the Lord openly intervenes in the affairs of men starting with the rapture of the church.

- The “Day of the Lord” generally refers to the Tribulation culminating in the Day Jesus returns to the earth.

But there are also indications the Day of the Lord refers to the Millennial Kingdom as well...

- 2 Peter 3:10-12 associates the Day of the Lord with the end of the Millennial Kingdom and the beginning of the Eternal State and this is in the context of equating a day with a thousand years (2 Peter 3:8)
- Joel 3:14 speaks of the Day of the Lord and in context, verse 18 clearly refers to the Millennial Kingdom and it connects back to verse 14 referring to “that day”

**The Day of the Lord, Joel 2:1-11**

*Blow 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 is coming, for it is at hand:*

<sup>2</sup> *A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong, the like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any such after them, Even for many successive generations.*

<sup>3</sup> *A fire devours before them, And behind them a flame burns; The land is like the Garden of Eden before them, And behind them a desolate wilderness; Surely nothing shall escape them. <sup>4</sup> Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like swift steeds, so they run.*

<sup>5</sup> *With a noise like chariots Over mountaintops they leap, like the noise of a flaming fire that devours the stubble, like a strong people set in battle array. <sup>6</sup> Before them the people writhe in pain; All faces are drained of color. <sup>7</sup> They run like mighty men, they climb the wall like men of war; Every one marches in formation, and they do not break ranks.*

<sup>8</sup> *They do not push one another; Every one marches in his own column. Though they lunge between the weapons, they are not cut down. <sup>9</sup> They run to and fro in the city, they run on the wall; They climb into the houses, they enter at the*

*windows like a thief. <sup>10</sup> The earth quakes before them, The heavens tremble; The sun and moon grow dark, And the stars diminish their brightness. <sup>11</sup> The Lord gives voice before His army, For His camp is very great; For strong is the One who executes His word. For the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; Who can endure it?*

**v1-2 – Zion refers to Jerusalem... Why should an alarm be sounded there and all the inhabitants tremble?**

The Day of the Lord has special significance to Israel and it comes with some foreboding events!

- After the Lord has called His church out of the world, He will turn again to the nation of Israel as His principle representatives on earth.

**How is it the Day of the Lord is at hand?**

This is referring to when developments heralding the Day of the Lord begin... Jesus gave signs of His coming in the Olivet Discourse, when these signs are seen, the Day of the Lord is at hand or close...

*Luke 21:28 – Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.*

**v2 – How is the Day of the Lord described?**

- *darkness and gloominess* – physical & spiritual darkness... mostly people will be blind to spiritual truth and thus evil in their actions
- *clouds and thick darkness, like the morning clouds spread over the mountain* – soaked in, people will be living in a fog and not able to see the big picture
- *A people come, great and strong* – an invincible invasion force will destroy everything it touches

**v3 – How is it that the invaders during the Day of the Lord are like a plague of locusts?**

Before the plague of locust came, the land of Israel looked like the Garden of Eden. Behind them will be destruction as a what a fire would leave.

#### **v4 – How will the appearance of the invaders be like a swift steed?**

They will come quickly with little to no warning. That is what cavalry does, its rapid maneuvering surprises the adversary to achieve shock effect.

#### **v5 – What will be heard as these Day of the Lord invaders come?**

- *With a noise like chariots* – mechanical sounds of war
- *Like the noise of a flaming fire* – destructive sounds of war
- *like a strong people set in battle array* – organized and ready to fight

#### **v6 – How will people react to the attacking armies during the Day of the Lord?**

They *writhe in pain, faces are drained of color* – they are in fear of what is coming upon them realizing that there are probably going to die. Fear has been weaponized to control people during this pandemic.

#### **v7-10 – How are the invasion forces described?**

- *run like mighty men* – move fast with amazing strength
- *climb the wall like men of war* – move through obstacles as if they were not there
- *marches in formation, do not break ranks, do not push one another; marches in his own column* – organized, disciplined, work as a team, mission oriented
- *lunge between the weapons, they are not cut down* – invincible, skilled, like supermen
- *run to and fro in the city, they run on the wall* – go where ever they want at will
- *climb into the houses, enter at the windows like a thief* – they loot and pillage helping themselves to booty – Ever notice how looting always goes along with rioting? That is what lawlessness looks like.
- *earth quakes before them, heavens tremble* – destruction is noisy
- *sun and moon grow dark, the stars diminish their brightness* – destruction pollutes the atmosphere

#### **v11 – How does the Lord gives voice before His army?**

God is allowing this invasion force to do its destructive mission to serve His purposes, to prepare the earth for the Millennial Kingdom.

#### **How is the Day of the Lord summarized here?**

Great and very terrible, not possible to be endured on your own without God's help.

#### **A Call to Repentance, Joel 2:12-17**

<sup>12</sup> *“Now, therefore,” says the Lord, “Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.”* <sup>13</sup> *So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm.* <sup>14</sup> *Who knows if He will turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him— A grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God?* <sup>15</sup> *Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly;* <sup>16</sup> *Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children and nursing babes; Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, and the bride from her dressing room.* <sup>17</sup> *Let the priests, who minister to the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar; Let them say, “Spare Your people, O Lord, and do not give Your heritage to reproach, that the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”*

#### **v12-13 – What did Joel recommend in the wake of the locust plague and the future Day of the Lord?**

Repent! Turn back to God. Lament your sins and appeal to Him for deliverance.

#### **Why does it say to rend your heart, not your garments?**

Don't just make an outward display of being broken before the Lord... be broken to the point where you know you are completely dependent on the Lord.

#### **Why should we appeal to God for our deliverance?**

Because of God's character...

- *He is gracious* – bestowing unmerited favor on His people
- *Merciful* – compassion shown toward those whom God's Law demands punishment
- *slow to anger* – patient and long suffering with us
- *great kindness* – has concern for our well being
- *relents from doing harm* – does what is in our best interest

#### **v14 – Does God change His mind?**

Numbers 23:19 – *God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?*

- God is sovereign and will do what He will do... His change of mind is an apparent change of mind from our perspective.
- Often when it looks like He changes His mind, it is the result of our turning to Him. He planned all along to bless us but our turning to Him was a pre-condition for that blessing.

### **v15-17 – What does God through Joel call Israel to do?**

Gather all the people in a sacred assembly to express national and personal sorrow over the sins that have displeased God and brought judgment upon themselves. And to appeal to Him for deliverance.

### **What is the role of the priests in Israel collectively turning back to God?**

They are to organize the assembly of the people and intercede for them in prayer. They are to represent the needs of the people to God.

### **Who are the priests during the Church Age?**

1 Peter 2:9-10 – *you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God*

Believers are all priests... representing God to others by helping them know Him and others to God through intercessory prayer.

### **What argument for deliverance does Joel say Israel should make to the Lord?**

That the nations of the world would think less of God because He did not protect His people. Joel said they should appeal to God's reputation among the nations.

### **What is the principle here that we should apply to nation-shaking events in our day?**

God is in control so when we see developments that are not good for our nation, we should repent of our turning away from God and collectively appeal to Him for deliverance.

- The only time I've ever seen this was following the Islamic attack of September 11, 2001... but it was only superficial and was back to usual in a couple of weeks.
- I have not seen any collective turning to God resulting from many natural disasters, the economic crash of 2008 and more recently the attacks on our constitutional freedoms.

### **So, do all disasters indicate God is not happy with us?**

Luke 13:4-5 – *those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish*

Not directly because we live in a fallen world where bad things indiscriminately happen as a result of mankind's sin.

Matt 5:45 – *He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*

All this does is serve to remind us of our condition before God and the need to repent of our sins and seek His provision for deliverance.

### **What is the error in thinking our circumstances reveal whether God is satisfied or displeased with us?**

- This is certainly sometimes the case because sin has consequences, but the connection is always obvious.
- But this is not necessarily the case because we live in a fallen world where bad things happen to good people.
- The false prosperity gospel assumes you are right with God because He is blessing you... this is a characteristic of the Laodicean Church Age...

Revelation 3:17 – *Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are [spiritually] wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked*

### **But consider Job... Why did Job suffer adversity?**

God allowed Satan to test Job to show us that our circumstances are not necessarily related to how close we are to God.

### **How do we apply what we discussed today?**

When disaster happens or we see developments that indicate disaster is looming, we should re-double our efforts to be together with fellow believers...

Hebrews 10:24-25 – *let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Fellowshipping together is important so that we can encourage one another and help each other grow closer to God.

Proverbs 27:17 – *as iron sharpens iron so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend*

### **What things are going on today making it especially important for Christians to fellowship together?**

The Pandemic – while common sense precautions should be taken, we still need one another to grow in the Lord.

- And this is being used to accelerate the erosion of our constitutional freedoms: speech, religion, assembly (if you don't think that is happening, you're not paying attention).

### **How is the erosion of our constitutional freedoms a prophetic trend?**

- It reveals the spirit of Antichrist... constitutional freedoms can not be tolerated if governmental power is to be centralized regionally and ultimately globally.

- It is interesting to note that the constitutional freedoms we enjoy in the USA are an anomaly in the course of human history... they are a blessing from God coupled to our forefathers honoring Him in applying His principles in our laws.
- As painful as it is to realize this, we should expect our freedoms to be taken away as a result of our nation turning away from Him.
- But just because we live in an ungodly land, this doesn't mean we have to be ungodly ourselves...
- We should take advantage of the freedoms we have to glorify God while we still can...

*John 9:4 – I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.*