

The Book of Joel “The End Times Church”

3-The Day of the Lord

This is a very difficult passage. Give us wisdom as we look at this prophetic work. The theme of Joel is “the Day of the Lord is coming”

- Joel depicts an Unhuman Army attacking the land
- This is an unhuman army invading our nation: Pornography “Fifty Shades of Grey” sexual violence, where are the feminist? It destroys the beauty of women
 - Porn makes more in one year than Yahoo, Apple, Amazon, EBay combined! It is an army invading our nation, our minds
 - If you struggle in this area, it will steal your joy, destroy your heart
 - Porn is a national disaster! But there is one worst...
 - Unbelief is the worst national disaster—secularism, atheism, agnosticism, humanism, is a national disaster! One nation under God? That is a national disaster
 - We’ve been telling God to get out of our marketplace, out of our schools, out of our government. God backs away

Chapter 1:13

***Gird yourselves and lament, you priests;
minister before the altar;
who minister to my God;
offering***

***Wail, you who
Come, lie all n
For the grain off
Are withheld from the hous***

- If we would cry out to God, we can’t handle ISIS without you, we can’t figure out our poverty problem without you, we can’t clean up Wall Street without you!
- He says, “If you will draw near to Me, I will draw near to you”

- God would show up; God would come in power, redemption, love, forgiveness, and awakening! He would!
- But instead we look at these harbingers, “If God doesn’t take care of me, I won’t care about God!”
- This is the agitation of the Spirit, warning us, giving us Harbingers
- If 9-11 doesn’t wake us up and make us desperate, what will it take?

Vs. 14

**Consecrate a fast,
elders And all the inhabitants of the land
Lord your God,**

**Call a sacred assembly
Into the house of the
And cry out to the Lord.**

- Prayer is turning to God, but fasting is turning away from things! Matthew 6:7 “when you fast...”
- Turn away from things! Fasting is turning away from stuff—fasting is turning away from talking, TV, Media, food, leisure—getting alone with God, seeking God, getting on our face before God, crying out for our nation, crying out for our family
- Get alone and pray! Fasting is more than just food. Fasting is about leaving stuff behind and getting alone with God
- You hear from God! As a nobody you become a somebody because you begin to live for God, because you get alone with God, you hear from God, and you deal with God, and you get revelation from God!

Vs. 15

**Alas for the day!
come as destruction from the Almighty.**

For the day of the Lord shall

16

Is not the food cut off before our eyes,

Joy and gladness

the house of our God?

17

***The seed shrivels under the clods,
shambles;***

18

***How the animals groan!
restless,
sheep suffer punishment.***

***Storehouses are in
Barns are bro***

***The herds of cattle are
Because they hav***

Day of the Lord—A day of reckoning and accountability

- God's patience runs out!
- It is near; it is coming

Vs. 19-20

***O Lord, to You I cry out;
pastures,
20***

***The beasts of the field also cry out to You,
are dried up,***

***For fire has devoured
And a flame has bu***

***For the water
And fire has devoured***

- Cry out to God, HELP!! We are calling out to God
- We are calling out to the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, and Jesus
 - The Israelites cried out to God in their bondage in Egypt and he heard their cry and sent Moses to deliver them
 - The nation of Israel came to the Red Sea with Pharaoh's army closing in on them, mountains on one side, the ocean on the other, and they cried out to God and he heard their cry
 - Joshua leads the army of Israel and they march around Jericho 7x and on the 7th day, they march around 7x and they BLOW the Trumpets, cry out to God and the walls come down!

- Gideon, down in the winepress, so scared of the Mideonites that he hides away, God tells him to take these 300 men, you take these jars, you put torches inside, surround the enemies camp, you hold up the jars, break the jars, and you Cry out! And when they did what God told them to do, the Midianites fled
- David is facing Goliath, David runs at Goliath and he says, you come to me with your shield, but I come to you in the name of the Lord our God...
- Elijah cried out on Mt Carmel and fire came down
- Apostle Paul in a Philippian jail and he cried out and worshipped and the chains fell off and the doors opened up
- He is the same, yesterday, today, and forever!
- We have a prayer hearing, prayer answering, miracle working God! He is waiting for us to cry out to Him
- He is a God of mercy, love, forgiveness, and compassion if you will call out to Him!
- ***Ps 34:17 The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles.***
- Is this the day of the Lord for some of you? Have you cried out Him! I'm in a mess, help me. It may not be that deliverance come quickly, but you keep crying out to Him
- Until we cry out, it's going to get worst and worst and worst! It's not in Washington, it's not in treaties, its not who our president is, it is a spiritual problem
- Will we cry out?

Blow the Shofar (George Stanhke)

Chapter 2:1-4

**Blow the trumpet in Zion,
mountain!**

*And sound an alarm
Let all the inhab*

day of the Lord is coming,

For it is at hand:

2

A day of darkness and gloominess,

A day of clouds

darkness,

clouds spreading over the

mountains.

Some, great and strong,

The like of w

has never been;

Not where ever be any

them,

Even for many successive gene

A fire devours before them,

And behind them a flam

burns;

like the Garden of Eden before them,

And

behind them a desolate wilderness;

Surely nothing shall

escape them.

4

**Their appearance is like the appearance of horses;
swift steeds, so they run.**

And like

5

With a noise like chariots

like mountaintops t

**the noise of a flaming fire that devours the stubble,
strong people set in battle array.**

Like a

- Joel knows that there is a day coming where the Syrians will invade the northern kingdom and the Babylonians will invade Judah
- His patience is running out on Israel—judgment is coming
- The God of history judges a nation for sin. These disasters have come and are coming—and we want to ignore it
- We are coming to the end of human history. Judgment is coming.
- There is a light shining in the darkness—this will be our finest hour as a Church

- God gives us harbingers, warnings to help prepare us for the future and God is on the move. The God of love is the God of judgment but he will also bring us hope
- What is God doing? Sometimes when God is moving it's not easy, it's not positive
- God is saying "Blow the trumpet" The ram's horn, the shofar, was used to herald the impending danger. The first trumpet was to sound the alarm of danger, impending danger
- Ex. We still use the trumpet blast to sound an alarm. Our Fire fighters have an alarm, a horn that goes off, and the men gather, jump on the fire truck and go because there is a fire
- Ex. We all remember the fires in Waldo Canyon and the alarms were going off at every fire station in Colorado Springs. I remember two years ago, as the billowing smoke curled up in the sky right where our house was located. All of the staff and myself got in our trucks and booked it out of our home. The Black Forest fire was burning
 - 489 homes were destroyed, an estimated \$420 million of destruction and only 2 people died
 - Why? Because people heeded the alarm! People saw on the news, saw the smoke, fire trucks and police with their sirens fully blasting
 - When we saw the smoke and heard the alarms, we heeded it!
 - But it's a warning to us—I wonder if God's not calling us to a deeper walk and a deeper responsibility in Colorado Springs because of all that He has invested in us
 - "Where much is given, much is expected" We've been given the 5 talents! This city whom God has invested The Navs, Focus on the Family, Family Talk, YWAM...

- The two largest most destructive wildfires in Colorado history in back-to-back years????
- Joel is saying “Blow the trumpet, sound the alarm!” This is NOT business as usual!!
- This is not a cycle where things are going to get better. The Day of the Lord is soon
- A day of reckoning and judgment is upon us
- We keep telling God to get out and you lose God’s protection, the Restrainer, we talked about last week, is being lifted, and the day is gradually coming where judgment. God is hearing our prayers—the Day of the Lord
- Ex. The crucifixion of Christians in Northern Iraq, sex trafficking, murders in our schools, the systematic torture of Christians...A Day of reckoning is coming!

Amos 5 “Seek Me and live; But do not seek Bethel, Gilgal, into captivity, and live”

**Nor enter
Nor pass over
See the Lord
all come to not**

- Day of the Lord—God’s reckoning of the profane—ISIS, the slaughter of the innocents, the suicide bombers, in our nation—the greed that rips off people
- But let’s also turn this around—it’s “The Lord’s Day”
 - It is His day. Amos says “Seek Me and live”
 - This is the Lord of love, who calls you beloved
 - Who went to the cross and died for your sins that you might walk in freedom

- Who died to break the power of shame over your life
- Who rose again, that you might rise again
- Who lived a life you could not live and died a death you could not die, that you might have life like no one else!
- Who wants intimacy with you—that you might experience His love daily through knowing Him in worship, word, warfare

**Seek Me and Live: Three great W's of a Walk in Intimacy:
Worship, Word, and Warfare**

1. The Walk of Worship—His presence daily, focusing all that you are in Christ
2. The Walk of the Word—Hearing from the Lord as you meditate in His Word
3. The Walk of Warfare—obeying Him in the daily grind of life, where freedom comes as we war in the Spirit

This will be our finest hour church! We are those people, those who will not walk in fear but in gratitude and joy because we have a personal relationship with Christ!

Communion—Let's renew our intimacy with Jesus tonight...