

Joel Chapter 2

V: 1 According to the previous chapter in V: 15 "... the day of the LORD is at hand..."

- Now Joel is again saying the same thing and telling them to sound the alarm, "*blow the trumpet*" - again warning them, the time is imminent!
- This is the essence of prophecy - giving warning to the people, the time is at hand.

Ezekiel 3:17 "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me."

- This sounds all too familiar, we need to be sounding the alarm, giving our generation warning, the time is imminent!

Romans 13:11-12 "¹¹And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light."

- Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble...

Proverbs 9:10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

Obadiah 15 "For the day of the LORD upon all the nations is near; as you have done, it shall be done to you; your reward shall return upon your own head."

V: 2 A day, a time of darkness and gloominess - plagues of locusts as they take flight and darken the skies:

Joel 1:4 "What the chewing locust left, the swarming locust has eaten; what the swarming locust left, the crawling locust has eaten; and what the crawling locust left, the consuming locust has eaten."

Amos 3:14-15 "¹⁴Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. ¹⁵The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will diminish their brightness."

- Similarly describing the great tribulation:

Isaiah 60:2 "For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and a deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you."

Revelation 16:10 “The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain.”

- The invaders are going to be like the morning clouds that spread over the mountains. I see this all the time from my house as the thick dark clouds come over the top of Thompson peak and spread out over the big valley into Susanville like a wave over the hills.
- In the same way the invaders are going to spread over the land of Israel, describing how the Babylonians will take the land.

V: 3 The invaders will come like Sherman through Atlanta. A beautiful land before them, a burned wasteland behind them, destruction in their wake.

Zechariah 7:14 “But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations which they had not known. Thus the land became desolate after them, so that no one passed through or returned; for they made the pleasant land desolate.”

V: 4-5 The enemy will come hard and fast, like charging calvary.

Revelation 9:7 “The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men.”

V: 6 The people melt before them, writhing in pain, nothing else they can do, helpless before them.

Isaiah 13:6-8 “⁶Howl ye, for the day of the LORD is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. ⁷Therefore all hands will be limp, every man’s heart will melt, ⁸And they will be afraid. Pangs and sorrows will take hold of them; they will be in pain as a woman in childbirth; they will be amazed at one another; their faces will be like flames.

V: 7-10 The enemy run strong, like mighty men of valor.

- Strengthened by the Lord against the rebellious children of Israel.
- They keep their formations, acting in unison - they are daring, lunging between the weapons - and they are not cut down, they are successful.

Jeremiah 5:15-16 “¹⁵Behold, I will bring a nation against you from afar, O house of Israel, says the LORD. It is a mighty nation, it is an ancient nation, a nation whose language you do not know, nor can you understand what they say. ¹⁶Their quiver is like an open tomb; they are all mighty men.”

Jeremiah 25:9 “Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, says the LORD, and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make then an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolations.”

- God had called Nebuchadnezzar and his army to be His instrument of judgment, as such they have been given great favor in the battles to come.
- The earth quakes before them - then back to the day of darkness and gloom as they cover the land like a thick cloud.

Isaiah 13:10 “For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be darkened in its going forth, and the moon will not cause its light to shine.”

V: 11 God will fulfill what He has said, He will execute and perform what He has spoken.

Isaiah 13:4 “The noise of a multitude in the mountains, like that of many people! A tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together. The LORD of hosts musters the army for battle.”

Amos 5:18-20 “¹⁸Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! For what good is the day of the LORD to you? It will be darkness, and not light. ¹⁹It will be as though a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him! Or as though he went into the house, leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him! ²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light? Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it?”

- Up to this point God has shown them the stick; now He’s going to offer them the carrot.
- He’s shown them the “hard way” - “we can do this the hard way...” - Now He’s going to show them the “easy way” - “or we can do this the easy way...”

V: 12 Repent! Genuine repentance!

Isaiah 55:6-7 “⁶Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. ⁷Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.”

2 Corinthians 7:10 “For Godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not be regretted / repented of; but the sorrow of the world produces death.”

V: 13 Tear your hearts, not your garments.

Matthew 5:3-4 “³Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

- Often times that superficial expression of grief, the tearing of one’s garments. God would prefer a genuinely broken heart, broken over their sin.

Psalm 51:17 “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart - these O God, You will not despise.”

- Return / repent - turn to God - He won’t turn you away, He is gracious and merciful!

John 6:37 “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.”

- He / God relents from doing harm, He might just turn away His judgment...

V: 14-17 Who knows - give it a shot - if you turn, if you repent - He might...

- Move, take action, blow the trumpet - call the people, declare a fast - put on sackcloth - be repentant, act repentant - sanctify yourselves - essentially do the things you should have been doing all along.
- The priests should have been weeping over the condition of the people - but they were doing the same thing as the people...
- The plague of locusts makes an offering impossible, the locusts have consumed it all. Instead they can make an offering of their tears.”
- They should have been crying out to the Lord on behalf of the people “**spare your people, O Lord!**” But again they were caught up in the same things.

Samuel:

1 Samuel 12:23 “Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.”

- Their suggested prayer should be something along the lines of “don’t give us over to the heathens that would mock our God”

V: 18-20 If the people would repent and turn to the Lord, if they would consecrate themselves and truly seek the LORD - then the LORD would be zealous for His land and pity His people.

- It’s conditional. God is waiting on them.

James 4:8 “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double minded.”

- He would further provide for their needs and send forth the harvest, the grain, the new wine, and the oil - and they would no longer be a reproach among the nations.
- He'll also turn the armies of judgment away from them, it all depends on them and whether they'll repent or not. This is not the first time that our Lord has sought to reason with them.

Isaiah 1:4-6 “⁴Alas, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a brood of evildoers, children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked to anger the Holy One of Israel, they have turned away backward. ⁵Why should you be stricken again? You will revolt more and more. The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faints. ⁶From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; they have not been closed or bound up, or soothed with ointment.”

- The stench of those monstrous Babylonians will not go un-noticed by our Lord.

V: 21-24 He speaks to the land, to the beasts, and to the children of Zion, don't be afraid, just trust in the Lord.

Proverbs 3:5-8 “⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. ⁷Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil. ⁸It will be health to your flesh and strength to your bones.”

- Again, He'll restore their crops, He'll bring the early and the latter rain, their threshing floors will be full their vats will overflow with new wine and oil, they will prosper and thrive.

V: 24-25 The prophet is speaking to the nation about restoration; but when we take these verses and give them personal application, apply them to an individual life - it's an opportunity to see the love of God at work in us as individuals.

- Sin can wreak such havoc in a persons life, take them to the depths of depravity, humiliation, despair - but God!
- When that person surrenders themselves to Christ Jesus in whatever state they're in.
- God never leaves us there.

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new.”

- In His infinite mercy, love, and grace - so often He restores what the canker worm, the palmer worm, and the locusts have eaten.

V: 25-27 He will restore that which the locusts have eaten - and you will praise the Lord who has dealt wondrously with them.

- Then they shall know that He is in the midst of Israel and that He is the LORD their God.

Zechariah 10:6 “I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph. I will bring them back, because I have mercy on them. They shall be as though I had not cast them aside; for I am the LORD their God, and I will hear them.”

V: 28-29 God will pour out His Spirit on all flesh and cause both young and old to dream dreams and see visions.

Proverbs 1:23 “Turn at My rebuke; surely I will pour out My Spirit on you; I will make My words known go you.”

- There is the near term promise; because sadly they won't turn to the Lord at that time, the Babylonians will in fact come and burn the place down. But there will be a long term fulfillment of these things that we are still looking for in the millennial reign of our Lord.

Ezekiel 39:29 “And I will not hide My face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel, says the Lord GOD.”

V: 30-31 This propels us forward to that great and terrible day of the Lord known as the great tribulation:

Isaiah 13:9-10 “⁹Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and He will destroy its sinners from it.
¹⁰For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be darkened in its going forth, and the moon will not cause its light to shine.”

Matthew 24:29 “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.”

Revelation 6:12-13 “¹²I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the

moon became like blood. ¹³And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.”

V: 32 True then and true now!

- Mount Zion and Jerusalem - deliverance will be found.

Isaiah 46:13 “I bring My righteousness near, it shall not be far off; My salvation shall not linger. And I will place salvation in Zion, for Israel My glory.”

Micah 4:6-7 “⁶In that day, says the LORD, I will assemble the lame, I will gather the outcast and those whom I have afflicted; ⁷I will make the lame a remnant, and the outcast a strong nation; so the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion from now on, even forever.”

Romans. 11:25-27 “²⁵For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in you own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; ²⁷For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.”