

Joel Chapter 3

- We left off, describing the tribulation time period, the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord.

V: 1 From Amos' stand point, this speaks of a future time when Israel, Judah will be brought back into the land. Something that almost all the other prophecies describe as well.

Jeremiah 30:3 “For behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah, says the LORD. And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.”

Ezekiel 39:25 “Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Now I will bring back the captives of Jacob, and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My holy name.”

- So this describing the “last days” and in those last days Israel will be restored into their land.
- Israel is back in their land. We haven't entered into that time of great tribulation just yet, but we're in the last days leading up to it and we know that because Israel is back in the land.
- We don't know the time or the day for a number of events, but we can know the season - and we're in the season...

1 Chronicles 12:32 “... the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do,...”

- We need to be like the sons of Issachar, knowing the times that we live in and what we ought to do.
- Knowing these are the last days and the Lord is coming - we should be praying and looking up, waiting, anticipating, getting ready, getting right if need be.

1 John 3:3 “And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

V: 2 There will be a gathering of the nations and they will be brought down to the valley of Jehoshaphat:

- This is part of the battle of Armageddon:
- We know how this battle ends, besides quickly:



Revelation 19:11-19 (Turn to / read)

Working backwards a little bit:

Revelation 14:20 “And the winepress was trampled outside the city, (Jerusalem) and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses’ bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.”

- 1,600 furlongs = approximately 180 X 1miles, 4 feet deep.
- From Megiddo to Edom. They actually think that they can overthrow God!
- That’s a lot of blood!

Isaiah 66:16 “For by fire and by His sword the LORD will judge all flesh; and the slain of the LORD shall be many.”

- Where is the valley of Jehoshaphat? Just outside the city of Jerusalem.



V:2b God will enter into judgment with them there, in the Valley of Jehoshaphat, just outside the city.

- Jesus was crucified just outside the city, on another side of the city.
- God will enter into judgment with them there:

“On account of My people, My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land.”

Genesis 12:3 “I will bless those that bless you, and I will curse him who curses you.”

Zephaniah 3:19 “Behold, at that time I will deal with all who afflict you;...

- 2nd reason, they divided up His land! No division, no two states!

V: 3 It looks like they were into human / child trafficking.

Amos 2:6 “Thus says the LORD: for three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, because they sell the righteous for silver, and the poor for a pair of sandals.”

V: 4-6 They have plundered the land of Israel and it’s people, they’ve sold His children to the Greeks / Gentiles.

Amos 1:6-7 “⁶Thus says the LORD: for three transgressions of Gaza, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, because they took captive the whole captivity to deliver them up to Edom. ⁷But I will send fire upon the wall of Gaza, which shall devour its palaces.”

V: 7-8 God will turn it around back on those who have victimized Israel, He'll turn it back on them. He'll sell them to the Sabeans, to Sheba & Dedan - the Arabians, a people far off.

Galatians 6:7-8 “⁷Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁸For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”

V: 9-12 A message to the nations - prepare for war! Turn your plowshares into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears - the exact opposite of what will happen during the millennium.

Isaiah 2:4 “He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”

- The nations will come to the valley of Jehoshaphat - the valley of judgment.

Psalm 110:5-6 “⁵The Lord is at your right hand; He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath. ⁶He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries.”

V: 13-14 This looks and sounds like what we read in Revelation:

Revelation 14:15-20

Isaiah 63:3 “I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes.”

V: 15 Darkness - also sounds familiar:

Joel 2:10

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.”

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: 16 The LORD will roar from Zion... lions roar - this is none other than the Lion of the tribe of Judah, our Lord Jesus!

Psalms 91:1-2 “¹He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. ²I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.”

Proverbs 18:10 “The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.”

Isaiah 51:5-6 “⁵My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth, and My arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands will wait upon Me, and on My arm they will trust. ⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look on the earth beneath. For the heavens will vanish away like smoke, the earth will grow old like a garment, and those who dwell in it will die in like manner; but My salvation will be forever, and My righteousness will not be abolished.”

V: 17 Then you will know that I am the LORD your God! (770)

- His desire is to be known by His people, known in a personal way.

Zechariah 8:3 “Thus says the LORD: I will return to Zion, and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, the mountain of the LORD of hosts, the Holy Mountain.”

V: 18 Restoration shall come to Israel.

Ezekiel 47:1 “Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the front of the temple faced east; the water was flowing from under the right side of the temple, south of the altar.”

- Like in the heavenly realm:

Revelation 22:1-2 “¹And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ²In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit very month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”

V: 19 Egypt gets wiped out because of violence against the people of Judah.

Genesis 12:3 “I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you.”

V: 20 But Judah... will thrive!

Amos 9:14-15 “¹⁴I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them they shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; they shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. ¹⁵I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them,” Says the LORD your God.”

V: 21 God will acquit them, forgive them, wipe the record clean!

Ezekiel 36:25-28 “²⁵Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. ²⁶I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. ²⁸Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.”

Revelation 11:15 “Then the seventh angel sounded: and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”

Overview:

Authorship: Joel, “Jehovah is God.”

Time Written: Early 9th century BC, give or take **around 830 BC**, during the reign of king Joash, king of Judah.

- Joel was contemporary with Elisha as his prophecy corresponds with Elisha’s prophecies to the Northern Kingdom.

Type of Book: Prophetic, 2nd of the “minor prophets”

- Most of Joel’s prophecies relate to “*the Day of the LORD*” meaning the day of judgment, ending with Israel’s eventual restoration.

Written To: Judah, the Southern Kingdom.

Theme: The coming judgment. “*Day of the LORD*” - (5x’s - **1:15, 2:1, 11, 31, 3:14**)

Joel uses “*The Day of the LORD*” to describe 3 events that are all connected:

1. The plague of locusts is the immediate Day of the LORD.
 2. The invasion of Judah is the imminent Day of the LORD.
 3. The final judgment of the world, as the ultimate Day of the LORD.
- Joel describes a present time of hardship, chastisement from the Lord, a plague of locusts that have devoured the land; a precursor the the real judgment to come via the both the Assyrians and the Babylonians.
 - Joel not only predicts a coming day of judgment, but also predicts the coming of the Gospel Age:

Joel 3:31-32 “³¹The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and terrible / awesome day of the LORD. ³²And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

Key Verse:

Joel 2:12-13 “¹²Now, therefore, says the LORD, turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning. ¹³So 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.”

Ch. 1 Plague of locusts

Ch. 2 The promised deliverance. The day of the Lord.

Ch. 3 Judgment of the nations.