

## Joel 2:28-3:21

### The Ultimate Day of the Lord

We have noted that a major theme in the book of Joel is the Day of the Lord!

- CH. 1 an immediate Day – Locust plague
- CH. 2 An imminent Day – An invading Army
- CH. 3 An ultimate Day – all nations gathered.

The focus of our Message tonight: **THE ULTIMATE DAY!**

- I. Before that Day 2:28-32
- II. During that Day 3:1-16
- III. After that Day 3:17-21

We left off at V.27 of Ch.2 - An imminent Day – An invading Army

V.28 of Ch.2 signals a change in the prophecy.

A)Joel describes a major outpouring of God's spirit upon all people.

B)I mentioned on Sunday that we were going to be looking at Chapters 3-4 of the book of Joel this Wednesday.

1)Joel only has 3 chapters

C)True in our English Bibles – but in the Hebrew Bible the Rabbi's considered vs 2:28-32 so significant – they made these verses it's own Chapter

D)I will explain why as we work through them tonight

V.28 “And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;

Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams,

Your young men shall see visions.

<sup>29</sup> And also on My menservants and on My maidservants

I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

<sup>30</sup> “And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke.

<sup>31</sup> The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

<sup>32</sup> And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.

For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the Lord has said, Among the remnant whom the Lord calls.

Afterwards: Sometime after the invasion mentioned in Ch.2

A)God was going to do something incredibly unique – Major outpouring of The Holy Spirit on all flesh - {Go beyond Israel

B)To a Jewish student of the Bible – Jewish Rabbi – this would be considered a RADICAL CONCEPT

C) During the OT era, the Holy Spirit was given only to special people who had special jobs to do,

1)He would come upon people like Samson or David – at a specific time – for a SPECIFIC

TASK

D)WHY David prayed – take not your Holy Spirit from me –

1)He could sense a difference when he was operating under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit

E)So the Anointing and empowering of the Holy Spirit was not for everyone. {Select few

But What Joel is describing here happens to everyone – on all FLESH sometime before the great and terrible Day of the Lord.

A)Many Bible students and teachers recognize the language here in the text and link it to Acts 2 – what took place on Pentecost.

B)120 Believers were together in an upper room – Sound of a mighty Rushing wind – tongues of Fire

1)Spoke in tongues - People gathered

C)They are drunk – Peter got up and said this: “But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.

15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.

16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: Acts 2:14-6

D)Peter quotes Joel 2:28-32 – Here is what we need to understand: Peter was not claiming that

what took place at Pentecost was the Fulfillment of Joel 2:28-32

**Reason there were several things that didn't happen.**

A)The Holy Spirit was not poured out on all flesh – Distinct group of Jewish people –

B)There were **no signs** in heavens – the sun was not turned to darkness or the moon to blood –

C)Peter didn't say this is the fulfillment of Joel 2 He said this is that which was spoken of by the Prophet Joel

1)He was referring to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit

**The Holy Spirit being poured out on more than just a few select people is like what Joel was talking about**

A)We might say this was a preview of coming attractions

B)Movie clip but not the whole movie

C)Revivals through the centuries were the same thing - A Preview of something that is going to happen in the last days – Major outpouring

Jim Cymbala in his book Storm – said this about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit

**“The evidence of history is irrefutable. When believers humble themselves and pray for more of God, guess what? The Holy Spirit comes! People become convicted of sins they recently justified. Churches receive a new zeal to share Christ, study his Word, and pray. Love abounds in the believing community. And unbelievers come to Christ.”**

**B)Exactly what believers have witnessed in the History of Revival:**

1)Examples – Welsh Revival 1904-1905 Wales – result was 100,000 souls converted in Wales in 6 month.

C)**Major transformations** – So many Coal miners getting saved – stopped cussing – Work stoppage –

1)Donkeys that worked in the mines – didn't know how to follow orders they were so used to being cussed at.

D)**Crime dropped** – Police department had so little to do they started forming Quartets and singing in Churches

**Welsh Revival impacted much of the UK –**

A)Swept across the Pond to the USA and influenced – Azusa street revivals – Azusa CA. – impacted the country

B)Created within believers a deep longing for more of God.

C)Stirring today in many believers hearts

**D)Then of course there was the Jesus people Movement late 1960's**

1)Young hippies turning from drugs to Jesus –

E)Outpouring of the Holy Spirit that swept this country and impacted parts of Europe.

**These were but previews of what Joel is describing here that is going to happen in mass in the last days.**

A)Leading up to the day of the Lord – Major outpouring of the Holy Spirit – on all Flesh – Signs in the Sky – Sun dark – the moon Red

B)People ask – Do I think there is going to be another Revival before the Rapture? -

1)I sure hope so – Praying for it

C)But I do know this – there will be **another Revival** before the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming

**But there is always the need for Personal Revival.**

A)Ephesians 5:28 – Be continually being filled with the Holy Spirit

B)The question is never – How much of the Holy Spirit do you have –

1)The question is – How much of you does the Holy Spirit have!

C)Holy Spirit is not an it or a force – a Person – He teaches, guides, leads, He can be grieved and resisted

1)AND HE EMPOWERS

D)**BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** – Wind in a sail – Same wind – catching more of the Sail

1)Your life yielded and submitted

**So in section 1 Before that Day – The Holy Spirit will be poured out – Cry out for that today!**

## **Section 2 During the Day of the Lord 3:1-16**

“For behold, in those days and at that time,  
When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem,  
2 I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I 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.

### **The Valley of Jehoshaphat? – Only Mention of it in Scripture**

A)The name Jehoshaphat means Jehovah Judges

B)So this is the Valley where Jehovah judges – which certainly would be a reference to Armageddon

C)The Valley of Megiddo

### **God says I will gather all the nations – to enter into Judgment with them there**

A)FOR WHAT THEY DID TO MY PEOPLE – His heritage Israel

B)Whom they have scattered among the nations

C)Israel dispersed in AD 70 – almost 2,000 yrs the nation ceased to exist

### **The Jewish people have endured unprecedented persecution throughout the ages**

A)Stalin – Hitler – Arab states – God has watched the abuse- Last days stumbling block

B)Notice how he describes it here

<sup>3</sup> They have cast lots for My people,  
Have given a boy *as payment* for a harlot,  
And sold a girl for wine, that they may drink.

<sup>4</sup> “Indeed, what have you to do with Me,  
O Tyre and Sidon, and all the coasts of Philistia?

Will you retaliate against Me?  
But if you retaliate against Me,  
Swiftly and speedily I will return your retaliation upon your own head;

<sup>5</sup> Because you have taken My silver and My gold,

And have carried into your temples My prized possessions.

<sup>6</sup> Also the people of Judah and the people of Jerusalem  
You have sold to the Greeks,  
That you may remove them far from their borders.

<sup>7</sup> “Behold, I will raise them Out of the place to which you have sold them, And will return your retaliation upon your own head.

<sup>8</sup> I will sell your sons and your daughters Into the hand of the people of Judah, And they will sell them to the Sabeans, To a people far off; For the LORD has spoken.”

C)Basically what God is saying is what you have done to my people is going to come back on you!

D)V.9 God says – PREPARE FOR WAR!

**Proclaim this among the nations: “Prepare for war!**

**9 Wake up the mighty men, Let all the men of war draw near, Let them come up.**

**10 Beat your plowshares into swords And your pruning hooks into spears; Let the weak say, ‘I am strong.’ ”**

**11 Assemble and come, all you nations, And gather together all around.**

### **PULL TOGETHER THE BEST WEAPONS YOU CAN – you are going to need it!**

A)The end of V.11 – Joel interjects - **Cause Your mighty ones to go down there, O LORD.**

B)Lord rally your troops –

C)What Joel is describing here is the battle of Armageddon

1)When all the nations of the world will gather together in the Valley of Megiddo in Israel

D)Come with the Antichrist to go to war against Jesus when he returns – Picture the armies as we read

**V.12 “Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat;  
For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations.**

**13Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe.  
Come, go down; For the winepress is full,**

The vats overflow— For their wickedness is great.”

**You don't use a Sickle to harvest grapes  
Sickles cut down - Cut wheat -**

**14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision!**

**For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.**

**Hebrew Bible – The Valley of threshing - - Judgment is happening here.**

**15 The sun and moon will grow dark,  
And the stars will diminish their brightness.**

**16 The Lord also will roar from Zion,  
And utter His voice from Jerusalem;  
The heavens and earth will shake;  
But the Lord will be a shelter for His people,  
And the strength of the children of Israel.**

**Revelation 14:14-20 describes this event – Keep your place here in JOEL - turn there**

14 Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat **One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle.**

15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, “Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.”

16 So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

17 Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

18 And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, “Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe.”

19 So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

20 And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.

**C)1600 furlongs is 200 miles - Blood – and bodies**

**1)AND THE blood is up to the horses Bridle – talking 5-6 feet – RIVER OF BLOOD**

**D)WHEN we were in Israel we did a Message on this overlooking this Valley**

**1)Our guide – who was not saved – MESSIAH COMES – that was Awesome**

**E)The Jews are looking forward to the Lord coming and avenging them –**

**1)Lion of the tribe of Judah – Conquering one**

**What they don't realize is that Jesus already Came once – Came as the Lamb – Conqueror sin/ death**

**A)When he comes the 2<sup>nd</sup> time as the LION – WE ARE GOING TO BE WITH HIM!**

**B)HIS VICTORY WILL BE DECISIVE !**

**C)Why we need to pray for unsaved relatives friends co workers -**

**1)We want them to be on the right side of this**

**D)Philippians – One day – Every knee will bow and tongue confess – Wait until that day – TOO LATE**

**1)Back to Joel**

**2:28-32 Before that Day**

**3:1-16 During that Day**

**III. After that Day V.17-21 – Blessing is poured out**

**“So you shall know that I am the Lord your God,**

**If there was any doubt as to who Jesus is – it will be put to rest on that day! – Jewish people will embrace Jesus as their MESSIAH**

**“So you shall know that I am the Lord your God, Dwelling in Zion My holy mountain.**

**Then Jerusalem shall be holy, And no aliens shall ever pass through her again.” God Blesses His People**

**18 And it will come to pass in that day That the mountains shall drip with new wine, The hills shall flow with milk, (RESTORATION AND FRUITFULNESS – LION KING)**

**And all the brooks of Judah shall be flooded with water;**

**A fountain shall flow from the house of the Lord And water the Valley of Acacias.**

**Jerusalem is the only city of antiquity that wasn't built near a great river.**

**A)Rome had the Tiber; Nineveh was built near the Tigris and Babylon on the Euphrates;**

**B)and the great Egyptian cities were built near the Nile.**

**C)But in the kingdom of Jesus, Jerusalem will have a river that proceeds from the temple of God.**

**“On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half to the eastern sea [the Dead Sea] and half to the western sea [the Mediterranean], in summer and in winter” (Zech. 14:8, NIV).**

**D)You find this river and its special blessings described in Ezekiel 47.**

**19 “Egypt shall be a desolation,  
And Edom a desolate wilderness,  
Because of violence against the people of Judah,  
For they have shed innocent blood in their land.**

**In contrast to the land of Israel, the lands of their enemies, Egypt and Edom, will be desolate as a punishment for the way they treated the Jewish people.**

**This means that Egypt and Edom will have to depend on Israel for the basic things of life, such as food and water.**

**20-21But Judah shall abide forever, And Jerusalem from generation to generation. For I will acquit them of the guilt of bloodshed, whom I had not acquitted; For the LORD dwells in Zion.**

**JUDAH IS RESTORED AND JESUS IS THEIR KING – GLORIOUS DAY!**

**The prophecy of Joel begins with tragedy,**

**A)the invasion of the locusts, but it closes with triumph,**

**B)the reign of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.**

**C)WE WILL PROCLAIM -**

**“The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He**

**will reign for ever and ever” (Rev. 11:15, NIV).**

**THREE KINGDOMS**

**A)KINGDOM OF THIS WORLD –**

**B)KINGDOM WHICH IS TO COME**

**C)KINGDOM WITHIN – Jesus is the King**