

“For The Day of The LORD Is Near”

Joel 1:15

June 14, 2020

- INTRO:** What’s wrong with this picture?
- In one sense... **nothing’s wrong** with this picture
 - In another way... **EVERYTHING’s wrong...**
 - I’m wearing a **mask...** global pandemic!
 - I’m preaching in the **woods...** national riots!
 - I’m internally **grieving...** spiritual warfare!

You see friend... this week... God has gripped my heart in a way that I have never felt before... and... by His grace and for His glory... as I share with you today from the Prophet Joel,
I believe I know why...

“For the Day of the LORD is near!”

The **incredible irony** is... *everything that is wrong about today, points us to everything that is right & righteous about eternity!*

(The very mess we are in points to our Messiah!)

T/S: That leads us to our Bible text for today...

Joel 1:15

“Alas! for the day. For the Day of the LORD is near, and as destruction from the Almighty it comes.”

My Goals:

- EXPLAIN & APPLY *“the Day of the LORD”*

VIDEO: *“The Day of The LORD”*

- See the Word’s CONNECTION & CONTRAST

Jude 1:3-4a

3Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. **4**For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God

Jeremiah 6:14 (cf. Ezekiel 13:16 & Micah 3:5)

They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ when there is no peace.

Jeremiah 23:19-20

Behold, the storm of the LORD!
Wrath has gone forth,
a whirling tempest;
it will burst upon the head of the wicked.
20The anger of the LORD will not turn back
until he has executed and accomplished
the intents of his heart.

In the latter days you will understand it clearly.

QUOTE:

Jeremiah 23 is a warning against false prophets. In particular, it is about men, claiming to speak for God, men whose lives deny God, who tell the people that, "The LORD has said, 'You shall have peace.'" These prophets say to the people, who were walking according to the dictates of their own hearts, "No evil will come upon you." In essence, they deny God's justice, and the fact that sin has consequences. They are telling the people not to worry about God's judgment upon them—everything would be fine; no change of course would be necessary.

However, **the people, in reality, have declared war on God and His way of life through the conduct of their own lives.**

Whether they realize it or not... they can never have peace with God until they repent and change.

...There will be peace with God only when the sinner is broken and submits to God. Yet, the false prophets insinuate that God does not care and that it does not matter how one lives. Nevertheless, these verses show that God destroys those who promote the idea that sin does not have consequences, who say God's justice is of little concern. These ideas keep getting Israel—indeed, all of mankind—into trouble.

- **David C. Grabbe (Forerunner Commentary)**

➤ See God's SOVEREIGNTY & SERIOUSNESS

Obadiah 1:15

For the day of the LORD is near

upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head.

Isaiah 13: 6,9,11

6Wail, **for the day of the LORD is near**;
it will come like destruction from the Almighty. ^a

9See, **the day of the LORD is coming**
—a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger—
to make the land desolate
and **destroy the sinners** within it.

11 I will punish the world for its evil,
the wicked for their sins...

➤ See God's LOVE & WRATH in His WARNING

Matthew 24:3-14; 21; 37-44 & 25:32-34 & v.41

3As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" **4**And Jesus answered them, "**See that no one leads you astray.** **5**For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray. **6**And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars.

See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. **7**For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. **8**All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

9“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake. **10**And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. **11**And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. **12**And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. **13**But the one who endures to the end will be saved. **14**And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. **38**For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, **39**and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

42 Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

➤ Hear & Heed God’s PERSONAL CALL to YOU

Ephesians 4:10-15

11And He/Jesus gave the apostles, ***the prophets***, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15Rather, ***speaking the truth in love***, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

BIG IDEA: **See your tomorrow
thru your today!**

PREVIEW: ***Biblical perspectives on the Day of the LORD***

1. NOW
2. NEAR
3. NEVER-again

CONTEXT:

➤ **Series...**

Proverbs 29:18

Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.

Psalm 91:1-2

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
2I will say to the LORD, “You are my refuge and my
fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”

Psalm 46:1

God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in times of trouble.

Isaiah 40:1-3

1“Comfort, comfort My people,” says your God.
3A voice of one calling: “Prepare the way for the
LORD in the wilderness; make a straight highway for
our God in the desert.

➤ **Society...**

- Global virus (and 2nd wave)
- Regional starvation around the world
- National riots (loveless-ness & lawlessness)
- International warfare & cultural hatred
- Threats to totally annihilate Israel
- Contentious plans for Holy Land annexations
- New World Order movements afoot...

➤ **Sermon...**

- In the Prophets: *“the Bible’s dark continent”*
- Hearing from God through Joel

VIDEO: *“Bible Project – Joel Summary”*

- Peter quoted Joel in **Acts 2 (Pentecost)**
- Joel is like **Hebrews: “5 Warnings”**

I. NOW... *“Felt Devastation”*

“Alas! for the day...”

1The **word of the LORD** that came to Joel...

2Hear this, you elders;
give ear, **all inhabitants** of the land!
Has such a thing happened in your days,
or in the days of your fathers?

3 Tell your children of it,
and let your children tell their children,
and their children to another generation.

14Consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly.
Gather the elders
and all the inhabitants of the land
to the house of the LORD your God,
and cry out to the LORD.

15Alas for the day!
For the day of the LORD is near,
and as destruction from the Almighty it comes.

19To you, O LORD, I call...

II. NEAR *“Future Devastation”*

For the Day of the LORD is near,

1 Blow a trumpet in Zion;
sound an alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near,

3 Fire devours before them,
and behind them a flame burns.
The land is like the garden of Eden before them,
but behind them a desolate wilderness,
and nothing escapes them.

9 They leap upon the city,
they run upon the walls,
they climb up into the houses,
they enter through the windows like a thief.

VIDEO: *“Joel, Jesus, & June 2020”*

11 The LORD utters his voice
before his army,
for his camp is exceedingly great;
he who executes his word is powerful.
**For the day of the LORD is great and very
awesome;**
who can endure it?

Return to the LORD

12 “Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“**return to me with all your heart,**
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
13 and **rend your hearts and not your garments.**”
Return to the LORD your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.

15 Blow the trumpet in Zion;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;

The LORD Had Pity

18 Then the LORD became jealous for his land
and had pity on his people.

25 **I will restore to you the years**
that the swarming locust has eaten...
my great army, which I sent among you.

The LORD Will Pour Out His Spirit

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,
and your young men shall see visions.

32 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. ...as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

1 Thessalonians 5:2-11

2For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. **3**While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. **4**But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. **5**For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. **6**So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. **7**For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. **8**But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. **9**For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **10**who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. **11**Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

III. NEVER-again *"Final Devastation"*

as destruction from the Almighty it comes."

1 “For behold, in those days and at that time... 2 I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. And I will enter into judgment with them there, on behalf of my people...

16 The LORD roars from Zion,
and utters his voice from Jerusalem,
and the heavens and the earth quake.
But the LORD is a refuge to his people,
a stronghold to the people of Israel.

17 “So you shall know that I am the LORD your
God,
who dwells in Zion, my holy mountain.
And Jerusalem shall be holy,
and strangers shall never again pass through it.

18 “And in that day... a fountain shall come forth
from the house of the LORD

21 I will avenge their blood...

REVIEW:

“the Day of the LORD IS near!”

*Christians are to respond as walking-warnings,
worshipping-warriors, & hard-working-witnesses! -JDP*

CLOSE:

Matthew 25:32-34; & v.41

32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. **33** And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. **34** Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world... **41**’ Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

Acts 2:37-41

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and asked Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” **38** Peter replied, “**Repent** and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** This promise belongs to you and your children and to all who are far off—to all whom the Lord our God will **call to Himself**.”

Realize... Repent... Receive... Redeem... Restore

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40 *With many other words he testified, and he urged them, “Be saved from this corrupt generation.”*

Remember: *God disciplines those He loves... AND He will destroy those who hate Him!* - JDP

Let's PRAISE!

VIDEO: *“Clean Water Dream”*