

Title: Day of the Lord

Text: Joel 1-3

Target: To see the four distinct “Days of the Lord” mentioned in Joel and determine which one you are living in.

- I. **Consuming Time of Crisis:** *“Hear 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?” (Vs.1:2)*
 - A. **The Locust have Devoured:** *“What the cutting locust left, the swarming locust has eaten. What the swarming locust left, the hopping locust has eaten and what the hopping locust left, the destroying locust has eaten.” (Vs.1: 4)*
 - B. **The Listeners were Devastated:** *“Is not the food cut off before our eyes, joy and gladness from the house of our God?” (Vs.1:16)*

Sermon Discussion Question: Does this resonate with you concerning our current culture and societal climate? Things seem to be in constant disarray and conflict everywhere we look. If we aren't careful, we can be consumed by the crisis around us. However, we can have peace in the midst of chaos. Furthermore, we can share that peace with those around us. When the world seems to be consuming itself, where is your peace found? Are you an instrument of peace to those around you? How do you share that peace with others?

- II. **Clarifying Trumpet of Conviction:** *“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,” (Vs. 2:1)*
 - A. **The Coming of Retribution:** *“For the day of the LORD is great and very awesome, who can endure it?” (Vs. 2:11)*
 - B. **The Call to Repentance:** *“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 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.” (Vs. 2:12-13)*
- III. **Compelling Truth of Comfort:** *“You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel and that I am the LORD your God and there is none else. And my people shall never again be put to shame.” (Vs. 2:27)*
 - A. **Promise of His Spirit:** *“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;” (Vs. 2:28a)*
 - B. **Prophecy by His Spirit:** *“your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.” (Vs. 2:28b)*
 - C. **Protected by His Spirit:** *“And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Vs. 2:32)*

Sermon Discussion Questions: When I read verses 11 and 32, all I can hear is the song “Did you feel the mountains tremble?” Do you remember this song from the early 2000’s? It’s a perfect bridge from the first chapter of Joel to the second chapter. The lyrics go like this:

“Did you feel the mountains tremble? Did you hear the oceans roar?”

When the people rose to sing of Jesus Christ, the risen one.

And we can see that God you’re moving,

A mighty river through the nations.

And young and old will turn to Jesus.

Fling wide you heavenly gates,

Prepare the way of the risen one!”

How can you live in such a way that your life song brings peace to those around you? To encourage young and old to turn to Jesus? And to prepare the way of the risen one?

IV. Chilling Testimony of what’s to Come: *“Hasten and come, all you surrounding nations and gather yourselves there. Bring down your warriors, O LORD.”* (Vs. 3:11)

A. Valley of Jehoshaphat: *“Let the nations stir themselves up and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations.”* (Vs. 3:12)

B. Valley of Judgement: *“Multitudes, multitudes, in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.”* (Vs. 3:14)

Sermon Discussion Questions: Chapter 3 closes the book of Joel with God’s judgement on the nations and blessing on Israel. For the lost, this should serve as a chilling reminder that God’s judgement awaits those that have not trusted in Jesus for their salvation. However, for the redeemed it should serve as an encouragement that Jesus is coming back! So, let us live in such a way that we are preparing the way of The LORD and sharing the good news of Jesus with everyone. In light of this, does this warning bring fear or comfort to you? Does it compel you to spread the Gospel message to a lost world? Let us run this race with fervor because the day of The LORD is near!

Takeaway: It is never the wrong time to do the right thing.