

PROPHETS: LESSON # 4
“THE DAY OF THE LORD”
Read the 3 Chapters of Joel

INTRODUCTION:

- The theme of Joel centers on “*the day of the Lord.*” So prevalent is it to his thoughts that he mentions it 5 times in a book of only 73 verses (**1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14**).
- Both the day of the Lord’s harbinger (Locust plague) and its reality are used to motivate people to return to God BEFORE the day arrives.
- Elsewhere the day is termed: “*Day of Judgment*” & “*Day of Visitation.*” All the same.

TWO DESTINIES AWAIT MANKIND IN THE INEVITABLE “DAY OF THE LORD”

I. DESTRUCTION AND DELIVERANCE - A Description

- A. Destruction - **Joel 2:2, 10-11; 3:12-16a** “*A day of darkness and gloom...the sun and the moon grow dark, the stars lose their brightness...*”
- B. Deliverance - **Joel 2:12-13, 32; 3:16b-17, 20-21** Blessing, salvation, hope, strength, Cleansing, “*Rend your hearts, not your garments and return to the LORD your God.*”

II. PHYSICAL JUDGMENTS

- A. **Isaiah 13:6-11** Doom of Babylon **Isaiah 14** Doom of Assyria
 Isaiah 15 Doom of Moab **Isaiah 17** Doom of Damascus
 Isaiah 18 Doom of Ethiopia **Isaiah 19** Doom of Egypt
- B. ISRAEL - **Joel 2:1** ----- Fulfillment to come **Acts 2:16, 20-22a**
- C. Yet, the Remnant would be saved - **Joel 2:32; Isaiah 27:12-13** which alludes to **2:2**

III. SPIRITUAL JUDGMENT

- A. There will be a world-wide judgment (**Acts 17:30-31**); ALL nations; ALL people
1. God’s Word is proven reliable and true in the previous “days of the LORD.”
 2. Thus, they stand as assurance of the eternal judgment to come - **2 Cor.5:10; 2 Pet.3:7-13.**
- B. To the LOST - The “Day of the Lord” will come as a thief in the night - Unexpected, Unprepared - **1 Thess.5:2-6.**
- C. To the SAVED - The “Day of the Lord” will offer deliverance and hope fulfilled...to those Prepared, **2 Thess.1:7-10.**

CONCLUSION:

- The physical judgments are the surety of the spiritual judgment to come. NOW is the time to repent; to turn to God in order to escape the great destruction.
- Some might ask why the message in Joel emphasized the negative over the positive. The reason (like so many today) is that sin had deceived them into thinking that “things were okay”. Amos to Israel - **Amos 5:18-20**
- Let us not be deceived. It is as Paul wrote “*NOW is the acceptable time; behold NOW is the day of salvation.*” **2 Cor.6:1-2** (Quoted from **Isaiah 49:8**) Have you made YOUR preparations for the “Day of the LORD?”