

JOEL 2 vs 1

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As we move through the Book of Joel, we must remember, prophetic segments of scripture being a significant part of the orthodox writ handed down to us by the elders of the faith, they fit within the scope of learning when Paul wrote to Timothy saying: All scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in rightness, that the people of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work -- **2 Timothy 3**.

Some sections of scripture are challenging; as C.S. Lewis said, like cracking a nut; when with much effort the nut is cracked, we know – just as a little sparrow knows, which part is for our benefit. Joel wrote prophecy, telling forth events; the simple approach is to say, what we are reading is old history worked out 2500 years ago, somewhere in the middle east; and then they close the book. A closer look reveals prophecy serves a dual purpose: **1**. Being the word of God, He spoke to correct error found in His people; and **2**. He still speaks to correct error found in His people, until He sets up His kingdom of righteousness, joy and peace. Though many things are understood figuratively, there is a Day coming when it will be accomplished to the letter. So take His word to heart, to keep and do what He asks in each generation; it's from our Father in heaven who watches over us for our own benefit.

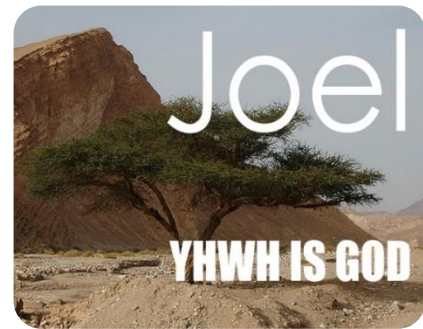
¹ Blow the trumpet in Zion / in Jerusalem, the City of David,

sound an alarm in My holy mountain: / be prepared to meet the approaching army.

let all the inhabitants of the earth tremble / the following pictures show what American tax dollars in the hands of criminals, thugs and other greedy bastards of deception, are busy doing around the world – the city of Aleppo is one of the ancient cities of the church that is home to the earliest followers of Jesus:

for the Day of the LORD comes / Moses tells us, there are 7 Days of the Lord; all specific Days; all workdays belonging to the Lord; 4 of those Days were completed when the Messiah came the first time; there are **3 last days**, 3 great Days of the Lord still on His calendar; equal to Passover and Pentecost; this terrifying **6th Day of the Lord**; it's a horrific Day that anyone in their right mind would hope to avoid; and we can... if we turn to Him and commit our life... to learn His way found in His word;

for the Day of the LORD comes, it is near / nearer than most can imagine;



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² a day of darkness and of gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

like the dawn spreading over the mountains: a great and mighty nation; as never has been, nor ever will be through the years of many generations / and is this verse speaking of the military might of a great nation at the end, once greatly blessed by God, but now gone rogue? that is out of control; no longer trusting God? Jesus said, as in the days of Noah, so will it be when the Son of man returns. Well, in **the days of Noah**, the ancient world was thoroughly violent and the imagination of mankind's heart was only evil; and God tells us, He regretted He created mankind and decided to eliminate them from the earth.

These verses tell us when Messiah comes to deal with the world of the 21st century.

What will this time be like?

like the dawn spreading over the mountains: a great and mighty nation; as never has been, nor ever will be...

³ A fire consumes before them; and behind them a flame burns: the earth is like the garden of Eden before them, but a desolate wilderness behind them; yes, nothing escapes them.

⁴ The appearance of them is like the appearance of horses; and as horsemen they run / as they charge forward, we can be sure that Joel was challenged to describe in the terms of his time... what he saw, since he didn't have our military manual; things that would happen 2500 years later. Joel is describing warriors moving fast. What, riding on tanks and trucks and HMMWVs? How would you describe these modern instruments of war to people living 2500 years ago?



⁵ Like the rumbling of chariots they leap on the tops of mountains, like the crackling of a flame of fire devouring the stubble, like a mighty nation set in battle array.

⁶ Before them the people are in anguish: all faces turn pale.

⁷ Like warriors they charge; like soldiers they scale the wall; they each march in line, and do not deviate from their paths / Joel sees them moving with precision:

⁸ they do not crowd each other; they march everyone in his path: when they burst through the defenses they do not break ranks.

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⁹ They rush on the city; they run on the wall; they climb into houses; they enter through windows like a thief.

¹⁰ The earth quakes before them; the heavens tremble:

the sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining / does Joel see much war going on; or just the residuals of war in the atmosphere that easily obscure the lights in the heavens:



¹¹ **YHWH / the LORD** utters His voice before His army: executing His powerful word:

for exceedingly great is His camp: for great and very awesome is the Day of the LORD; / **The 6th Day of the Lord**, Moses told us about it; a Day Afflicting souls; a terrifying Day; like was never seen;

Who can endure it? We learn from John what it will be like; the 6th seal is broken, and there was a great earthquake, the sun became black as sackcloth; the great deep state of the earth: the kings and heads of state; multinational business moguls; the military 5-star commanders; the wealthy; the strong, and every slave and free man, they all hid themselves in caves and among the rocks of the mountains; and they said to the mountains and the rocks, **Fall on us, and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of His wrath is come** – Revelation 6:15.

Who can endure it? the emphatic answer is: **Nobody!** And in spite of all this pending terror, the Lord of glory is long-suffering and full of mercies...

¹² Yet even now, declares the LORD: **Return to Me with all your heart** / He is not interested in the half-hearted promises of 2-faced folks; they will be asked to leave His presence; to them He will say, **I never knew you**. They must go. Where? It doesn't matter; just go into everlasting darkness. They will not be invited to the dance. Finally, unspeakably, they will be forever ignored – C.S. Lewis, the Weight of Glory,

Return to Me... with fasting, with weeping and with mourning / these people of the OT knew that the LORD said, I dwell in the high and holy place; and with him who is of a crushed and humble spirit; to revive the heart of the broken -- **Isaiah 57**:

¹³ **and rend your heart, not your garments** / in the NT at the illegal trial of Jesus, the pharisaical high priest did the opposite – he was very much dead in spirit and overtly loved way too much, all the drama... which is why he rent his garment -- **Matthew 26**.

Return to the LORD your God / we all must look in the Eternal Father's eyes, we all must come into His presence, exposed in all our sin and weakness and failure. Thankfully Christ Jesus, the Messiah of God when He came the first time, took my hideous sin and failure substituting His life for mine:

for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in compassion, and will reconsider the evil / and again the people knew the Lord said, I will not contend forever; neither will I always be angry -- **Isaiah 57**; God is not going to populate His eternity with hardheads and jackasses; or a billion whiny kindergarten children who don't want to grow up; rather He looks for those who hear His voice, and follow Him. To avert the coming calamity, our only hope is to return to Him who is gracious and merciful.

14 Who knows if He will turn and reconsider the planned calamity, and leave a blessing behind Him -- a grain offering and a drink offering to the LORD your God.

15 Blow the trumpet in Zion / in Jerusalem, the City of David,

sound an alarm / for a second time, they are to sound the alarm. Be prepared to meet their God.

Consecrate a fast, call a solemn assembly:

16 gather the people / in the previous chapter, the whole community was called to assemble in mourning and personal reflection regarding God's commands; when a solemn assembly was called, no one was exempt; not the oldest, not the youngest; not even the newly married -- **Deuteronomy 24:5**.

Consecrate the congregation, assemble the elders; gather the children even the nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber.

17 Between the entrance and the altar, let the priests, the ministers of the Lord weep and say, Spare Your people, O LORD, and do not make Your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations / when asking the LORD to do or not do something... especially when He already has done so much for us; one thing we should not say to Him is: we are innocent.

Why should they say among the people, Where is their God? / in time of trouble, such as the holocaust, lots of people cynically asked, where was our God? And they stylishly add, that is why they became atheists; there are many who prefer the Talmud over the Torah, who never refer to any of the prophets -- great or small... as if they never lived; who refuse to freely admit any personal error, unless pressed. Joel just reminded us... the Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in compassion, but clearly, He is not an eternal fool; it is the fool who says in his heart... there is no God -- **Psalms 14**.

18 Then the LORD became jealous for His earth, and had pity on His people.

19 Yes, the LORD answered and said to His people, Behold, I send you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied: and I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations:

20 But I will remove the northern army far from you and drive it into a parched and desolate earth, its vanguard into the eastern sea, and its rear guard into the western sea; its stench and foul smell will rise, for it has done great things / is this the last confederation of roman fools? tragically its great things were not good things; of this enemy, Dr. Moffatt wrote: till he rots and the stench of him rises.

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²¹ Fear **not**, O ground; be glad and rejoice: for the LORD has done great things / and I imagine the great things of God are far more creative than the great things of that stinking northern army, that godless band of fools who seek to possess Jerusalem... that only know how to mess up God's creation.

²² Fear **not**, you beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness are green, the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

²³ Be glad, O children of Zion, **rejoice in the LORD your God:**

for He gives you the ~~early-rain~~ / in Hebrew, the righteous teaching or **a teaching rain**, and it came down for you, the former and the latter rain, as at the first / [and read this in context with Deuteronomy 11: 13 - 14.](#)

²⁴ The threshing floors will be full of grain; the vats will overflow with wine and oil.

²⁵ I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the creeping locust, the stripping locust, and the gnawing locust,

My great army which I sent among you / the Lord God assures His people, there will be an end to the dreadful events designed to wake up His people and cause them to return to Him.

²⁶ You will eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you: And My people will never again be ashamed.

²⁷ You will know that **I am** in the midst of **Israel**, and **I am the LORD your God**, there is none else. And My people will never again be ashamed.

²⁸ And it will happen afterward

I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh your sons and your daughters will prophesy / this is OT prophecy; after Messiah comes the first time and fulfills the first 3 Days of the Lord: Passover, Unleavened Bread, and Firstfruits; then on Pentecost Peter stood up and declared to Jew and Gentile; men and women will speak clearly moved by the Spirit,

your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions:

²⁹ **I will pour out My Spirit on the male servants and female servants, in those days** / 4 specific days beginning the great works of Messiah continuing until the time of the Gentile nations comes to an end; when the Lord Jesus, Yeshua the Messiah prepares to return; but this time in power and great glory... at the Ingathering of the Harvest, to complete the 3 remaining days on His calendar.



30 **In the heavens, I will show wonders** / He will demonstrate His amazing power; an extraordinary event, something extremely rare so as to inspire; and whatever this event is, it will be visible in the heavens; and will be immediately before Messiah comes; He knows how to make an entrance;

and on the earth, blood, and fire, and columns of smoke / which sounds like some very serious conflict; some great battle is underway on the earth. Will this be during the 3 ½ years when the Messiah teaches the earth a lesson? That is the same amount of time He taught those who followed Him the first time... when He came in humility and lived among His people.

31 **The sun will turn to darkness, and the moon to blood** / He's going to turn out the lights, before He comes, and people will have to do some serious deep thinking in that darkness,

before the great and awesome Day of the LORD comes / it's a dreadful, terrifying day.

32 **And it will happen** / during this period we live in leading to both the 5th and the terrifying 6th Day of the Lord -- a great day of testing and unimagined trouble for the whole earth; until He returns with power and great glory the 7th Day of the Lord, and rules as King of kings and Lord of lords; with a rod of iron,

And it will happen... that whoever calls on the name of the LORD will be saved / isn't it just amazing? Amid all that will happen in heaven and on earth, terrifying things; dreadful beyond belief; yet the Lord doesn't want any to lose sight of what we can do; it is not His desire that any perish. C.S. Lewis said, when the Author steps on the stage, we know the drama is over; many will be rejected the last day, if you did not chose the kingdom of God, it makes no difference what you have chosen – nothing that matters. You will have missed the reason for which we were formed. Does it matter to the dying man in the desert, by which chosen route he missed the only water well?

For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD said, among the survivors whom the LORD calls. The call has gone to many; answer His call!

[Salvation is Your Name](#) | [This is My Father's World](#)

We are grateful to God that the Saudi govt has preserved the Mountain of Moses.

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