

Pastor Jason Huffman

12/14/2025

Joel 3:14-21

Message Title: Plan for the Last Days

Big Idea: God's plan is set, so plan accordingly.

3:14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD *is* near in the valley of decision. 15 The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will diminish their brightness.

Matthew 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days: 'The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.' 30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

1. Plan for Christ's return.

Matthew 24:21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

I Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord. **18** Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Rapture from the Latin "rapturos" for caught up.

2. Plan for comfort not being comfortable.

II Thessalonians 2:1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, **2** not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. **3** Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, **4** who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God... **9** The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, **10** and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

3. Plan to love & know the truth.

Jesus said in Mark 13:14 "So when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not" (let the reader understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Revelation 6:12 I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. **13** And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. **14** Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. **15** And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, **16** and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! **17** For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Revelation 19:11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. **12** His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. **13** He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. **14** And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. **15** Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. **16** And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Revelation 21:7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God, and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

3:16 The LORD also will roar from Zion and utter His voice from Jerusalem; the heavens and but the LORD will be a shelter for His people, And the strength of the children of Israel. **17** "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."

Aliens: "strangers" or those who "turn aside".

18 And it will come to pass in that day that the mountains shall drip with new wine, the hills shall flow with milk, 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.

The Valley of Acacias was a place failure & sin.

4. Plan for restoration.

3:19 "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. **20** But Judah shall abide forever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation. **21** For I will acquit them of the guilt of bloodshed, whom I had not acquitted; for the Lord dwells in Zion."

Egypt represents the system of the world.

Edom represents the flesh, that part of life that is not submitted to God.

5. Plan for the best.

LIFE Group Guide

General Timeline: (Adjust as appropriate for your group's needs.)

5-10 minutes connecting personally with how everyone is doing.

45 minutes going over message with discussion questions and life applications.

5-10 minutes praying for each other

Discussion Questions

Look over these questions before your group time. Write down your answers or ideas for at least a few questions if not all. You may not get to every question during your time but speak up if you want to talk about one of them in particular. Always try to start with question #1.

1. What stood out to you and/or what do you think God might be speaking about from this message?
2. If you knew with certainty that Christ would return within the next year, what specific changes would you make in how you live, love, or serve today?
3. Joel describes God as both a roaring lion bringing judgment and a shelter providing protection. Is it difficult to hold and trust both of these aspects of God's character at the same time?
4. The Bible refers to lawlessness growing and the love of many growing cold. What might be the connection between those two things? What might be a solution to growing cold?
5. When we return to Him, His return can be a comfort to us. What is comforting about the Lord's return to you?

Five Day Devotional

Day 1: The Promise of His Return

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Devotional: Christ's return is not a distant myth but a certain reality. Just as you prepare for finals, bills, or a parent's homecoming, spiritual preparation requires intentionality. The promise that believers will be caught up to meet the Lord should bring comfort, not complacency. This assurance should motivate us to live purposefully, knowing our time is limited. Are you living each day as though Christ could return at any moment? The rapture isn't an escape from responsibility but a motivation for faithfulness. Today, examine your priorities. Are you investing in eternal things or temporary comforts? Let the certainty of His coming transform how you spend your time, treasure, and talents.

Day 2: Anchored in Truth

Reading: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Devotional: Deception will intensify before Christ's return, but truth remains our anchor. The Antichrist will come with lying wonders, deceiving those who "did not receive the love of the truth." Notice it's not just knowing truth but loving it. In an age of misinformation and moral relativism, our defense is a passionate commitment to God's Word. Lawlessness grows when truth is abandoned. Many will grow cold in their love, but this doesn't have to be your story. Cultivate a deep love for Scripture. Test every teaching against God's Word. Surround yourself with truth-seekers. Don't be swayed by signs and wonders without discernment. Your love for truth today determines your stability tomorrow.

Day 3: The Shelter of His Presence

Reading: Joel 3:14-17

Devotional: When the Day of the Lord arrives with shaking and darkness, God promises to be a shelter for His people. This isn't just future hope but present reality. In life's tribulations, God offers Himself as your refuge and strength. The world experiences fear and judgment, but believers find protection in His presence. Are you dwelling in that shelter today? The same God who will protect His people in the final judgment wants to be your daily fortress. When circumstances shake your world, when darkness threatens to overwhelm, run to Him. He is not distant or indifferent. He roars like a lion against your enemies while being your safe place. Let His presence be your dwelling place, not just your emergency room.

Day 4: From Desolation to Restoration

Reading: Joel 3:18-21

Devotional: The Valley of Acacias, once a place of horrible failure and sin, becomes a place watered by God's blessing. This is the heart of our God—He specializes in restoration. What the locusts have eaten, He promises to restore. Your past failures, broken relationships, and barren seasons are not beyond His redemptive power. Where there was emptiness, He brings abundance. Where there was shame, He brings beauty. Where there was brokenness, He brings healing. God doesn't just forgive your sin; He transforms your story. Those places of deepest failure can become testimonies of His glory. What area of desolation in your life needs His restoration today? Surrender it to Him. Trust that He can make even your wilderness bloom.

Day 5: Living as Children of Light**Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Devotional: You are not appointed to wrath but to salvation. This truth should revolutionize your daily living. As children of light, we don't live in fear of the coming Day but in hopeful anticipation. We stay sober and alert, not sleeping through opportunities to serve. Put on faith and love as a breastplate, protecting your heart. Wear salvation's hope as a helmet, guarding your mind. The world lives in darkness, unaware and unprepared, but you know better. This knowledge carries responsibility. Comfort and edify one another. Share the hope you possess. Live distinctly from the world—not in judgment but in joyful difference. Whether Christ returns today or you meet Him through death, you will live together with Him. Let this assurance fuel purposeful, passionate living today.