

# Small Group Notes

Sermon: 7 May 2023



J O E L

**The Day of the Lord**  
**Joel 3**

# SCRIPTURE

Joel 3

## OVERVIEW

In the final chapter of Joel, we see two things: The first is that God calls the surrounding nations to judgement, and the second is that he promises a glorious future for Judah.

The prophetic books of the Bible have a dual meaning, as they address their immediate context, as well as pointing to an ultimate reality.

We see that the judgement of the surrounding nations is ultimately pointing to a final judgement, when every individual will be judged by God. In Joel 3:16, we see that instead of judging his people, God is a refuge to them. In the end, the dividing line between those who will face the wrath of God and those who will be saved is whether you are 'in Christ' or not.

We also saw how the glorious future of Judah points us to the future reality that we see in Revelation 21, the Holy City, the heavenly Jerusalem that descends from God in heaven to Earth. We see connections between Joel 3 and Revelation 21, where they are both marked by God's protection, abundance, satisfaction from the river that flows from God, and ultimately, God's presence.

Links between Joel 3 and Revelation 21:

### **1. God's protection**

Joel 3:17

*"and strangers shall never again pass through it"*

Revelation 21:27

*"Nothing impure will ever enter it"*

## **2. God's abundance**

Joel 3:18

*the mountains shall drip sweet wine,  
and the hills shall flow with milk,  
and all the streambeds of Judah  
shall flow with water;*

Revelation 21:18-19

*<sup>18</sup> The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. <sup>19</sup> The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel.*

## **3. Satisfaction - River from God**

Joel 3:18

*"and a fountain shall come forth from the house of the Lord and water the Valley of Shittim."*

Revelation 22:1-2

*"Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> through the middle of the street of the city"*

## **4. God's presence**

Joel 3:17 & 21

*"...I am the Lord your God who dwells in Zion"*

*"For the Lord dwells in Zion"*

Revelation 21:3

*"Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God."*

# QUESTIONS

1. There is a day coming when everyone who has lived will be judged, and the dividing line will be between those who are in Christ, and those who aren't. What does it mean to be 'in Christ'?
2. How much does the reality of a day of judgement affect your day to day?
3. The only refuge that can save on that day is Jesus Christ. Are there any other things that you are tempted to find your refuge in?
4. What comforts/excites you most about our eternal future in the 'Holy City, the New Jerusalem' in Revelation 21 - 22?

*Through the Holy Spirit being poured out (which was promised at the end of Joel 2) we get to experience foretastes of our eternal future - pray for one another to receive these realities for whatever it is you're going through right now.*