



THE BOOK OF JOEL

Chapter 3

“RESTORATION OF ISRAEL & THE JUDGMENT OF GENTILE NATIONS!”

Introduction: Paul Benware writes insightfully, *“the day of the LORD* conveys a sense of imminence, nearness, and expectation: “Wail, for the day of the Lord is near!” (Isaiah 13:6); “For the day is near, even the day of the Lord is near” (Ezekiel 30:3); “Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming. It is close at hand” (Joel 2:1); “Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision” (Joel 3:14); “Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is near” (Zephaniah 1:7). This is because the Old Testament passages referring to the day of the Lord often speak of both a near and a far fulfillment, as does much of Old Testament prophecy. Some Old Testament passages that refer to the day of the Lord describe historical judgments that have already been fulfilled in some sense (Isaiah 13:6-22; Ezekiel 30:2-19; Joel 1:15, 3:14; Amos 5:18-20; Zephaniah 1:14-18), while others refers to divine judgments that will take place toward the end of the age (Joel 2:30-32; Zechariah 14:1; Malachi 4:1, 5). The New Testament calls it a day of “wrath,” a day of “visitation,” and the “great day of God Almighty” (Revelation 16:14) and refers to a still future fulfillment when God’s wrath is poured out on unbelieving Israel (Isaiah 22; Jeremiah 30:1-17; Joel 1-2; Amos 5; Zephaniah 1) and on the unbelieving world (Ezekiel 38–39; Zechariah 14). The Scriptures indicate that “the day of the Lord” will come quickly, like a thief in the night (Zephaniah 1:14-15; 2 Thessalonians 2:2), and therefore Christians must be watchful and ready for the coming of Christ at any moment. Besides being a time of judgment, it will also be a time of salvation as God will deliver the remnant of Israel, fulfilling His promise that “all of Israel will be saved” (Romans 11:26), forgiving their sins and restoring His chosen people to the land He promised to Abraham (Isaiah 10:27; Jeremiah 30:19-31, 40; Micah 4; Zechariah 13). The final outcome of the day of the Lord will be that “the arrogance of man will be brought low and the pride of men humbled; the Lord alone will be exalted in that day” (Isaiah 2:17). The ultimate or final fulfillment of the prophecies concerning the day of the Lord will come at the end of history when God, with wondrous power, will punish evil and fulfill all His promises.”

(v1-3) Jesus proclaimed that the Jews will be dispersed and persecuted in Matthew 23:37-39 - "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'"

- **Jesus also said that Israel will be regathered in the last days according to Matthew 24:32-35** - *"Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near — at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."*

(v4-8) The LORD will bring forth judgment upon the enemies of Israel; the LORD will bring forth a national restoration through divine judgment upon the unrighteous. (Zechariah 12:2-4 - *"Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it. Acts 15:15-17* - And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written: *'After! this I will return and will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins and I will set it up; so that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, Says the LORD who does all these things.'*

(v9-17) PREPARE FOR WAR! Dwight Pentecost in his prophecy book *Things To Come* writes, "The "kings of the earth and of the whole world" are to be gathered together through the activity of the trinity from hell to what is called "the battle of that great day of God Almighty" (Rev. 16:14). This confluence of the nations of the earth is in a place called Armageddon (Rev. 16:16). There God deals in judgment with the nations because of their persecution of Israel (Joel 3:2), because of their sinfulness (Rev. 19:15), and because of their godlessness (Rev. 16:9).

(Insight: Megiddo (me·GID·o), or Tel Megiddo (TEL-me·GID·o), an ancient fortified city, is one of the most famous battlegrounds in the world. Historians believe that more battles were fought at this location than anywhere else on earth. "When Edwin Robinson stood on the imposing hill known as *Tell el-Mutesellim* in 1838, he jotted down in his diary the words, 'I wonder where Megiddo could have been.' Ironically, the mound on which he was standing, rising seventy feet above the surrounding plain and occupying an area of ten acres on its summit (with lower levels even larger) soon proved to be the site of Megiddo" ([Pfeiffer, 1966: 375](#)). Anciently Megiddo's gates and walls witnessed the armed struggles of Assyrians, Canaanites, Egyptians, Greeks, Israelites, Persians, Philistines, and Romans. Although Megiddo was not a fortress in the days of World War I, note that the critical battle enabling the British Field Marshal Edmund Allenby to wrest control of the Holy Land from the Turks occurred at Megiddo where he began his offensive against them on September 18, 1918.)

> **Turn to Revelation chapter 16:13-16 for the battle of Armageddon.**

> **Turn to Revelation chapter 19 for the "Second Coming of Christ".**

(v18-21) Here is the establishment of the promised "Millennial Kingdom" of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (Insight: The expression "Millennial or Millennium" means one-thousand years- broken down in the Latin it is *mille* meaning *thousand*, and *annus* meaning *year*. In the "Millennium" Jesus Christ will reign on the earth for 1000

years, it will be a time of universal peace, prosperity, long life and righteousness. Early church fathers such as Justin Martyr and Irenaeus interpreted this passage as referring to a future literal period of time.)

> WHY WILL THIS KINGDOM COME?

- To save the human race- Mt. 24:21,22 (2Thess. 2)
- To fulfill Bible Prophecy:
 - For the Messiah to reign and rule- (Theocratic Kingdom)
 - For Israel to receive its kingdom- (see “Millennium and Israel’s Covenants” attached)
 - For the earth to receive its blessing- Romans 8:19-25; Isaiah 35:1,2

> WHEN WILL THIS KINGDOM COME?

- At the end of the Great Tribulation Period
- The times of the Gentiles is fulfilled
- All the world will see the return of Jesus Christ- Acts 1:11; Rev. 1:7; Mt. 24:30 (Good for J.W.’s)

> WHO GETS TO LIVE IN THIS KINGDOM?

- People alive on earth who did not take the mark of the beast (sheep-Mt. 25)
- The Tribulation Saints- Rev. 20:4
- Church & Old Testament Saints- Rev. 5:9,10; 19:14

> WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THIS KINGDOM?

- The Kingdom will be characterized with righteousness & peace (TTC-pg.482)
- The Kingdom will be characterized with obedience, holiness & truth
- Animals will be docile- Isaiah 11:6-9
- All people are healed- Isaiah 33:24; Jer. 30:17; Isaiah 35:4-8; Malachi 4:1,2
- Conditions Existing Within The Millennium- (Read TTC, pg. 487-489, Dwight Pentecost)

> HOW WILL THIS KINGDOM END?

- Satan released- Rev. 20:7-15
- New heaven & new earth & the new Jerusalem- Rev. Ch. 21 & 22