

Reckoning

Appointed Reckoning

Joel 1:15-20

“And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.”
Hebrews 9:27

Day of the Lord: The major theme of the book of Joel is the Day of the Lord, and it refers to a future day of God’s judgment. It will be a time when God will punish sin and judge all nations.

I believe this series needs to be more than a few sermons; it needs to be a critical moment of repentance for us individually and Salem corporately.

Repentance from what? Each of us has something unique from which we need to repent.

“Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”
Psalms 139:23-24

“Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is near, and as destruction from the Almighty it comes. Is not the food cut off before our eyes, joy and gladness from the house of our God? The seed shrivels under the clods; the storehouses are desolate; the granaries are torn down because the grain has dried up. How the beasts groan! The herds of cattle are perplexed because there is no pasture for them; even the flocks of sheep suffer. To you, O LORD, I call. For fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and flame has burned all the trees of the field. Even the beasts of the field pant for you because the water brooks are dried up, and fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness.”
Joel 1:15-20

Three Observations on The Day of the Lord:

I. The Imminence of the Day of the Lord – Joel 1:15

- **Great White Throne:** Judgment for those apart from Christ where our sinfulness will be compared to his righteousness.

“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it...and I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened...And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done...and if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.” **Rev 20:11-15**

- **Judgment Seat of Christ:** Judgment for those in Christ where our works will be weighed against the opportunities God gave us.

“Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, ‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.’ So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.” **Romans 14:11-12**

II. A Foreshadowing of the Day of the Lord – Joel 1:16-18

“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name,

the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.” **Malachi 4:1-2**

III. Preparation for the Day of the Lord – Joel 1:19-20

“To you, O LORD, I call...the beasts of the field pant for you.” **Joel 1:19-20**

“It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.” **Romans 3:26**

It is the same God who, most offended by our sin, offers forgiveness and redemption to the vilest of sinners. The one who meets us in our grief, sorrow and mourning over the devastation caused by our sin is the very one who provides comfort, love, and support

“That is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them...” **2 Corinthians 5:19a**

“And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.” **Hebrews 9:27-28**

Two Ways to Approach our Appointed Reckoning:

“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector.” **Luke 18:10**

- **Self-Centered Approach**

“The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’” **Luke 18:11-12**

- **Christ-Centered Approach**

“But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”
Luke 18:13-14

Yes, God is the righteous judge of every sinful word, thought and deed, yet he is patient and gracious with us as we confess and repent.

The Day of Reckoning cannot be delayed or avoided, but it can be Prepared for by Repentance and Faith.

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:

- *Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *IVP Bible Background Commentary* – Craig Keener (1993)
- *Tyndale Bible Dictionary* – Walter Elwell & P.W. Comfort (2001)
- *Joel: Only One Thing is Wrong* – J.D. Greear (2015)
- *Locust Hordes and the Day of the Lord* – John Piper (1982)
- *Prophet of Judgment* – Joseph Parker (1902)
- *The Minor Prophets* – James Montgomery Boice (2006)
- *Who will God Save: The Message of Joel* – Mark Dever (2003)
- *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* – Donald Whitney (1991)

