CALAMITY



IS AT HAND

The High Call of THE REMNANT



Sound Mind Ministries
DIANA KETTERMAN

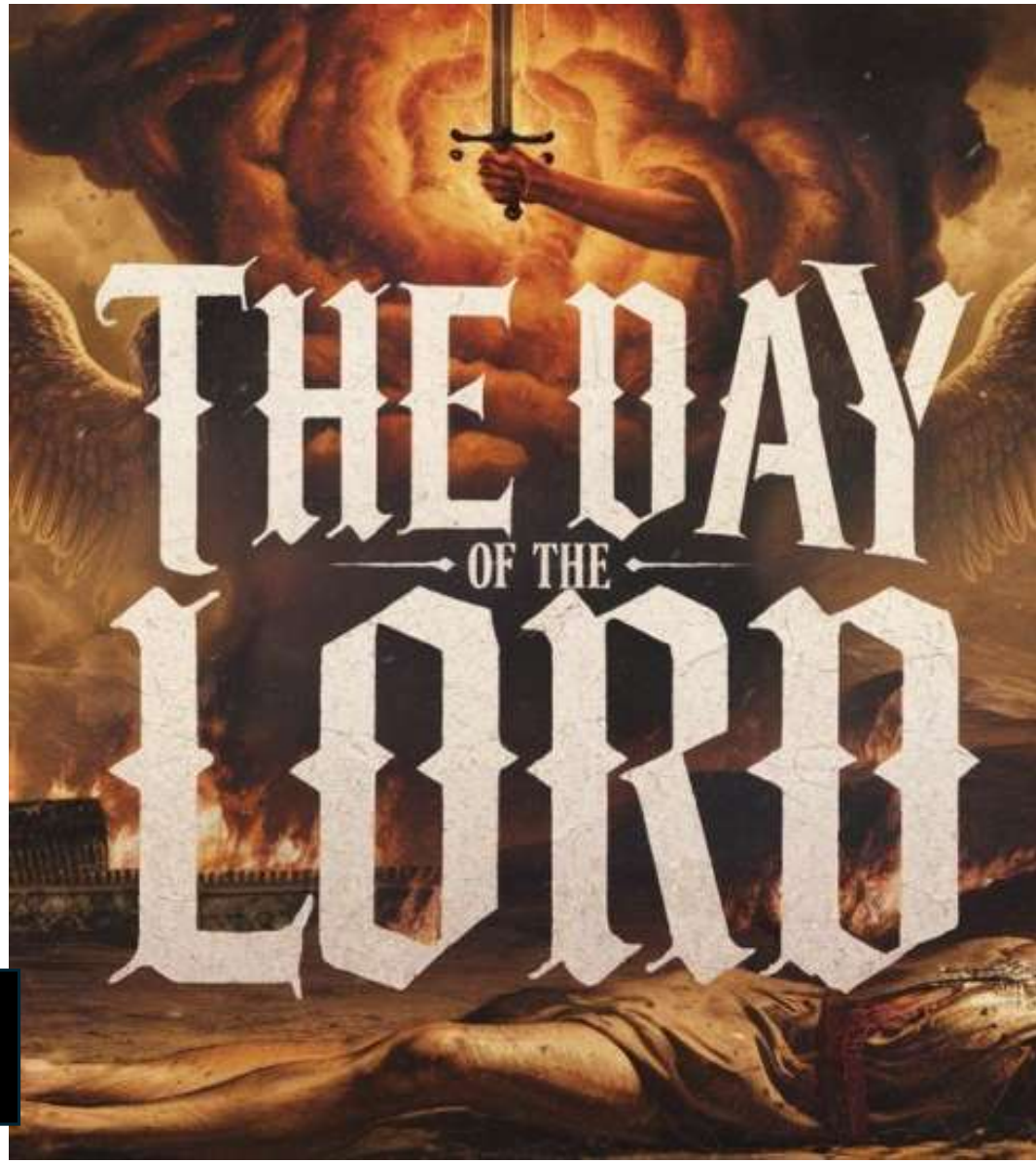
Message #3

CALAMITY

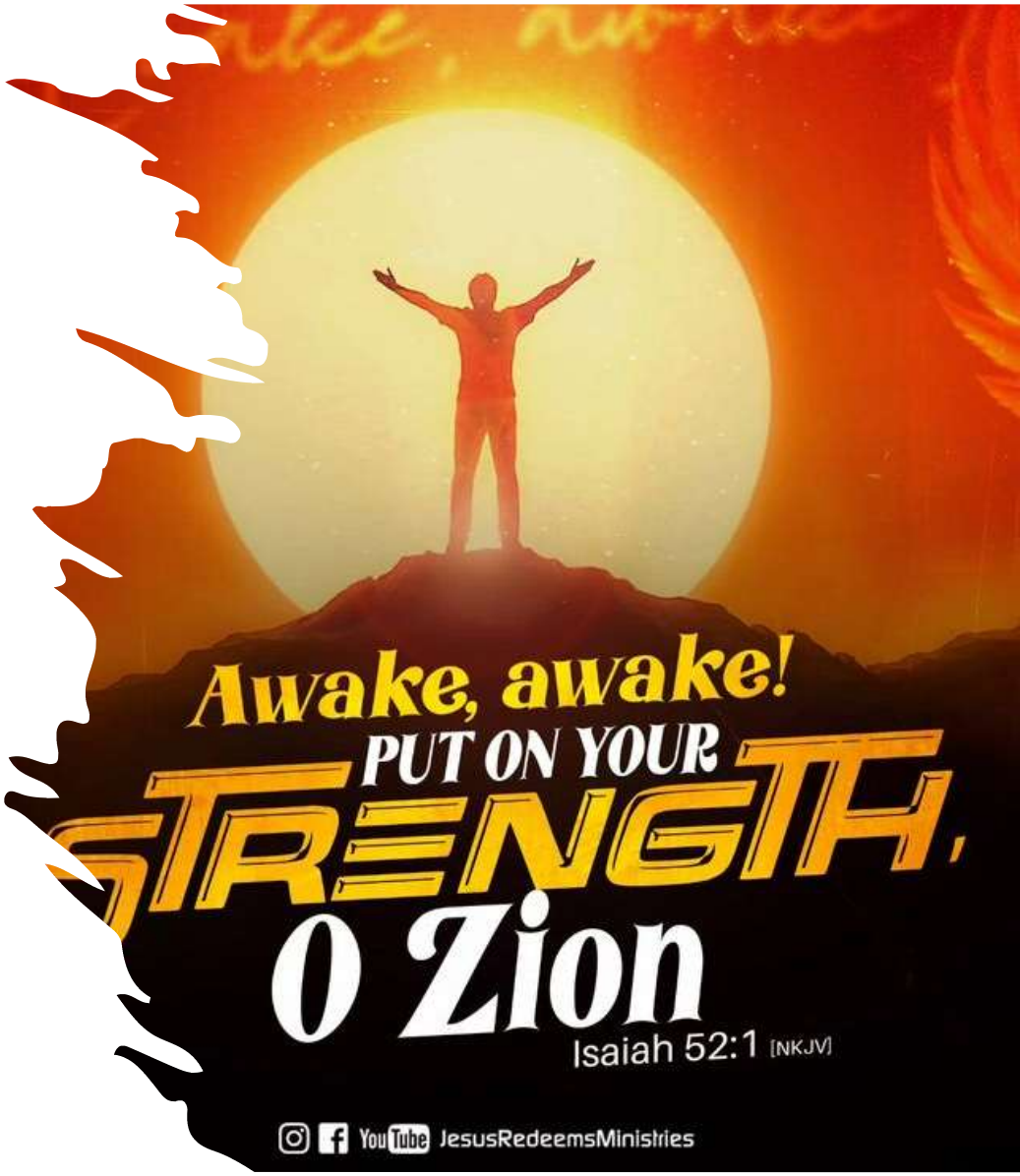
A **Call** to
Mourning

A **Call** to
Repentance

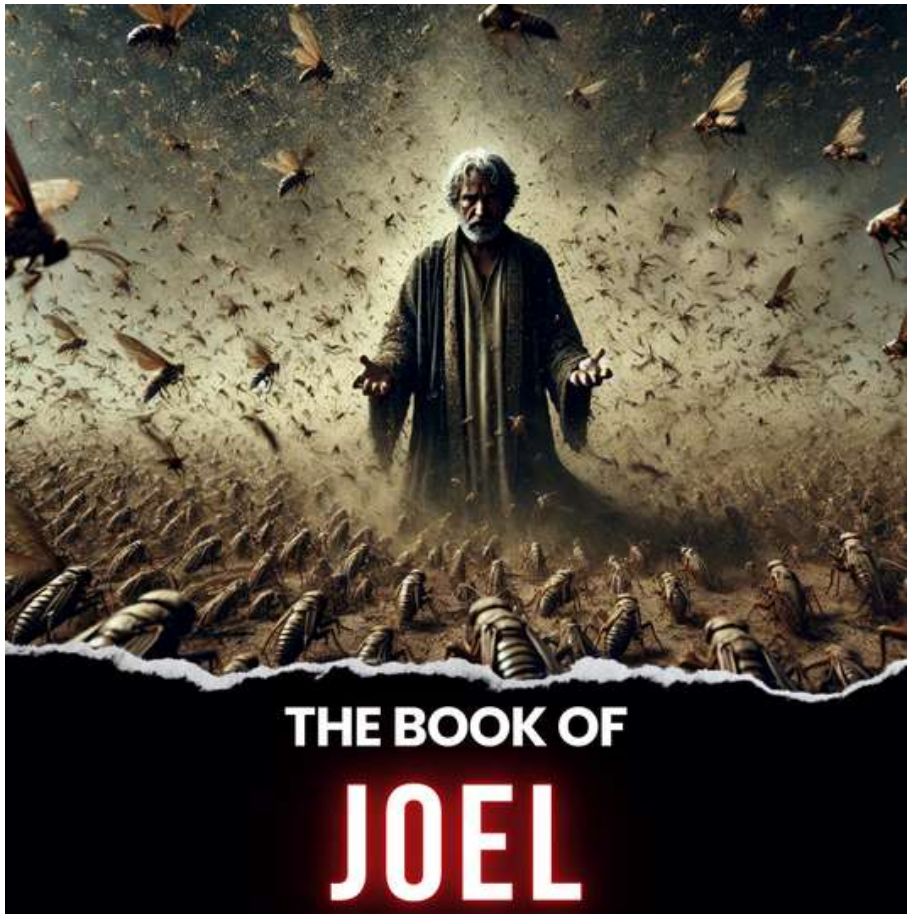
IS AT HAND



- **Awake, awake**; put on thy **strength**, O Zion; put on thy beautiful **garments**, **O Jerusalem, the holy city**: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee **the uncircumcised** and **the unclean**.
- **Shake thyself from the dust**; arise, *and* sit down, O Jerusalem: loose thyself from the bands of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion.
- For thus saith the LORD, **Ye have sold yourselves for nought**; and **ye shall be redeemed without money**. Isaiah 52:1-3
- Wherefore he saith, **Awake** thou that **sleepest**, and **arise** from the **dead**, and **Christ shall give thee light**. Ephesians 5:14



- **Joel** was God's trumpet, **the mouthpiece of God** to his generation.
- He began his prophecy with the **CRY** of desolation.
  - **The word of the LORD that came to Joel** the son of Pethuel.
  - **Hear this, ye old men,** and give ear, all ye inhabitants of the land. Hath this been in your days, or even in the days of your fathers?
  - **Tell ye your children of it,** and *let* your children *tell* their children, and their children another generation. Joel 1:1-3
- The next four verses of chapter one revealed the **CAUSE** of this devastation.
- **The nation of locusts** invading the land is a vivid picture of how **religious tradition** has laid waste the Christ-life throughout His Church.



- The remainder of Joel 1 (verses 8-20) details the full effects of Jehovah's judgement – the **CALAMITY** of desolation- upon the land, and upon the people.
- There was no **worship**, no **economy**, and no **joy**.
- All had been stripped away, most notably **the corn, the wine, and the oil.**
  - **Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth** for the husband of her youth. Joel 1:8
  - **The virgin of Israel is fallen**; she shall no more rise: she is forsaken upon her land; *there is* none to raise her up. Amos 5:2
- **Judah** is compared to a **virgin** bewailing the death of her lover to whom she was espoused, or as a young woman lately married whose husband is suddenly taken by death.
- Today's Church has **left the first love of her heavenly Husband**.
- She **walks alone, uncovered** and **unprotected**, content to live in a lower realm.



- The setting of this verse has the same flavor as the writings of the prophet **Jeremiah**.
  - How doth the city sit solitary, *that was* full of people! ***how* is she become as a widow! she *that was* great among the nations**, *and* princess among the provinces, *how* is she become tributary! Lamentations 1:1
- "**Virgin**" means "**to separate**".
- Tradition has robbed us of the **consecrated** (**SEPARATED**) life.
- The Church was once **pure** and **powerful**, a "**chase virgin**" with **one Husband.**
  - For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: **for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ**. 2 Corinthians 11:2



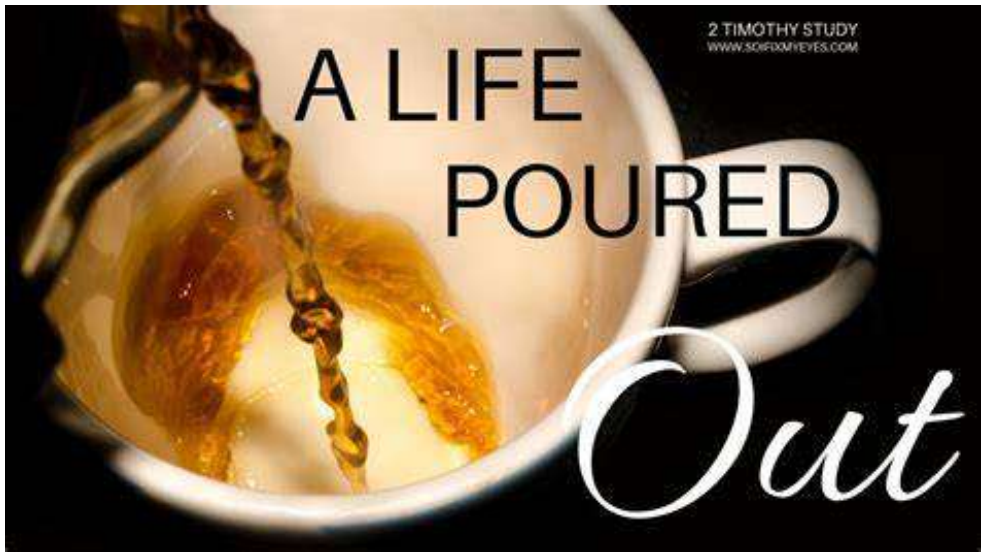


- Now we are “girded” with “**sackcloth**” clothed with **mourning** and **humiliation**.
- The phrase, “**the husband of her youth**”, points back to the time when **Jehovah first brough Israel out of Egypt** (Ezekiel 16:1-14).
- It typifies the **young Church** in the Book of Acts that depended upon the **name of her Husband Jesus**.
  - Then Peter said unto them, **Repent**, and **be baptized** every one of you in the **name of Jesus Christ** for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
  - And they called them, and **commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.** Acts 2:38; 4:18



- The **meat** (meal) and **drink offerings** had been "**cut off**".
  - **The meat offering and the drink offering is cut off from the house of the LORD**. Joel 1:9
- These were an **integral** part of the **nation's daily sacrifice** and **worship** unto the Lord.
- People today would **rather listen quietly** as a "**professional minister**" **does their praying for them**.
- **The family altar is a thing of the past.**
- **We haven't prayed together.**
- Little wonder that we **haven't stayed together**.
- The **divorce rate** in the Church is the same as the world.
- The number of **single-parent families** is astronomical.

- In a deeper spiritual application, the "**meal offering**" is like the **Table of Shewbread** in the **Tabernacle of Moses.** It is the revelation of the **Body of Christ**.
  - For we *being* many are **one bread, *and* one body**: for we are all partakers of that **one bread**. 1 Corinthians 10:17
  - And **wine** *that* maketh glad the **heart** of man, *and* oil to make *his* face to shine, and **bread *which* strengtheneth man's heart**. Psalms 104:15
- It's accompanying "**drink offering**" speaks of the **joy of the Lord,** as well as the **poured-out life**, the **sacrificial** life.
  - Yea, and if I be offered (as a drink offering of wine, a picture of Paul's martyrdom) upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all. Philippians 2:17



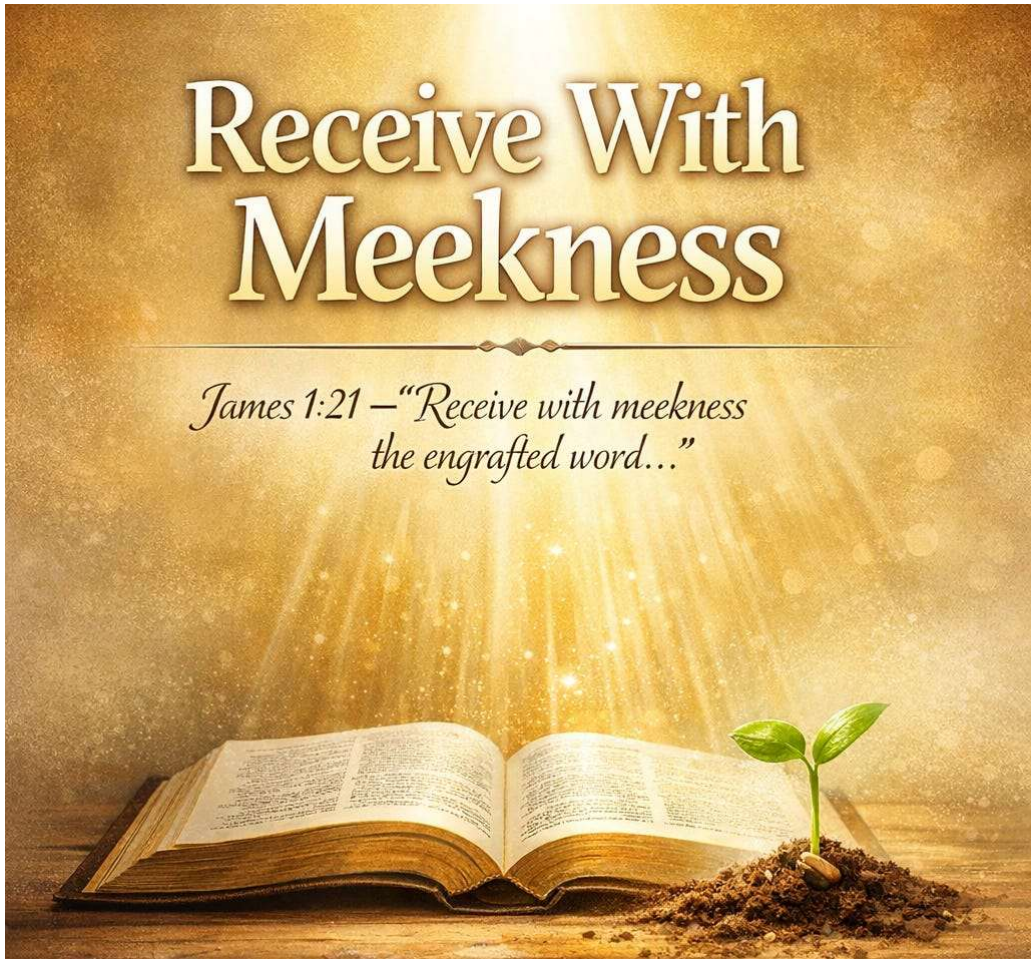
- The prophet addresses the **responsibility** of this **calamity first to the leaders**, calling upon the "**priests**" and the "**ministers**".
- We can liken them in today's Church to the **elders** and the **deacons**.
  - … **the priests, the LORD'S ministers, mourn**. Joel 1:9
- **Calamity** has struck the nation.
- It is time for every **God-ordained leader** to "**mourn**" to "**bewail, lament**" along with the land.
  - **The field is wasted, the land mourneth**; for the **corn** is wasted: the **new wine** is dried up, the **oil** languisheth. Joel 1:10
- The priority of **prayer** and **intercession** must be pressed upon the people as never before.



- The **plague of locusts** had been horrific.
- This **national catastrophe** was made worse by the distress of **drought** and **famine**.
- **The prophet Joel begins to intercede for the corn, the wine, and the oil.**
- He is **broken-hearted** because **the harvest is wasted**.
- The "**field**" is **wasted**, **ravaged**, **devasted**, and **spoiled**.
    - Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, O ye vinedressers, for the wheat and for the barley; **because the harvest of the field is perished**. 1 Joel 1:11
- **The "field" is the world**. (Matthew 13:38)
- The **harvest** in our day is **ruined** because the "**corn**" of **God's Word**, the "**wine**" of the **Lord's joy**, and the "**oil**" of **His Spirit have been cut off**!



- These **blessings** have been **replaced** respectively by **man-made teachings;** by **deathly quiet church services**; and by **humanistic**, **psychological cleverness**.
- Little wonder that the whole "**land**" mourns.
- The word "**land**" in this verse is tied to the Hebrew word for "**Adam**".
- **The Lord's inheritance, the "land" in which He invests Himself, is humankind!**
- **God plants His nature, the Seed of His engrafted Word within a people.**
  - Wherefore **lay apart all filthiness** and **superfluity** of **naughtiness**, and receive with **meekness** **the engrafted word**, **which is able to save your souls**. James 1:21
- We are the "**earth**" **into which His Kingdome comes**. (Matthew 6:10)
- **The "land" (HUMANITY) mourns**.



- All of **Adam's family** (Babylon) is **crying out for the corn, the wine, and the oil**.
  - **...and the sound of a millstone (grinder) shall be heard no more at all in thee (Babylon)**. Revelation 18:22
- The "**corn**" (wheat, cereal, grain) also mentioned in Joel 1:17 represents the **Word of God**.
  - **The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered**. Joel 1:17
- **There is no fresh "corn" (Word of God) in Babylon.**
- It has been "**wasted**" (ravaged, ruined) in her **Bible schools** and **seminaries** by **higher criticism** and **liberal theology**.
  - **Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye**. Mark 7:13



- Instead of **griding out the Word in the quietness of their study**, her ministers **prefer the social drinking at the local country club**.
  - …the **new wine is dried up, the oil languisheth**. Joel 1:10
- We noted earlier that the "**new wine**", **the fresh flow of the joy** and **gladness** of the Holy Ghost, **had been "cut off"** (destroyed, consumed, eliminated, removed).
  - **The joy of the Lord is our strength**. (Nehemiah 8:10)
- Sadly, our **STRENGH**, our **JOY** has "**dried up**" having been replaced with the **SAD, mournful ancient language of lifeless rituals.**
- "Dried up" means "to be **ashamed, confused or disappointed**; also (as failing) to dry as water, or to **wither as herbage**".
  - **Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, O ye vinedressers, for the wheat and for the barley; because the harvest of the field is perished**.
  - The **vine is dried up**, and the **fig tree languisheth**; the **pomegranate tree**, the **palm tree** also, and the **apple tree**, *even* **all the trees of the field**, are withered: **because joy (STRENGTH) is withered away from the sons of men**. Joel 1:11-12
- **We have a WEAK Church.**
- There is a **FALSE JOY.**



- The **corn** of the **Word** and the **joy** of the **Lord** have been **WASTED** by **RELIGIOUS TRADITION**.
- Moreover, the "**oil**" of the **Spirit** has been **decimated** by the evil teaching of **cessationsim** – **that the power of the Holy Spirit is no longer needed.**
- **Intellectual "might" and "power" has replaced the ways and means of the Holy Spirit.**
  - Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, **This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.** Zechariah 4:6
  - The **vine is dried up**, and the **fig tree languisheth… Joel 1:12**
- The word "**languisheth**" means, "to be **SICK, WEAK**, feeble, droop, exhausted; to **fail**" and **clearly describes those lives, homes, and churches that continue to IGNORE the POWER of the Holy Spirit.**



- Throughout the Bible, "**oil**" is a symbol for the **anointing of the Holy Spirit**.
- Joel mentions the "**oil**" later in his prophecy in chapter two, verses 19 and 24.
- **Many key verses in the Word** help us understand **the importance of the "oil."**
- **Oil** was used for **lamps**, **medicine, hygiene, food**, in some of the **offerings**, and for the **anointing oil.**
- The prophet next turns his attention to the "**husbandmen**" and the "**vinedressers**".
  - Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, **O ye vinedressers**...Joel 1:11
- These are **representative** of the **ministries** that Jesus sent to equip and empower the Church.
  - And he gave some, **apostles**; and some, **prophets**; and some, **evangelists**; and some, **pastors** and **teachers**; Ephesians 4:11
- Still, **hardcore evangelicals** stubbornly refuse to recognize and acknowledge the ministries of TRUE apostles and prophets.
- God's true ministers are "ashamed" (to pale, disappointed, be put to shame, confounded) of watered-down Christianity.



- **Confusion** reigns throughout the old order.
  - **For God is not *the author* of confusion**, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. 1 Corinthians 14:33
- The word for "**husbandmen**" means "**to dig, work the land, farmer, plowman**".
- **The "husbandmen" are SEED-carriers who PLANT the word of LIFE in the people of God.**
- The **national calamity** had caused the "**vinedressers**" (those who tend or dress vines, vineyards, or gardens) **to howl and weep**.
  - **Gird yourselves, and lament, ye priests: howl, ye ministers of the altar: come, lie all night in sackcloth, ye ministers of my God: for the meat offering and the drink offering is withholden from the house of your God.** Joel 1:13
- Remember in Genesis 2:15 that **Adam** was to "**dress**" the Garden.
  - And **the LORD God took the man**, and put him into the garden of Eden **to dress it** and to keep it.
  - Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, **O ye vinedressers**...Joel 1:11

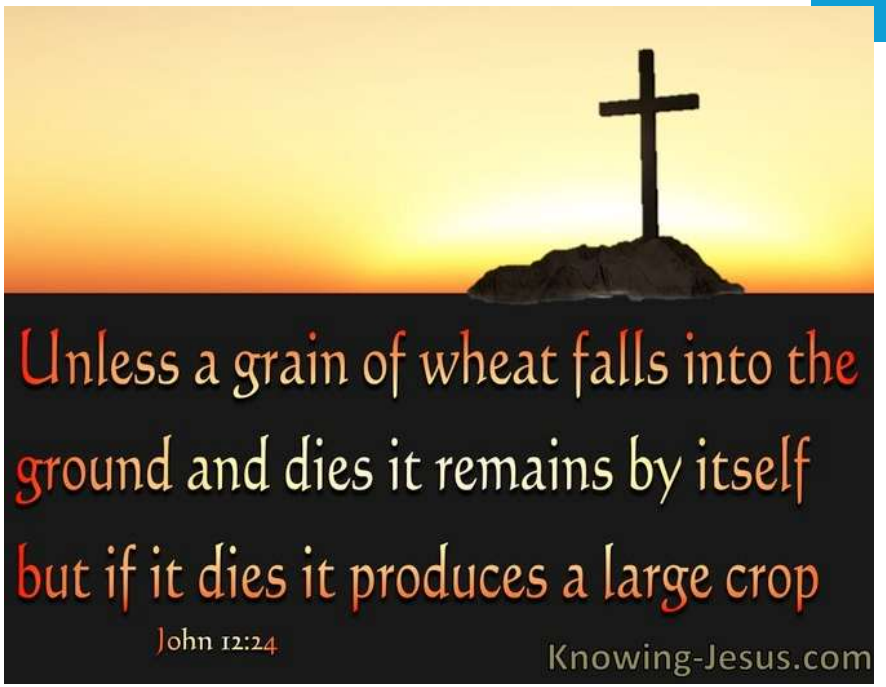


Jesus and the Church

- The "**wheat**' or corn is **the most important cereal grass** mentioned in the Bible.
  - Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, O ye vinedressers, **for the wheat and for the barley; because the harvest of the field is perished**. Joel 1:11
- It was usually **broadcast** and then either **plowed or trodden** into the soil by oxen or other animals.
  - Blessed *are* ye that sow beside all waters, **that send forth *thither* the feet of the ox and the ass**. Isaiah 32:20
- This **grain was used for bread** and was also eaten parched.
  - And Aaron and his sons shall eat the flesh of the ram, **and the bread that *is* in the basket, *by* the door of the tabernacle** of the congregation. Exodus 29:32
  - And Boaz said unto her, At mealtime come thou hither, and **eat of the bread**, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers: and **he reached her parched *corn*, and she did eat, and was sufficed**, and left. Ruth 2:14



- **Wheat** was used in **ceremonial offerings** and as an article of **commerce**.
  - …**his offering shall be *of* fine flour**; and he shall pour oil upon it, and put **frankincense** thereon. Leviticus 2:1
  - Judah, and the land of Israel, they *were* thy merchants: **they traded in thy market wheat** of Minnith, and Pannag, and honey, and oil, and balm. Ezekiel 27:17
- Jesus compared **His death to a grain of wheat** that must die to produce fruit.
  - Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die,** it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. John 12:24
- **Wheat** is a symbol for the **staff** (**bread) of life**, of Christ, and of **His righteous saints**.
- The Feast of Weeks, another name for the Feast of Pentecost, was also called "the **firstfruits of wheat harvest**".
  - And thou shalt observe the feast of weeks, **of the firstfruits of wheat harvest**, and the feast of ingathering at the year's end. Exodus 34:22
  - And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have **the firstfruits of the Spirit**, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body. Romans 8:23



Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, O ye vinedressers, **for the wheat and for the barley; because the harvest of the field is perished**. Joel 1:11

- The Hebrew word for "**barley**" means, "**roughness**".
- **Barley** was a grain known since early times, well adapted to varied climates, ripening quickly and resistant to heat.
- It usually was **harvested before wheat**.
- **Barley was considered a food for slaves and the very poor**, held in low esteem as an inferior grain.
- In the Bible, **barley** was first associated with **Egypt**.
  - And the flax and the **barley** was smitten…Exodus 9:31
- It was used as an **offering of jealousy**, for **fodder**, and for **food**. (Numbers 5:15; 1 Kings 4:28; Judges 7:13)
- **A measure of wheat is equivalent to three of barley.**
  - And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, **A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and *see* thou hurt not the oil and the wine**. Revelation 6:6
- Thus "**barley**" came to symbolize **poverty, lowliness**, and **low reputation**.
- **Barley** was the **Passover** harvest.



Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, O ye vinedressers, **for the wheat and for the barley; because the harvest of the field is perished**. Joel 1:11



- All three Feasts – **Passover (BARLEY), Pentecost (WHEAT)**, and **Tabernacles** – are **harvest feasts.**
- **Religious tradition** has **cut a swathe** through the **barley harvest** of souls in **Passover**, and the **wheat harvest** of the fruit and gifts of the Spirit in Pentecost. **How tragic**!
- **Though the harvest is "ripe" and "plenteous", it has perished!**
  - Then saith he unto his disciples, **The harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the labourers *are* few;**
  - Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, **that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.** Matthew 9:37-38
- "**Perished**" means "to wander away, go astray, vanish, **be lost**".
- **Zion must awake!**
- **Too many lives, homes, and churches have already been lost.**

- The "**pomegranate**" means, "the tree (from its upright growth) or the fruit.
  - The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; **the pomegranate tree**, the palm tree also, and the apple tree… Joel 1:12
- The "**pomegranate**" represents the "**fruit of the Spiri**t.
- This fruit (red when ripe) **contained numerous edible seeds**.
  - **Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.** 1 Peter 1:23
- The hem of Aaron's **priestly blue robe** was woven with blue, purple, and red **pomegranates**.
  - And ***beneath* upon the hem of it thou shalt make pomegranates** *of* blue, and *of* purple, and *of* scarlet, round about the hem thereof; and bells of gold between them round about:
  - A golden bell and **a pomegranate**, a golden bell and **a pomegranate**, upon the hem of the robe round about. Exodus 28:33-34
- Solomon decorated the two great pillars in his Temple with the likeness of the pomegranate.
  - And **he made the pillars,** and two rows round about upon the one network, to cover the chapiters that *were* upon the top, **with pomegranates:** and so did he for the other chapiter. 1 Kings 7:18



- The “palm” tree was “erect; a (date) palm tree”.
  - **The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree**…Psalms 92:12
- The “palm” symbolizes **victory, uprightness, strength**, and that which is **regal** or **noble**.
- It can also denote **praise** (the uplifted **palms of our hands**).
  - **Took branches of palm trees**, and went forth to meet him, and cried**, Hosanna: Blessed *is* the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.** John 12:13
  - After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and **palms in their hands**;
  - And cried with a loud voice, saying, **Salvation to our God** which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. Revelation 7:9-10
- **Palms** were part of the **Feast of Tabernacles**. (Leviticus 23:40)
- **Jericho** was “**the city of palm trees**.” (Deuteronomy 34:3)



The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, **the palm tree** also, and the apple tree… Joel 1:12

- The word for "**apple**" tree means "an apple (from its **fragrance**)."
  - Who *is* this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved? **I raised thee up under the apple tree**…Song of Sol 8:5
- The **apple** symbolizes the **Word of God**.
- The **apple tree** pictures Jesus, our beloved **Bridegroom-lover**.
- The **apple** was **sweet** and **fragrant**, and was used to describe the nose (**discernment**) of the Shulamite.
  - …and **the smell of thy nose like apples**; Song of Sol 7:8



The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and **the apple tree**… Joel 1:12

- **All the trees** of the field are "**withered**" (dried up).
  - …***even*** **all the trees of the field, are withered: because joy is withered** away from the sons of men. Joel 1:12
- There is **no moisture**, **no living water** for the sons of "**men**" (**Adam**).
- **Tradition** has brought a severe **DROUGHT** for the Word and Spirit of God.
- The **joy** and **strength** of the Lord has **waned**.
- Remember the word for "**dried up**" or "**withered** (away)" means "ashamed, **confused**, or **disappointed**".
- **This is what happens to the people of God when we allow our own ideas to replace the "joy" of the Christ-life.**
- "**Joy**" **means**, "cheerfulness, gladness, exultation, rejoicing, exultation, to be bright, cheerful; to display joy" and is **translated** as "gladness, joy, mirth, rejoicing."



- The **prophet Joel calls for the leaders** (the elders and deacons) to **humble themselves**, to take the **initiative**, and to **lead by example**.
  - Gird yourselves, and lament, ye priests: **howl, ye ministers of the altar**: come, lie all night in sackcloth, ye ministers of my God: for the meat offering and the drink offering is withholden from the house of your God.
  - **Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders *and* all the inhabitants of the land *into* the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD.** Joel 1:13-14
  - The elders which are among you I exhort, **who am also an elder**, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:
  - **Feed the flock of God** which is among you, **taking the oversight** *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; **not for filthy lucre,** but of a ready mind;
  - **Neither as being lords** over *God's* heritage, but **being ensamples to the flock**.
  - And when the **chief Shepherd** shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.
  - Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for **God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.** 1 Peter 5:1-5



- God's spokesman **implores the "priests", the Lord's "ministers,", to PRAY.**
- In the same spirit, leaders today must **FORSAKE UNGODLY traditions** and **"gird" themselves once again with TRUTH.**
    - Stand therefore, having your **loins girt about with truth**, and having on **the breastplate of righteousness**. Ephesians 6:14
- The moment is **serious**; Joel commanded them to "**lament**".
- "Lament" in verse 13 is different than in verse 8 (to wail).
- "Lament" in verse 13 means "**to tear the hair and beat the breasts in grief, to wail, mourn**".



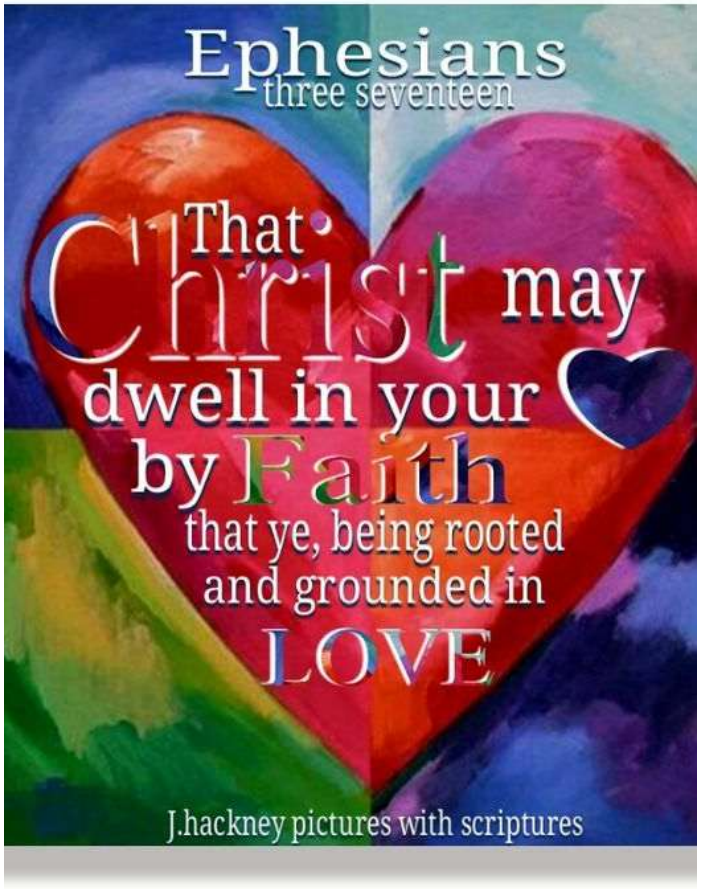
- Like Ruth at the **threshing floor**, let us "**lie all night before His presence"**.
- Let us **exchange our robes of bright lien for "sackcloth".**
  - **Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth** for the husband of her youth. Joel 1:8
- **Sackcloth** was worn in **mourning** or **humiliation**.
  - But as for me… **my clothing *was* sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting**;…Psalms 35:13
- **It's time for every leader to REPENT.**
- Why?
- Because the "**meat** (meal) **offering**" with its accompanying "**drink offering**" are "**withholden**" (to hold back, keep back, deny, restrain, hinder) from the House of God, the Body of Christ.
  - But if I tarry long, that thou ma**yest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God**, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. 1 Timothy 3:15



Call a Solemn Assembly

- Joel 1:14 is the key verse that underscores God's remedy for this national calamity.
  - ***Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly***…
- The **seventh month** of Israel's sacred calendar **parallels the Book of Joel.**
- The **first day of the seventh month** was the **Feast of Trumpets**; the **tenth day** was the **Day of Atonement**; and the **fifteenth day** was the **Feast of Tabernacles.**
- The "**fast**" would **cover the month** and the "**solemn assembly**" points directly to the **Feast Day of Atonement**.
- Examples of such fasting are seen throughout the Scriptures.

- Interestingly, **fasting is in three dimensions**.
- In the realm of the **Outer Court (the body),** we fast from **natural food.**
- In the **Holy Place (the soul),** we fast **"mind" food** (turn off the tell-a-LIE-vision and the phone).
- In the **Most Holy Place** (**the spirit**), we find there are **seasons** in the mature believers when **we fast the FEELING or SENSE of His manifest present**.
- In those times we must know by **FAITH** that Christ **dwells in our hearts**.
  - That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, **to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;**
  - That Christ may **dwell in your hearts by faith**; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,
  - May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the **breadth**, and **length**, and **depth**, and **height**;
  - And **to know the love of Christ**, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be **filled with all the fulness of God.**
  - Now unto **him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us**. Ephesians 3:16-20



- The **prophet** commands the **leaders** and the **nation** to prepare or "**sanctify**" this **fast**.
- "**Sanctify**" means "to be, make **pronounce** or observe as a clean (ceremonially or morally); to **consecrate**, to **prepare**, to be hallowed, to be holy, to be separate, to be set apart.
- **This emphasizes the reason for blowing the trumpet and sound the alarm**.
- A clear word now calls us to the **Day of Atonement**, to be **broken** and **contrite** before the Lord.
- Only then can we **fully return to the high calling of the Feast of Tabernacles**.
- **The people of Zion are a "sanctified people".**
- **It is time to "call" (address by name, call out to, commission, appoint) a solemn assembly.**



- As in the days of **Joshua**, we must **set ourselves apart unto the Lord**.
- We must **posture ourselves to receive our inheritance**.
  - And Joshua said unto the people, **Sanctify yourselves: for to morrow the LORD will do wonders among you**. Joshua 3:5
  - **…gather the elders *and* all the inhabitants of the land *into* the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD**. Joel 1:14
- This is a **divinely appointed season**.
- It is time to "**gather**" the elders (the old or aged men) first and then **call** for the rest of the congregation.
- "**Gather**" means to "**assemble**, collect; bringing things to a common place or point."

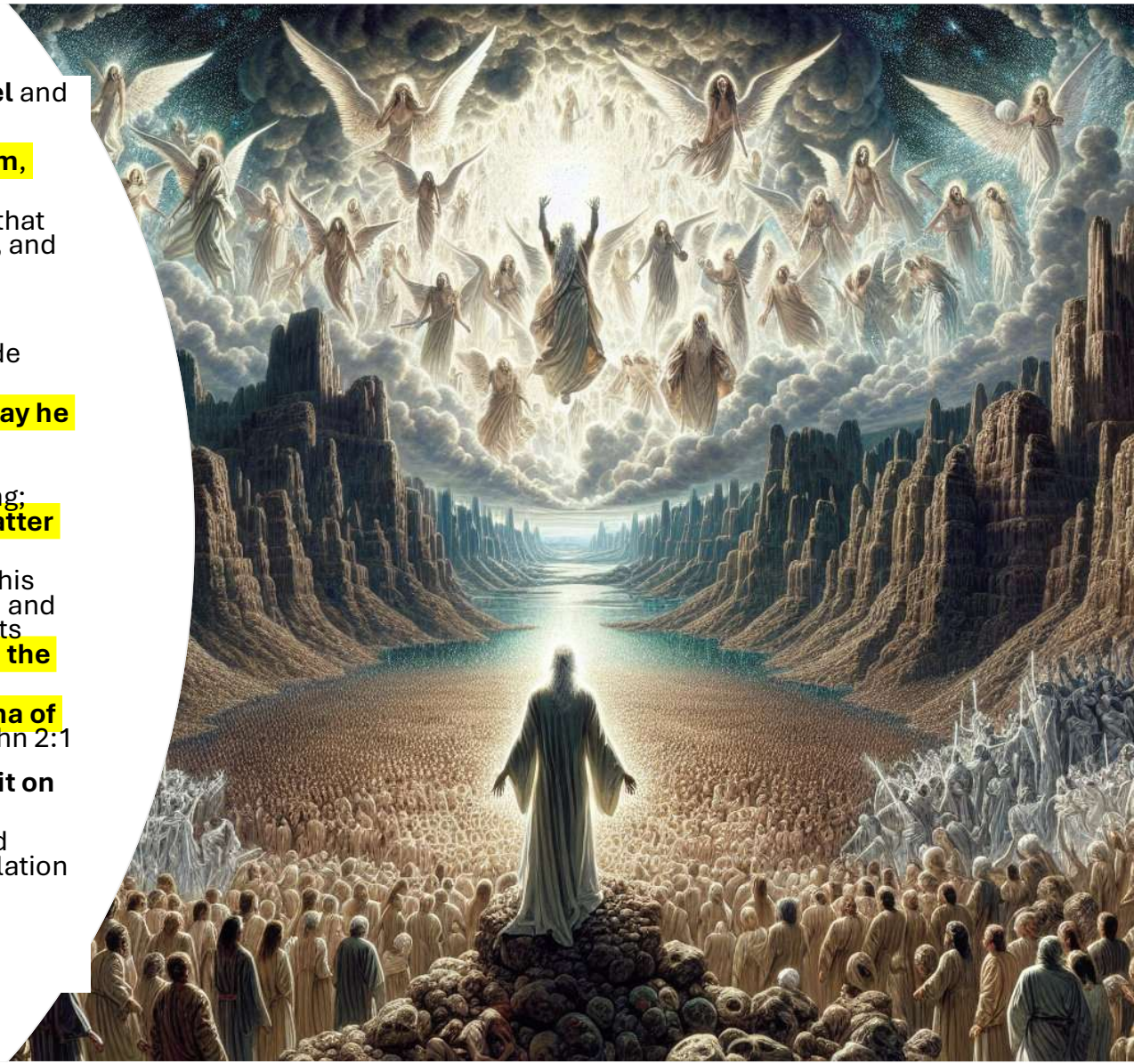


- This **collecting point** is the "**house**" of "**the Lord your God**."
- **Leaders** are being **gathered by the trumpet's sounding**, and **it only blows ONCE!**
  - And if they **blow *but* with one *trumpet***, then the princes, *which are* heads of the thousands of Israel, **shall gather themselves unto thee**. Numbers 10:4
- We must **come** and "**cry**" (cry out, **call for help**; to **shriek** from anguish or danger) **unto the Lord**.
  - Alas for the day! for **the day of the LORD *is* at hand**, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come. Joel 1:15





- The "**Day of the Lord**" is a keynote to the **Book of Joel** and is mentioned six times in his prophecy.
- This awesome season is the **Seventh Day from Adam**, and the **Third Day from Jesus**.
  - But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that **one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years,** and a thousand years as one day. 2 Peter 3:8
  - And Enoch also, the **seventh from Adam**, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, **the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints.** Jude 1:14
  - **After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.**
  - Then shall we know, *if* we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, **as the latter *and* former rain unto the earth**. Hosea 6:1-3
  - From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and **be raised again the third day.** Matthew 16:21
  - And **the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee**; and the mother of Jesus was there. John 2:1
- Like the apostle John, may we always be "**in the Spirit on the Lord's day**".
  - **I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day,** and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet. Revelation 1:10



- The "**Day of the Lord**" is a day of **reversals**.
  - **Turn again our captivity**, O LORD, as the streams in the south.
  - **They that sow in tears shall reap in joy**. Psalms 126:4-5
- It is not day, nor night but **both day and night** in the earth **at the same time**!
  - And it shall come to pass **in that day**, *that* the light shall not be clear, *nor* dark:
  - But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, *that* **at evening time it shall be light**. Zechariah 14:6-7
- **Joel** prophesied that this season was approaching, "**at hand**" (near in place or time).
- Besides the Book of Joel, the "**Day of the Lord**" is mentioned another 15 times in the Old Testament.
  - But the **day of the Lord** will come as a **thief in the night**; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.
  - Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, **wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?** 2 Peter 3:10,12
- The "**day of the Lord**" in Peter's mind was **the end of the Jewish world**, the old order of his day.
- The Gospel of light had **dawned** and its "fervent heat" **had set on fire the previous administration**.



- In the last message we talked about the "**fading flower**" of the previous order and the "**drunkards of Ephram".**
  - Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD *is* at hand, and **as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.** Joel 1:15
- This "**destruction**" (violence, ravage; havoc, devastation, ruin) in the **Day of the Lord** is **upon the old order**, with all its **religious lies and traditions.**
  - **Howl ye; for the day of the LORD *is* at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty**. Isaiah 13:6
  - **Woe unto them! for they have fled from me: destruction unto them**! Hosea 7:13



- **The same flood in Noah's day that destroyed the wicked also delivered the righteous.**
- This **righteous judgment** comes from the "**Almighty**".
- **Yet** in this verdict **He remembers mercy**.
- When Jesus cleansed the temple, He used a scourge of "**small cords**."
  - And when he had **made a scourge of small cords**, he drove them all out of the temple…John 2:15
- God is neither **male** nor **female**.
- **God is "spirit".** (John 4:24)
- Yet both **male** and **female** were created in **His image**.
- He manifests the **mercy** and **compassion** of God, just as a **mother** would **love** and **nurse** her own.



- The “**meat**” Judah’s food supply had been “**cut off**” just like the “new wine”.
  - **Is not the meat cut off before our eyes**, *yea*, joy and gladness from the house of our God? Joel 1:16
- Without a **staple diet**, there was no more “**joy**”, no more “**glee**; mirth, **gladness**, joy, gaiety, pleasure, a glad result, a happy issue.”
- “**Gladness**” meant “a revolution (of time); a circle; **joy**, **to spin around** (under the influence of any violent emotion).”
- That kind of excitement and **exuberant praise** is foreign to the traditional church.
- **It, too, has been cut off from the Lord’s House.**
  - **Then will I go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy**…Psalm 43:4
- When there is not **JOY**, there is no **STRENGTH**.



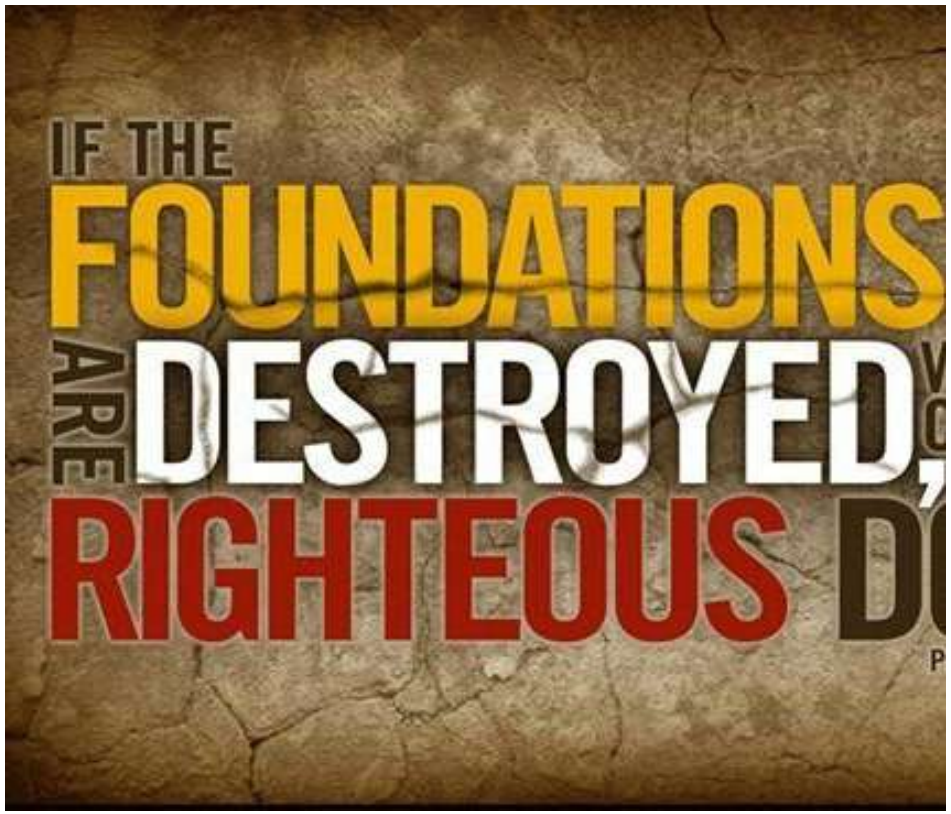
- The word, "**joy**" means, "**a fortified place**; a **defense**; a place or means of **safety**, a **protection**, a **refuge**, a **stronghold**, a **harbor**".
  - **The seed is rotten under their clods**, the garners are laid desolate…Joel 1:17
- The "**seed**" is the **Word of God**. (Luke 8:11)
- The "**seed**" (kernels, grains) is "**rotten**" (dried up, shriveled) **deceitfully veiled** under the burden of "clods of earth".
- Old order preachers have covered up the **living Word with rotten, humanistic philosophy,** the "earthy" teachings of Adam.
  - The **first man *is* of the earth, earthy**: the second man *is* the Lord from heaven. 1 Corinthians 15:47



- In our previous teaching we looked at the professional clergy walking and talking in the sleep of death.
- **Man-made burdens of legalism have killed the real anointing.**
- **Babylon's seed is rotten**.
  - **"Judeo-Christian" Talmudic teachings from the rabbis evolved from the Pharisaic faction of Second Temple Judaism.**
  - The seed is rotten under their clods, **the garners are laid desolate**, the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered. Joel 1:17
- The "**garners**" are "laid desolate" (**destroyed**; to stun, grow numb, stupefy; be appalled).
- The "garner" was "a depository; **storehouse**; treasure-house, treasury; magazine of weapons, armory".
- This is a **varied description and picture of the local church**.
  - Whose fan *is* in his hand, and **he will throughly purge his floor**, and **gather his wheat into the garner;** but **he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire**. Matthew 3:12



- Moreover, like the **walls of Jerusalem** in the Book of Nehemiah, the "**barns**" (granary, storehouse) **have been "broken down**."
  - The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate, **the barns are broken down**; for the corn is withered. Joel 1:17
  - Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:
  - **So shall thy barns be filled with plenty**, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine. Proverbs 3:9-10
- "**Broken down**" means "to pull down or in pieces, break, **destroy**; to tear down, to overthrow, **beat down**."
- **If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?** (Psalms 11:3)



- **Wicked men and women have overthrown the foundations of the "city" (the Church) by their evil teachings**.
  - Ye are the light of the world. **A city** that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Matthew 5:14
  - **By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.** Proverbs 11:11
- They have forsaken the **Word**; **the "corn" is withered and dried**.
- But a **prophetic people in the spirit** and **power of Elijah** have **begun to repair the altar** that has been "**broken down**".
  - And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. **And he repaired the altar of the LORD *that was* broken down.** 1 Kings 18:30



- How do the “beasts” (cattle) “groan “mourn, sigh; to groan (in pain or grief).”
  - **How do the beasts groan**! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; **yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate**. Joel 1:18
  - For we know that **the whole creation groaneth** and travaileth in pain together until now. Romans 8:22
- Joel’s entire first chapter pulsates with **the cry of CALAMITY**, the travail of the “whole creation”.
- The Greek word for “**groaneth**” means “**to moan jointly**; to experience **a common calamity.”**
- Compare Israel’s sigh and cry for deliverance from Egyptian bondage and tyranny.
  - And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel **sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage**. Exodus 2:23



- The herds of cattle are “**perplexed**” (entangled; confused; restless).
- So it is today among the nations.
- Turbulent masses of **unregenerate humanity** are **like the troubled sea**, when it cannot rest.
  - But **the wicked *are* like the troubled sea**, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. Isaiah 57:20
  - And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, **with perplexity**; **the sea and the waves roaring.** Luke 21:25



- The **locusts had devoured the land**; there was **no "pasture"**, **no** feeding-place.
  - O LORD, to thee will I cry: for **the fire hath devoured the pastures** of the wilderness, and the flame hath burned all the trees of the field.
  - The **beasts of the field cry** also unto thee: for **the rivers of waters are dried up,** and **the fire hath devoured the pastures** of the wilderness. Joel 1:19-20
- **God's people are starving for the Word of God.**
- **Few** come to the **Feast of Pentecost**, let alone **Tabernacles**.
  - The ways of Zion do mourn, **because none come to the solemn feasts**: all her **gates are desolate**: her priests **sigh**, her virgins are **afflicted**, and she *is* in **bitterness**. Lamentations 1:4
- **They have no place to feed because they have walked away from the good Shepherd.**
  - …yea, **the flocks of sheep are made desolate**. Joel 1:18



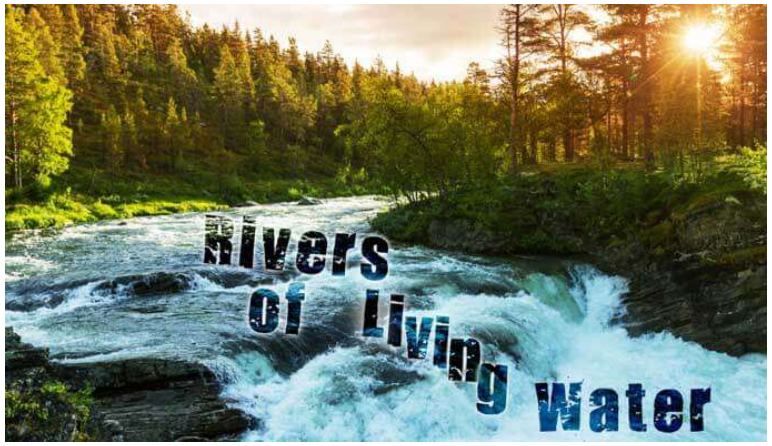
- Because there is **no spiritual food available**, the **people of God**, the "**flocks" of sheep of have become "desolate".**
- "**Desolate**" means "to **perish**; offend, be guilty, trespass, be **punished**."
- The **curse of tradition** has devoured the earth.
  - Therefore hath **the curse devoured the earth**, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the **inhabitants of the earth are burned**, and few men left. Isaiah 24:6
- Let us **join our voices with the "cry" of the prophet**.
  - O LORD, **to thee will I cry**: for **the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness**, and the **flame hath burned all the trees of the field**. Joel 1:19
- "**Cry**" is translated as "**call**".
- **The CALAMITY is GREAT.**
- It **is time for us all to call upon the Lord. Only He can deliver us now.**



- The **CALAMITY** of the locusts was further **aggravated** and **compounded**.
- The **"fire"** and **heat** of **severe drought** and consequent **famine** "**devoured**" the **pastures** of the "**wilderness**".
- Its "**flame**" has **burned up all the trees** of the field.
  - O LORD, **to thee will I cry**: for **the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness**, and the **flame hath burned all the trees of the field**. Joel 1:19
- This word "**flame**" is the same word used to describe **the tip of Goliath's** (satan's) **spear**. (1 Samuel 17:7)
- **The devil is the "god of this world"**, the **spirit that energizes all religious tradition**.
- The word for "**pastures**" means "a home, an abode of shepherds, a habitation."
- This is the word that David used in his famous Psalm 23.
  - "he makes me to lie down in green **pastures**..."



- The word for "**cry**" in verse 20 means "**to long for, to pant after**".
  - *The beasts of the field **cry** also unto thee: for the **rivers of waters** are dried up,*
  - **As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God**. Psalm 42:1
- These "**rivers of water**" constitute the **genuine flow of the presence of God**, the pure move of His Word and Holy Spirit **are dried up.**
- There are **three of these spiritual rivers.**
- First, the **prophetic river from the belly**.
  - **out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water**. John 7:38
- Second, the **priestly river from the sanctuary**.
  - Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, **waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward**...Ezekiel 47:1
- Third, the **kingly river from the throne**.
  - And he shewed me a **pure river of water of life**, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. Revelation 22:1
  - And **he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water,** that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; **his leaf also shall not wither**; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. Psalm 1:3





- The **priesthood of Jesus** is after the **order of Melchizedek**. (Hebrews 5:1-8)
- Our **Saviour** fills all three offices of **Prophet**, **Priest**, and **King**.
- **His Church is to be conformed to His image**.
- We are a "**royal priesthood**" (1 Peter 2:9), "**kings and priests**" (Revelation 1:6).
- **These rivers of truth have been obliterated by tradition.**
- **Babylon** has **dried up these rivers** and **quenched the Spirit**.
    - **Quench not the Spirit**. 1 Thessalonians 5:19
- The **prophet puts down his pen**.
- His **heart** is **dejected**.
- His initial assignment was to reveal the **CRY**, the **CAUSE**, and the **CALAMITY** of **his nation's desolation**.
- **We weep with Joel as we see the spiritual barrenness in the Church today.**
- **Religious tradition has stripped away out life and strength**.
- **We hunger and thirst for the corn, the wine, and the** oil.



- There can be no delay.
- **We must sound the alarm**!
- We must call **a solemn assembly** and **sanctify a fast** throughout the congregation.
- **Trumpets must summon us all** to the feast Day of Atonement.
- **There is but one remedy for all this desolation – our corporate CONSECRATION – A SETTING APART.**
    - **Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly**…Joel 2:15

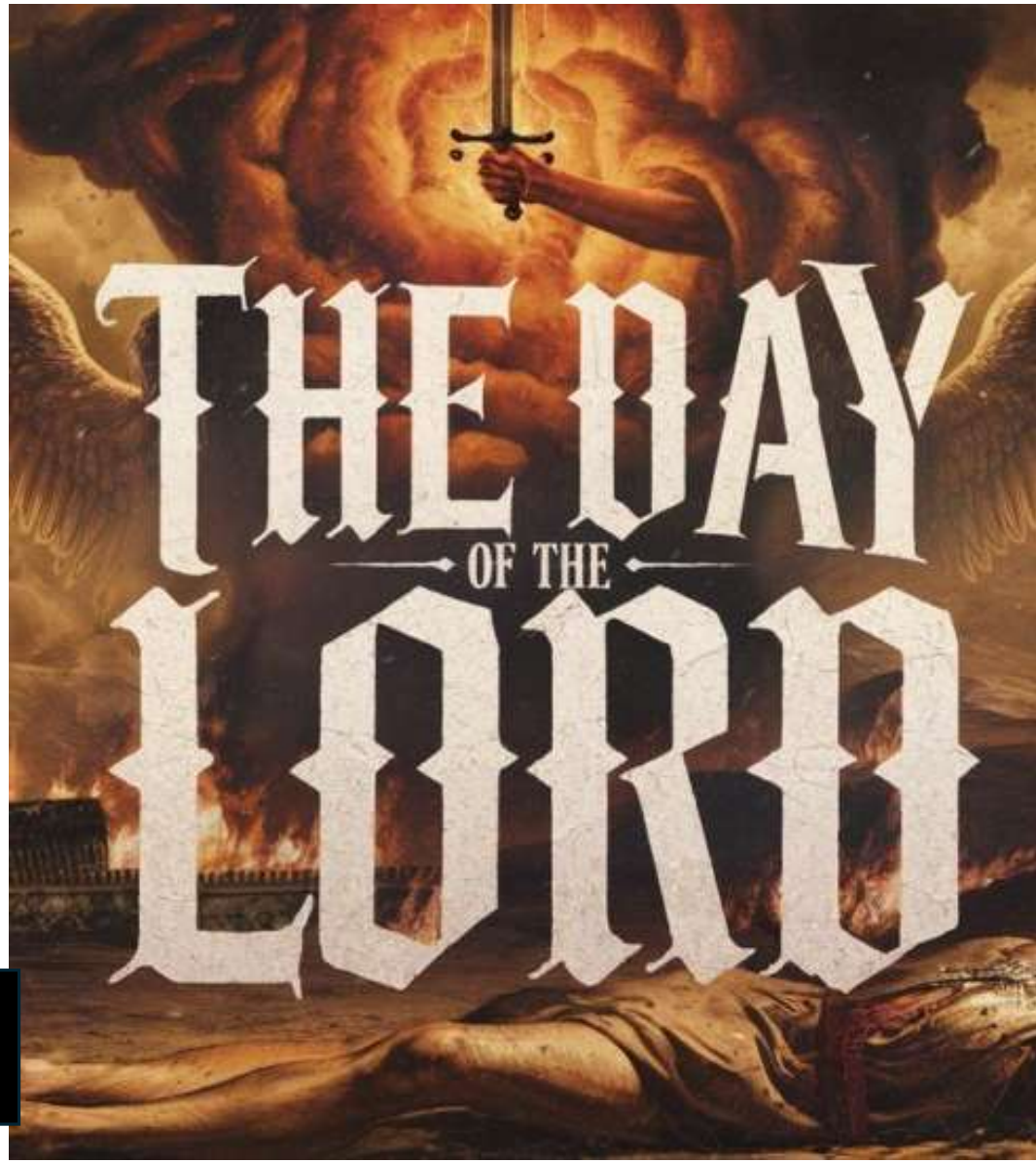


CALAMITY

A **Call** to
Mourning

A **Call** to
Repentance

IS AT HAND



Song of Repentance

We've fallen short
We've wandered far from Your ways
Forgive us O Lord
We've sinned against Your name



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