

The Apocolypse of Joel Part 2

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Majoring in the Minors / Last Days / Joel 3:9

The Apocalypse of Joel Part 2

Talk to someone

while on the phone.

No idea of discussion.

Part 1

- Call the church
- to repentance.
- Blow the Trumpet
- Seek Repentance
- organize corporate repentance
- Because end is here.

- Key verse from last week:

Joel 2:15–17 (ESV)

Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people.

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Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants.

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Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, "Spare your people,

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O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?' "

- Joel describes
 - details of last day
 - Judgment
 - Trials

- Tribulation
- Shaking and Sifting
- Outpouring of Holy Spirit
- Persecution
- Last Plagues
- Second Coming
 - All prefigured in Joel!

- Message of Joel:
 - Blow the Trumpet
 - wake up
 - last days
 - is upon us.

- What can we do?

Joel 2:32 ESV

And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

- God will have mercy
 - even through Tribulation.

- What is our part?
 - call on His name.
 - trust Him.

- Some will escape
 - some will make it
 - through Tribulation alive.
 - others will be martyred.

- Speaking of Tribulation
 - Joel has more

- apocalyptic language.

Final Crisis

Joel 3:9–10 (ESV)

Proclaim this among the nations: Consecrate for war; stir up the mighty men.

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Let all the men of war draw near; let them come up. Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears; let the weak say, "I am a warrior."

- Dual fulfillment
 - current crisis
 - future crisis
 - Hardship
 - Trials
 - Tribulation

- Trials of last days.
 - prediction of coming
 - trails
 - conflict
 - danger
 - war

- Everyone sees it coming.

Prophets and Kings Section 5—In the Lands of the Heathen

The present is a time of overwhelming interest to all living. Rulers and statesmen, men who occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all classes, have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. They are watching the relations that exist among the nations. They observe the intensity that is taking possession of every earthly element, and they recognize that something great and decisive is about to take place—that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis.

The Bible, and the Bible only, gives a correct view of these things. Here are revealed the great final scenes in the history of our world, events that already are casting their shadows before, the sound of their approach causing the earth to tremble and men's hearts to fail them for fear.

- People see it coming

- weather crisis
- economic crisis
- meteor

- People see it
 - just don't see accurately.

- We have truth
 - our community need
 - to hear it.

Final Harvest

- What happens after
 - the tribulation?
 - Final Harvest.

Joel 3:13 (ESV)

Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Go in, tread, for the winepress is full. The vats overflow, for their evil is great.

- I think
- John, in Revelation
- alluding to this verse.

Revelation 14:17–20 (ESV)

Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire,

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and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, "Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe." So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

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And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia.

- Destruction during
 - 7 last plagues
 - and
 - second coming

Great Controversy (Chapter 39—The Time of Trouble)

These plagues are not universal, or the inhabitants of the earth would be wholly cut off. Yet they will be the most awful scourges that have ever been known to mortals.

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All the judgments upon men, prior to the close of probation, have been mingled with mercy. The pleading blood of Christ has shielded the sinner from receiving the full measure of his guilt; but in the final judgment, wrath is poured out unmixed with mercy.

- It will seem
 - everyone will die
 - but God is protecting
 - His people.

- No more martyrs
- after close of probation.
- No purpose.
 - God protects.

Millennium in Heaven

- God bring people
- to heaven

Joel 3:16–17 (ESV)

The LORD roars from Zion, and utters his voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth quake.

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But the LORD is a refuge to his people, a stronghold to the people of Israel. "So you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who dwells in Zion, my holy mountain.

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And Jerusalem shall be holy, and strangers shall never again pass

through it.

- This is prefiguring
- how God protects
- His people
 - after close
 - of probation.

Literal Israel vs. Prophetic Israel

- All of this may
- make you think
 - current
 - literal war
 - in literal Israel.
- But let us not

- get confused
 - between literal Israel
 - and Spiritual/Prophetic

- Crisis in Israel
 - current war
 - US support of Israel
 - political reasons
 - theological reasons
 - both are false.

- Many people believe
- Millennium earthly
- God reigns from Jerusalem.

- No...
- During Millennium

- we are...
 - Peace in heaven
 - no wicked.

- Not earth

- Not Jerusalem

- Not Modern Israel

One morning a farmer told his wife that he was going out to pluck the ripen fruits from his field.

He got off to an early start so he could warm up the truck. He needed more petrol, so he went to the store to get it. On the way to the store he noticed the pigs weren't fed. So he proceeded to the corn crib, where he found some sacks of feed. Beside the sacks were potatoes that were sprouting. Then when he started for the potato pit, he passed the wood pile and remembered that his wife wanted wood in the house. As he picked up a few sticks, an ailing chicken passed by. He dropped the wood and picked up the chicken.

When noon arrived, the frustrated farmer had not even gotten to the truck, let alone to the field. By now, it is very hot. Some ripen fruits have dropped.

Babylonian Confusion

- As in the 1st Coming,
 - so in the 2nd Coming.

- Great confusion
 - most unprepared.

- Why?

- Looking for wrong
 - fulfillment of prophecy.

- Both Errors
 - Thinking to Physically.
 - Thinking of this world.

1st Coming

- Expected a Physical King

- to Rule Jerusalem
- Didn't happen.

- Jesus came as
- suffering servant
- died on cross
- no earthly prosperity
- mixed with sinful
 - mastery in this world.

2nd Coming

- Expect Physical King
- to Rule Jerusalem
- Won't happen.

- Not physical Israel

- spiritual Israel
- Not physical Jerusalem
- spiritual Jerusalem
- No Physical Temple
- Heavenly Temple
- cleansing of heart.

- Majority of those
- confused at 1st coming
- refused to change
 - were lost.

- Let's not be
- foolish as they.

3rd Coming

- The true triumphal entry

Revelation 21:1–3 (ESV)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

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And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "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.

- This is the fulfillment
- of prophecy from
- Zech.

Zechariah 14:3–5 (ESV)

Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east,

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and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward.

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And you shall flee to the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. And you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.

- Notice,
 - holy ones come with him.
 - not just angels.
 - Holy People.
 - Coming in City
 - NEW JERUSALEM.
- Don't be fooled.
 - have nothing to do
 - with hype about
 - modern Israel.

- Modern Israel
 - has nothing to do
 - with last day events
 - Babylonian Theology!
 - Confusion from Satan!

- Literal Israel
 - lost Biblical significance
 - at end of Covenant.
 - End of 70 weeks
 - in AD 34.

Daniel 9:24 (NKJV)

“Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city,
To finish the transgression,

To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring
in everlasting righteousness,

To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.

Purpose of 70 Weeks Prophecy

1. Probation Closes On Israelite Covenant
2. Proclamation of Messiah
3. Opening of Gospel to All

- Paul repeatedly
 - describes Israel's
 - current standing:

Galatians 3:26–29 (ESV)

for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

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There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

- There is no
 - such thing as
 - special nation
 - covenant with God
 - in the NT era.
- If you are believer
 - you are Israel.
- Political entity of Israel
 - no longer means
 - anything to God.
- They do matter
 - as all human beings
 - just like

- Americans
 - Africans
 - Palestinians
 - Filipinos
 - All others!
-
- Should not have
 - special prayer time
 - for Israel
 - (instead of Palestine)
 - or Zimbabwe
-
- If you choose to be
 - political about it
 - should de-emphasize
 - Holy Israel.

- Do not promote
- Babylonian Confusion.

Israel in Revelation

- 144000

Revelation 7:4–8 (NKJV)

And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:

of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed.

- Not literal

Dispensationalism

- OT – for Israel
- NT – for Christian Church
- End Times – for Israel

- Based on Zech
 - and 144,000
 - and promises in OT

Conditional Prophecy

- Numerous Promises
 - in the OT
 - eternal covenant
 - word “forever”

- Evangelical Support
 - for Israel Conflict
 - “God gave them
 - land forever”

- “Have to help them
 - get land back”

- They believe
 - must rebuild temple

- start sacrifices there
 - before end of world!

Examples of Conditional Prophecy

1. Jonah and Nineveh

Jeremiah 18:5–10 (ESV)

Then the word of the LORD came to me: “O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? declares the LORD. Behold, like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.

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If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I intended to do to it.

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And if at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, and if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will relent of the good that I had intended to do to it.

- Let us be clear:
 - Prophecy is conditional

- Prophecy of
 - blessings
 - cursings
 - against person/nation
 - change based on
 - sin/repentance.

- So it is with Israel
 - God promised them
 - many things
 - that will never
 - come to pass.

1. Eternal Covenant

2. Land given them forever
3. Protection and Blessing
4. Covenant People
5. Holy Temple
6. Dwell Among Them.

Israel in Rom 11

- God has ended
 - His covenant with them
 - as a nation.

- But as individuals
 - as people
 - they can be grafted
 - back into the covenant.

Words of Jesus

- Jesus describes
 - God's relationship to Israel:

Matthew 21:33–44 (NKJV)

“Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country.

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Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying,

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‘They will respect my son.’ But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him.

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“Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?” They said to Him, “He will destroy those wicked

men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.”

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Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD’s doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes’?

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“Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.”

- Conclusion?
- God cut off
 - Israel as covenant people.
 - No future significance.
- Don’t get distracted
 - by false ideas.

If you saw the movie Chariots of Fire, then maybe you remember the great runner Abraham. He had won so many races. His coach held up such discipline. But he finally lost one of the races because he looked to the side. Just as he was about to finish the race he looked to see where the competitor was. His coach said to him, that look cost you the race. He was not single minded on the finish and the prize that lay ahead.

Appeal

- Do not focus on Israel
 - If it happens
 - If it doesn't
 - Looking wrong way.

- Focus on Christ
 - Early Rain
 - Latter Rain
 - Revival
 - Corporate Reformation

- Character Development
 - Gospel Witness
 - Spiritual Gifts.
-
- These are the issues
 - of the last days.

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