

# *The Book of Joel*

*28 January 2020*

# *The Book of Joel*

## *Chapter 1*

### *Call to Hear*

As Hosea was sent to the House of Israel so is Joel sent to the House of Judah. This book is a vision given to Joel by our Father and it directly relates to the last days, just before the **Lord's Day**.

Hosea told the people of the impending destruction that would come upon them by our Father using the Assyrians to take them into captivity for their constant and continual neglect of His Laws and Commandments. This began around 740 B.C. under the rule of King Pul of Assyria and King Tilgathpileser:

★ *1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 5:26 And the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria, and the spirit of Tilgath-pilneser king of Assyria, and he carried them away, even the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh, and brought them unto Halah, and Habor, and Hara, and to the river Gozan, unto this day. KJV*

However, the capitol city, Samaria, was not taken until 722 B.C. by Sargon II, approximately 20 some years later. By 716 B.C. the Assyrians had removed most of the Northern Tribes to other areas.

We assume that all the peoples of these Northern Tribes would become the "*Ten Lost Tribes*" but were there any who made it back to Samaria or Jerusalem? The various dates are considerable and determining the year exactly is difficult at best but if we go to 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles, chapter 31 we can read a little about it:

★ *2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 31:1 Now when all this was finished, all Israel that were present went out to the cities of Judah, and brake the images in pieces, and cut down the groves, and threw down the high places and the altars out of all Judah and Benjamin, in Ephraim also and Manasseh, until they had utterly destroyed them all. Then all the children of Israel returned, every man to his possession, into their own cities. KJV*

The timeline given for this verse, in the margin of the Companion Bible, is somewhere around 616 B.C. That was a very, very brief history but I think that it serves the purpose as we transition from Hosea and the House of Israel into Joel and the House of Judah.

About 200 years have gone by since the prophecies of Hosea and our Father takes us to Joel, who prophesied around the years 488 B.C. to 477 B.C. so this will be the time period as we study this book of Joel.

Let me repeat so that we're clear on who is doing what to whom: Hosea prophesied to the **House of Israel** and now Joel will prophesy to the **House of Judah**. Israel's capitol was north of Jerusalem, by some 30 miles, the city of Samaria, and Judah's capitol is, of course, the city of Jerusalem.

Who are the Tribes of the House of Judah? **Judah, Benjamin, and Levi.**

*Joel 1:1 The word of the Lord that came to Joel the son of Pethuel.*

Our Father wants to make it clear at the outset that these are **His Words** and not the words of Joel. The inspiration came from the Holy Spirit, Joel simply penned the words to paper. *(Or papyrus.)*

*Joel 1:2 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?*

**OLD MEN?** Hey, wait a minute! 77 isn't all that old! Alright, He's not talking to me but using the words *old men* gives us a sense of many days and years passing by and nothing like this has ever happened before.

Nothing of **what** has never happened before? The degradation of the people and how they live and how low they have sunk morally.

*Joel 1:3 Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.*

And to make sure that it's never forgotten in the future, our Father tells them to carry this story forward to the next generation and the next generation and the next generation. Make it a story that you tell during the feast days throughout the year but make sure you tell it enough so that it's never forgotten concerning what happened here.

*Joel 1:4 That which the palmerworm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the caterpillar eaten.*

Don't overlook the fact that verse three is foretelling of some eminent disaster that has never been seen before and verse four begins to tell us what that disaster is and, my goodness, there was a lot said in that verse: we've got the **palmerworm**, the **locust**, the **cankerworm** and the **caterpillar**. What the heck are these?

They are the four stages of the growth of the locust or four species of the same insect, as some would view this, but either way, it's a prophesy that shows that the eminent destruction is going to get worse and worse.

This should not be new to you because this is the formulation of the locust army of Revelation, chapter 9, so none of this has happened as of yet. This whole book, in fact, will be dedicated to the end-times so it really ought to be interesting!

In the Hebrew, this verse is spoken in a sing-song, poetic kind of way but let's take a closer look:

★ *Palmerworm*- OT:1501 **gazam** (gaw-zawm'); from an unused root meaning to **devour**; a kind of locust: KJV - palmer-worm.

Having just emerged from the egg in spring, and without wings.

★ *Locust*- OT:697 **'arbeh** (ar-beh'); from OT:7235; a **locust** (from its rapid increase):KJV - grasshopper, locust.

At the end of spring, still in their first skin, they put forth little ones without legs or wings.

★ *Cankerworm*- OT:3218 **yekeq** (yeh'-lek); from an unused root meaning to **lick up**; a **devourer**; specifically, the **young locust**: KJV - cankerworm, caterpillar.

After their third casting of the old skin, they get small wings, which enable them to leap the better, but not to fly: being not able to go away until their wings are matured, they devour all before them-grass, shrubs, and bark of trees.

★ *Caterpillar*- OT:2625 **chacyl** (khaw-seel'); from OT:2628; the **ravager**, i.e. a locust: KJV - caterpillar.

The matured winged locust, translated "*the canker-worm*".

The Hebrew reads:

★ *Gnawers' remnant, the Swarmer eats;*

★ *Swarmer's remnant, the Devourer eats;*

★ *Devourers' remnant, the Consumer eats.*

It demonstrates the completeness of its feast. There is nothing left when he gets through. So will the Ten Tribes of Israel be in that same condition. They will be scattered across the face of this earth and many people might say:

*"Well, that's that. They're gone and that's that."*

But that's not really true, you can't just forget about them because they are out there, they get married, they have children and this cycle repeats itself over and over again until the prophesy that was given to Abraham becomes true: these scattered people will become the multitudes that will be known as "the stars of heaven and the sands of the sea".

★ *Exodus 32:13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever. KJV*

They will grow in number and populate many nations.

The thing about the locusts, described here in Joel, is that, in the natural environment, they do not go through the four successive stages in the same region. Only two stages of locusts remain in the area: the female will lay her eggs and when they hatch early the next spring these little ones begin the period again and then destroys what is left of the vegetation. In nature, four orders do not succeed one another.

What Joel probably saw in this vision was to emphasize that Satan would come after Israel and Judah **in succession** to achieve his destruction.

The locust army of Revelation is simply representative of the followers of Satan in his role as the Antichrist. They are different than those deceived by him, these are his core, and they are the fallen angels from Genesis, chapter 6.

And the beauty of Satan's army is that our Father allows that army to do what they do, He is in control of it. **It's His army.** We'll read about that in chapter 2, verse 11 of this same book.

He is in charge and controls everything, nothing is out of order or in a place where it should not be.

This great country, the United States of America, can sink to its lowest denominator, politically, socially, morally and spiritually, and He oversees every single event. Nothing is chaotic.

So many people are afraid these days and it seems that just a select few seem to be able to tell the entire world how to act. From politicians to an individual that stopped prayer in school. The masses are being told how to live by a select few and it just boggles my mind why we sit around and let them do that to us. Why don't we have the *cojones* and will power to tell them to kiss our butts, sit down, and shut up?

Just in the last few days, 405,000 people in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, walked the streets protesting their president and a poor economy. Those people have "*cojones*". They stand up for what they believe. Would that ever happen in this country? Not on your life. Too content to sit on the couch and live off their government handout....don't want to rock the boat, don'tcha know.

Rather sit around and drink beer and watch TV...

*"Hey, I've had a hard week at work, don'tcha know."*

And the others could just care less about the whole situation. Less than 40% of voter age citizens will ever cast a ballot in their lifetime.

And we sit around and wonder why the crud of politicians keep getting into office? Stop wondering.

I truly believe that if people today were on the Mayflower, or the Nina, or the Santa Maria we'd still be speaking the Kings' English today. I remember when people were proud to work their tails off; now they sit on the curb with a placard in their hands begging for food or money and when they finish they climb into a new car and drive off. I worked in Atlanta for too many years to know that that is the truth. I've seen them on the exit ramps off the freeways and interstates.

But on a grander scale, it really upsets me that people are afraid to read some parts of the Bible, the book of Revelation for one. I know **why** they're afraid, they've listened to preachers that take the words literally and it scares them. These preachers are too stupid and too lazy to dig down into the languages and find out exactly what it is that our Father is telling us.

I can't change everyone's mind by the things that I write but I have expounded on Revelation, in its entirety, and if you study that work and still walk away afraid, then it's not my fault. Just keep doing what you're doing, maybe the Father has put His cloak of ignorance, or maybe innocence, on you and He's waiting for the Millennium to teach you the truth. I hope so because if it turns out that you're just plain butt-ugly stupid, then I don't want to associate with you in Heaven at any rate.

*Joel 1:5 Awake, ye drunkards, and weep; and howl, all ye drinkers of wine, because of the new wine; for it is cut off from your mouth.*

These drunks are going to howl alright because the good wine will be gone and you cannot get drunk by drinking new wine because that is unfermented juice, like pomegranate juice.

*Joel 1:6 For a nation is come up upon my land, strong, and without number, whose teeth are the teeth of a lion, and he hath the cheek teeth of a great lion.*

We're talking about the House of Judah here so it won't be the Assyrians coming against them, it will be the Babylonians. And the *cheek teeth of a great lion* indicates their strength because these are the crushing teeth.

*Joel 1:7 He hath laid my vine waste, and barked my fig tree: he hath made it clean bare, and cast it away; the branches thereof are made white.*

In the natural sense the locust has eaten everything, even the bark off the tree.

In the spiritual sense, the entire country is laid waste because they are all spiritually dead. Sure, the locust will even eat the bark off of a tree but spiritually it refers to the "**day of the Lord**", the end of this dispensation whereby not just Judah and Israel but the entire world will be involved. We'll read of that in verse 15.

*Joel 1:8 Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth for the husband of her youth.*

When you're young you feel affections the strongest and so it is also with grief, our Father grieves for Israel and Judah as a waiting virgin does for her husband but it's to no avail. The youth will soon pass into wrinkled bent-over bodies and some of Zion will soon pass into obscurity around the world.

*Joel 1:9 The meat offering and the drink offering is cut off from the house of the Lord; the priests, the Lord's ministers, mourn.*

Not even their sacrifices nor their priests can change what is fixin' to come. It's a time of wailing and no one can stop it.

*Joel 1:10 The field is wasted, the land mourneth; for the corn is wasted: the new wine is dried up, the oil languisheth.*

Everything that they once produced is now for naught. It seems that the life has gone out of it all.

*Joel 1:11 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.*

*Husbandmen* means farmers.

Be ashamed, alright, because this could all have been prevented. They could have fallen down on their knees before the Living God and asked for His forgiveness and help but they were too stubborn.

*"We'll just do things our way and forget about Him."*

And so they did and see what happened? Everything they owned was gone. Had they spent a little time in building up the things of the spiritual and not the earthly they would have been in much better shape.

How you doin', people? Got anything built up that isn't made of some earthly material? Got anything *"up there"* when you get there? Oh sure, it's going to be heaven and all that comes with it but if you read the last eight chapters of Ezekiel or the latter chapters of Revelation you'll see that there is much more to heaven than you probably know.

There's things going on up there; souls interacting with each other. What are you going to be wearing? A bikini or a long flowing robe that will be admired by all. The prophets and the apostles will have those robes on and you can have one too, it just depends on how you want to live in these earthly bodies.

Want to stay drunk and on drugs all your life? You'll probably end up with a jock strap, if you make it there at all.

Want to *"be all you can be"*, to quote a U.S. Army slogan, and spend your life chasing after the almighty dollar? I did it for years, put my kids and my wife second, and justified it by telling myself that I was doing it for them. And I look around today and say to myself:

*"What the hell was I thinking?"*

*"Where is everybody and where did they go?"*

*"Didn't they know I was doing it for them?"*

Maybe our Father is saying the same thing about you right now:

*"After all that I've done for them, where did they go? Why do they treat Me as Israel and Judah are doing right now, right here in this book?"*

Life without the Father in it is getting up every day with 100 pounds of concrete around your neck and the world is what put it there. He can take it off if you'll just ask Him to do it. But you have to have the *cojones* to want to do it. He's not going to do it for you.

Get up and start doing just one small thing that will put you back on a road that leads to Him and if you keep doing that every day He will soon begin to think that maybe you're going to stick with it this time and when He sees that, He'll begin to come into your life in very small ways. Some so small that you may not even recognize them when they happen.

But it takes **TIME** and that's something we don't have and it's something that He has **PLENTY** of. It's not going to happen overnight so bear with it and keep doing it and after a few months you might see some small things happen in your pitiful, miserable life that you hadn't seen before. They're small, you may have to look for them, but they will be there.

He promised that they would be. And He doesn't lie to us like the world and all that's in it does.

And, for heaven's sake, don't start going to some church thinking that the saving grace can be found there. Going to a church, at this point in your life, is only going to give you false hope because they're not equipped, mentally or physically, to help people like you. Someone that is struggling to find hope and comfort in something beyond what the world has to offer.

**CHURCHES TODAY ARE THE WORLD.**

**OUR FATHER SAYS THAT THE WORLD CANNOT HELP YOU.**

**BUT HE CAN.**

*Joel 1:12 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 is withered away from the sons of men.*

There is no joy in this life without Him in it. I really like this word *languisheth*:

★ *Languisheth*-\_amal (aw-mal'); a primitive root; to droop; by implication to be sick, to mourn:

Even the earth mourns because of the way these Tribes are living their lives.

This word "*men*" refers to humankind in general.

There's no doubt in my mind that the entirety of His creation "*feels*" everything else around it. The trees feel it, the animals feel it. Everything that is living on this earth feels it. Everything is all a part of one whole. It's a living, breathing, entirety of His work, all coming together and living together, waiting until His return.

*Joel 1:13 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.*

Back in the days that these folks lived they all wore robes. No Levi's or shorts or fancy blouses. And when you wanted to *Gird yourself* up, you reached down between your legs and grabbed the back end of the robe and pulled it through your legs and up to your waist.

Usually it was secured there by a rope or a tie of some sort, but it allowed your legs to move quickly without stumbling over the front edge of the robe. Allowed you to swing that sword and fight if you had to.

But Father is saying that, even now, that's not going to help you. Even your preachers can't help you at this point. These preachers can wail all night long and He's not going to listen to their nonsense. They were a large part of why the people are doing the things that got them in so much trouble with the Father to begin with.

And it's no different today. You listen to those boys behind the lectern long enough, they'll take you to hell right along with them. Why? Because that's their job. They're told what to preach by the "*higher critics*", the church leaders, the ones that give them their license to preach.

Hey, preachin' is a pretty good job. Don't have to do any really physical work, dress in a suit all day, act like you're concerned with the problems of other people, preach what they tell you and bring in the paycheck.

Only bad part about that is that they're preaching for money! And the Father doesn't like that! You preach His Word or you don't preach at all!

Kind of reminds me of 'ole Balaam in the book of Numbers:

★ *Numbers 22:20 And God came unto Balaam at night, and said unto him, If the men come to call thee, rise up, and go with them; but yet the word which I shall say unto thee, that shalt thou do. KJV*

But 'ole Balaam was being paid **NOT** to preach His word by Balak, the son of Zippor, they wanted Balaam to curse the Tribes, not bring the Word of our Father to them.

And they were willing to give Balaam a whole house full of silver and gold for doing so. And it took the ass that Balaam was riding on to speak to him and turn his head around. *(Through the Angel of the Lord, of course.)*

*Joel 1:14 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,*

*Call a solemn assembly*....literally means a day without doing any work at all. Let's all get together and pray as one unit before the Lord

*Joel 1:15 Alas for the day! for the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.*

Verse 15 is almost verbatim from Isaiah 13:6...

★ *Isaiah 13:1 Howl ye; for the day of the Lord is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. KJV*

*For the day of the Lord is at hand*...literally, in the Hebrew, is:

*"Near is the Day of the Lord, like destruction from the Almighty shall it come."*

And when they gathered they pitifully cried unto Him:

*"Oh Lord, we know that You are going to deal harshly with us and we pray that You change your mind."*

*Joel 1:16 Is not the meat cut off before our eyes, yea, joy and gladness from the house of our God?*

*"We see what you've done to us, Lord."*

The joy that they used to have at their regular feasts and offerings is gone because He has cut them off.

*Joel 1:17 The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered.*

We couldn't plant anything right now anyway, there's no seed worth anything, the corn is dried up, all the barns are broken down. We've just let everything go to hell.

*Joel 1:18 How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate.*

The cattle didn't have a thing to do with it and yet they suffer the consequences as well.

*Joel 1:19 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.*

This is Joel speaking here: ...

*"Oh, Father, we're going to cry to You because of their condition..."*

*Joel 1:20 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. KJV*

Even the cattle raise their eyes towards heaven and reprove Israel for neglecting our Father and putting them in this predicament. This “*wilderness*” is a spiritual wilderness.

A lot of “*learned scholars*” will tell you that the four stages of the locust stands for the four major powers of the earth at the time: Assyria, Babylon, Macedonia, and Rome but as the centuries have gone by can this still be held as truth? Wasn’t the truth back then, isn’t the truth today.

Not by a long shot. This entire book looks forward to the coming of our Lord and His dominance over spiritual powers that He has allowed to work, especially during the last five months of this dispensation.

And, as always, He will prevail. But what are we to do in the meantime? How many days are we left to our own devices and diversions? How much longer can we stagger through this world saying: “I don’t know what to do or where to go.”

Turn to Him and He will show you the way. But **you** have to do it, it will take some time, but He is the only way in this world.

# *The Book of Joel*

## *Chapter 2*

### *This is That*

*Joel 2:1 Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand;*

Are you ready for that day? Do you even know what it is? It's the day that He returns to us, to take the vulgarity out of our lives, to cleanse this world of all that is evil. Get rid of all the rudiments.

Is it here yet? Nope. It said that it was *nigh at hand*. It's close to being here but THIS day is not THE day. So the sound of the trumpets must be announcing a different event. An event that has never happened before nor will happen again. This is a once in a lifetime experience.

Many people might say:

*"So, what?"*

What does that have to do with me? Just one more religious nut case out there, ranting and raving on the corner of Peachtree and 10<sup>th</sup>, with a bible in his hand and a couple of guys in white jackets closing in."

No, not really but its ok if you want to look at things in that respect. You've probably never believed in that bible junk to start with. But I can almost guarantee you, that if you are still alive and walking around when THIS event happens, you will become a believer real quick.

And, for someone that thinks like you do, it will be too late. You'll be sucked in like debris inside a tornado. And it will happen so fast that your head will probably spin as well.

*Joel 2:2 A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.*

This verse refers to "this is that", written in the book of Acts, chapter 2...

★ *Acts 2:16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;*

★ *Acts 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: KJV*

If this is not the day that our Lord returns, then exactly what is fixin' to happen?

Let's go quickly to Revelation, chapter 9. Let's revisit the first three verses:

★DF *Revelation 9:11 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.*

Remember who was cast into a bottomless pit? Satan and his 7000 fallen angels.

★ *Revelation 9:12 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.*

Darn, this sounds exactly like verse 2 in Joel.

★ *Revelation 9:13 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. KJV*

The “*smoke*” and the “*darkness*” and the “*gloominess*” is spiritual because this moment will grasp your soul as you have never felt before. The true believers will be excited because they know exactly what’s going on.

This is the day that Satan will begin playing his role as the Antichrist and this will be his opportunity to make a grand entrance into the world. Your world. That safe and secure little bubble that you think you’ve built around yourself and your family.

You and the Mrs. are getting along just fine; kids are in school and making good grades; the job is going really great with the promise of a promotion coming soon; got a ton of money in the 401K and as long as the stock market holds ground you should have some serious money when you retire.

A pat on the back to you because you have not put yourself or your family **AT RISK!**

Man, I hate those two words and the news media uses them to the point of nausea.

*“You might be **at risk** for such and such, if you haven’t done so and so, so you had better buy this product, avoid that food, buy this insurance, stop driving while you’re drunk, to protect yourself and your family from being **at risk**. You don’t want to be **irresponsible**, do you? **Well, do you?**”*

Yep. You definitely have your life together but I think that there might be a little hiccup coming your way because you’ve ignored the most important part of your life and that’s your spiritual side. You were too busy mocking and making fun of anyone and everyone that believed in that religious nonsense.

Is anybody coming out of this pit besides Satan? Was there anybody else that was put in this pit when he was?

★ *Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. KJV.*

These angels are 7000 in number and Revelation 9:13 calls them locusts, while Joel 2:2 calls them a “*great and strong people*.” Don’t ever forget that spiritual bodies look exactly like earthly bodies and the reason that our Father calls them “*locusts*” is so you can get a really graphic image in your mind as to how powerful and destructive they can be to “*green things*”. Trees, grass, bark and so on.

These angels won’t eat “*green things*” but they will devour souls faster than Bubba can eat a dozen chicken wings.

That’s the message that our Father wants you to get: Satan and his angels will devour souls with the ferociousness of a swarm of locust eating their way across a field of lush, green vegetation.

*Joel 2:3 A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them.*

★ *Translation: **Physical**: The locusts are going to eat everything in sight and leave nothing behind them.*

★ *Translation: **Spiritual**: Satan and his angels are going to deceive as many souls as possible.*

The wings of a locust is pretty much transparent with silver overtones and when they fly the sun will reflect off of them producing the visual effect of “fire” and “flame” It’s not **REALLY** a fire that devours or **REALLY** a flame that eats and destroys the vegetation.

The Garden of Eden is used in the description because we always picture that place as lush with vegetation, flowers, and fruit.

*Joel 2:4 The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run.*

Are these “locusts” riding horses? Nope. Again, our Father uses symbolism because mere ordinary words that we are accustomed to using daily, cannot convey the true descriptions or intensity of the actions.

Horses always represent power and the impression that we are to take from it is that these 7000 angels are very powerful. Not in physical strength but in their ability to make people believe that they are something that they really are not.

They will appear to be beautiful and loving but in reality they have the teeth of wolves and they love to destroy the souls of our Father. That’s your soul and my soul, and if you simply look at this as a bunch of religious junk, your soul could be lost to them forever.

How do they destroy the souls of our Father? By convincing these scoffers and disbelievers that Satan/Antichrist is the true Messiah, when in fact he is the deceiver and if you believe in him your soul will go into the Lake of Fire and be gone forever.

Revelation 9:7 will put the icing on the whole situation, as far as explaining who these “locusts” really are:

*★ Revelation 9:7 And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. KJV*

Ultimately, this locust army of Satan/Antichrist will also be comprised of his earthly followers, as well as the supernatural angels. Don’t ever forget that our Father is in control of every second of the events that will unfold.

This is His locust army, in the respect, that He allows them to put this deception forth, before His children of this last generation and He’s going to see who loved Him enough to study His Word, His letter to all of us, and who did not.

Those children that read His book, with understanding, not just for the right to brag that they “*read that book from cover to cover*”, will know exactly what’s going on during this five month period and those who did not read it will fall all over themselves, trying to get as much of the promised booty as they can.

Man, they don’t even have to work for it any more, it’s being given away by the same “*person*” that they used to mock and make fun of, or so they think. I mean, it **LOOKS** like Jesus Christ, so it **MUST BE** Jesus Christ. Sorry, but you have just put yourself **AT RISK!**

All their needs will be taken care of, their bills will be paid, and the mortgage will be paid, nothing to worry about. All you have to do is sign on the dotted line.

And that mark that everyone tried to figure out what it was..... will turn out to not be something visible but simply a belief in the wrong savior and when you believe in something or someone, normally, you’ll try to convince others that they should believe the same as you, especially during a time of this magnitude:

*★ Mark 13:12 Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death. KJV*

This is not a physical death; *death* is simply another one of Satan's names that he goes by.

Satan/Antichrist will be the big man on campus. When he comes and stands on the Mount of Olives, the show that he will put on will make a Pink Floyd concert look like a tea-cup party with a two-year old.

And if we skip ahead just three more verses I'll prove to you that this deception of the locust army and their leader, Satan/Antichrist, will only last for five months:

**★ Revelation 9:10 And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months. KJV.**

There are a limited number of ways to try and explain symbolism in prophesy and have someone ultimately see and understand the truth that our Father is trying to give to us. After that, it's up to you. Do you want to accept it or do you want to reject it? Your choice.

Mock it or embrace it.

Dispel it as religious junk or take those words of truth and hold them close to your heart and soul, knowing with spiritual comfort, that you will survive these five months because **He said that you would.**

**Joel 2:5 Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array.**

These supernatural angels will lead this locust army of believers and they will blast across the face of this earth. This will be all that you will see on cable news, local news and satellite TV.

**Joel 2:6 Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness.**

This word *pained* doesn't mean what you think it means, so here it is in the Hebrew:

**★ Pained\_OT:2342 *chuw*l (khood); or *chiyl* (kheel); a primitive root; properly, to twist or whirl (in a circular or spiral manner), i.e. (specifically) to dance, to writhe in pain (especially of parturition) or fear; figuratively, to wait, to pervert:**

Nor does the word *blackness* mean what you think it means....

**★ Blackness\_OT:6289 *pa'ruwr* (paw-roor'); from OT:6286; properly, illuminated, i.e. a glow; as noun, a flush (of anxiety):**

Two very badly translated words, *blackness* and *pained*.

Before these angels, the people will be dancing in the streets, hearts filled with joy, faces aglow with excitement, got all this free stuff comin' in.... man, this is better than Mardi Gras on a Tuesday night. (*Did you catch that pun?*)

**Joel 2:7 They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks:**

These followers of Satan/Antichrist are well organized, they don't run willy-nilly through the streets, they lead the people and, in their fervor, and they are caught up in the moment. The bad part is that the "*moment*" will last for a few months.

**Joel 2:8 Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded.**

They won't be stumbling over one another.

**They shall not be wounded.** Why won't some be wounded? Because some will be supernatural.

*Joel 2:9 They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief.*

As the “*locusts*” will swarm over everything in sight, so these people, in their earnestness to “*convert*” everyone that they come in contact with, will also swarm over the multitudes of people.

*Joel 2:10 The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:*

The subject has changed in this verse. What’s happening? Does *the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining* remind you of something else?

*Revelation 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. KJV*

The *Shekinah Glory* of our Lord, that radiance around Him, will outshine the sun, moon and the stars.

This is His return; this is the beginning of His Day, the Lord’s Day. The previous five months was the first tribulation; this Day of the Lord will be the second tribulation.

*Joel 2:11 And the Lord shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?*

Whose army was it? **HIS ARMY!** The locust army is **CONTROLLED BY OUR FATHER.** Nothing happens on this earth WITHOUT His permission or His control.

Satan is not allowed to just willy-nilly have his way no matter what. It all is controlled by our Father.

*Joel 2:12 Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:*

One last plea from Him before He goes into action.

What are you going to think when He comes and now you see two “*saviors*” standing in Jerusalem?

*Joel 2:13 And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.*

It’s not His wish that any of His children should be taken in by the deception of Satan/Antichrist during this period which is why He has warned us, here in Joel and Revelation and throughout the Scriptures, about these coming events over and over and over again.

He could have destroyed all souls during the first heaven/earth age when Lucifer/Satan decided to take control of heaven but He repented of His anger, He got control of His anger, and with mercy and grace He created this present age, giving us the opportunity, that if we did follow Satan back then, that we could do it differently here and now.

If there had never been that war in heaven we would probably be living in a Paradise of unknown splendor, never thinking for even one minute that something that we’re living on a daily basis, could even exist or be possible.

But that war **did** happen and here we sit on a daily basis and He loves us enough to give us some information about how things **used to be**, and how things **can be** in the future, after this earthly body dies.

And He wrote everything that we need to know right here in this book called the Bible. And He integrated....hard wired....within our psyche, an intuitive feeling that there is more to us than just us, that

there is a higher authority out there somewhere, so whether our momma told us about God or not, we have an internal feeling or sense that He, or something like Him, exists.

He didn't just throw us out on the terra firma and say: "*Have at it.*" He prepared us in a way that could not be overwritten by any man, any human. It's ingrained in us, this knowledge of His presence. You will not be able, on Judgment Day, to stand before Him and say:

*"Hey, I didn't know you existed."*

You **DID KNOW** because you felt it, intuitively you knew it. **ANIMALS** know that He exists. **PLANTS** know that He exists.

And if you happen to spend your entire life in the darkness of deepest Africa or the Antarctica, where you had no contact with human life at all, He will take you through the Millennium and you'll be taught the things that you need to know then and at the end of that time, you will be tempted by Satan for a five month period because **NO ONE** overcomes Satan or gets into "*heaven*" without being tested or tempted first.

And if you choose to follow Satan after that period of time you will deserve exactly what you get. The Lake of Fire.

*Joel 2:14 Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the Lord your God?*

He doesn't know if we will ever turn from our wicked ways and put our focus back on Him but it is His desire for us to do so. He hopes that we'll repent of our sins and be a blessing to others because He offered His only Son on the cross to give you the opportunity to do just that.

*Joel 2:15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:*

Blow that horn one more time. The first time it blew, in verse 1 of this chapter, it was to announce the coming of Satan/Antichrist. This time it will announce His return.

*Joel 2:16 Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.*

There is a Hebrew expression that says: "*don't be with child when I return.*" And that doesn't refer to an earthly pregnancy but rather a spiritual one. And it goes like this:

Our Father doesn't like us to "*run around*" on Him. He created us for **His own** pleasure, not for the pleasure of Satan or demonic spirits or unseen powers of the nether world. But if you spend all your time living in the ways of the world and forgetting about Him you are dancing with the wrong partner.

When our Lord returns He considers it to be a time of reunion between spiritual souls that are supposed to love each other. And there will be a "*marriage*" feast performed between Him and all His creation as a whole when He does return.

But if we have taken up with Satan, if we believe his lies and those told in most churches over the last 185 years, then we are "*spiritually married*" to Satan and not our Father or the Lord.

We haven't waited for the "spiritual Husband" to return and we went out and "spiritually slept" with Satan in His absence. Therefore, we are "*spiritually with Satan's child*" when the Lord does return and are not the virgin bride that He was expecting.

This line of thought just happens to be one of the seven events that our Lord told us about that would happen prior to His return:

★ *Luke 21:23 But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. KJV*

You didn't wait for the bridegroom to return and you believed the lies of Satan while He was gone.

*Joel 2:17 Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?*

There are only four verses throughout Scripture that contain the phrase: *the porch and the altar*. In two of the verses it refers to the area or space where the priests stood in front of the altar, before the people, and offered sacrifices to the Lord.

This was on the East side of Solomon's Temple where you had the altar, a short open area and then the porch that let into the Temple.

After the people had ignored our Father for quite some time they would come back to the altar and try to get back into His good graces by offering sacrifices and crying to Him to forgive them for their transgressions. Usually they only did this after He had chastised them severely.

This is what is happening in verse 17. Father is telling the priests to come before the Lord, in the area that they are accustomed to be in, between the porch and the altar, and plead with the Father for grace.

The other references to that phrase can only be found in the book of Ezekiel and it involves sun worshipping on the holy festival of Passover:

*Ezekiel 8:16 And he brought me into the inner court of the Lord's house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the Lord, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east. KJV.*

A practice that our Father hated because it was idol worship. The *five and twenty men* are not the Patriarchs and the Apostles talked about in Revelation but here in the Old Testament it refers to the 24 elders and the chief priest.

*Joel 2:18 Then will the Lord be jealous for his land, and pity his people.*

*His people* is "*Lo-Ruhamah*" that we read about in the book of Hosea.

*Joel 2:19 Yea, the Lord will answer and say unto his people,*

If they pray honestly and sincerely before Him...

*Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen: KJV*

If they do that He will bless them and make them above reproach in His eyes.

But if the people, you and I, wait until Satan/Antichrist is standing in Jerusalem it will be far too late for any retractions or forgiveness because, if you didn't know the truth before he showed up, there will be no time and the deception will be complete, after he shows up.

*Joel 2:20 But I will remove far off from you the northern army, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savour shall come up, because he hath done great things.*

I like this verse a whole lot. The *east sea* is the Dead Sea; and the *utmost sea* is the Great Sea or, as we know it, the Mediterranean Sea.

The *northern army* is Satan's "*locust*" army, which we know to be the 7000 angels and those men and women that believe his lies during this tribulation. Father says that he may just "shred" Satan into little pieces and spread them from the Mediterranean Sea all the way to the Dead Sea and he will definitely stink after that happens. (I'm only jesting.)

What *great things* has Satan done? He **pretended** to be the true Lord and Savior.

*Joel 2:21 Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things.*

He surely will. When it's all said and done, after the cleansing, after Satan is locked away for that 1000 years of the Millennium, some of His people will have their first opportunity to really understand the truth of His Words and they will be saved. There may not be many but there will be a few.

*Joel 2:22 Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength.*

Everything that was spiritually dead, back in chapter 1, will come alive again, much like the "*dry bones*" in Ezekiel.

*Joel 2:23 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.*

If we are His children, and not the children of Satan, He will shower us with grace and mercy. The former and latter rains are something that occurs in nature and it shows the goodness of our Lord.

When you plant your seeds in the spring, they need water so that they can germinate and begin to grow and sprout, the former rain.

As they grow throughout the summer months, just before harvest, He will send the "latter rain" and this is what makes the fruit full and juicy, producing a good harvest.

Taken in a spiritual sense, He will bless us as we begin to grow in His Word because we read it and study it, the former rain, and the more knowledgeable we become brings the latter rain of blessings and goodness. Rewards of love from Him because we took the time to try to understand what He has given us in that good Book.

*Joel 2:24 And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil.*

The barns, granaries, cupboards and pantry will be full of good things to eat. Because of His blessings on us.

*Joel 2:25 And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.*

We're going to go through that five-month period no matter what. Every human being that is alive on this earth will go through that time and it will be stressful even for those that have His hand upon them, that have that seal of God in their forehead.

And He's going to make it easy for us, He's going to comfort us, He's going to make it up to us for having to endure it and watch it all come to fruition.

Did you also notice that He said: *my great army which I sent among you*? That locust army is His army, He controls it but if you have the hand of our Father over you not one hair on your head will be moved out of place, He will protect you throughout.

*Joel 2:26 And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed.*

Never be ashamed, in this life, for loving Him. You don't have to get into arguments or fights with people over your belief in Him but don't ever deny to any human being that you love Him and believe in Him. If you do, He will do the same to you:

★ *Matthew 10:33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. KJV*

I don't believe that anybody that truly loves and believes in Him would ever deny Him. Of course, Peter probably thought the same thing so be careful.

*Joel 2:27 And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.*

Man, I can't hardly wait for the Millennium to begin. We'll be back in a spiritual body, we'll be fresh and new with a whole eternity before us. That is, if you're one of His Election and you can be one if you start today and show Him that you love Him by beginning to study His letter to us.

*Joel 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:*

How about that? In these end times even some women will prophesy and put His truth out there. There's some preachers that won't let women teach or preach in their church but Father says that it's alright with Him if they do. He'll even seek them out and use them:

★ *Acts 21:8 And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.*

★ *Acts 21:9 And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy. KJV*

Even back in the day when the church was first being set up.

*Joel 2:29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.*

What "days" is He talking about? The days of the five-month period just before His return. How many times and how many ways can He tell you that if you believe on Him, He's going to protect you throughout this entire tribulation of Satan?

I know that it's easy to believe when you're sitting in the comfort of your own home while you study His Word but if you believe and study long enough, before these days get here, you will have that faith and that resolve to stand before the onslaught of Satan and his dominion. He will give you that internal strength.

*Joel 2:30 And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.*

This is as He is coming down to that mount. It's going to be an earth shaking event and every Christian worth his or her salt should be looking forward to that day, even today.

*Joel 2:31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come.*

His Shekinah Glory will outshine the sun and it's not going to be a terrible day for those that believe in Him. It's going to be a great day.

*Joel 2:32 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call. KJV*

You cannot wait until Satan/Antichrist gets here before you start calling out His name; you won't have the spiritual foundation to stand up against the lies.

Who are the *remnant*? His Election. Those are the ones that will be delivered up before the councils of the Antichrist to give testimony, from the Holy Spirit, to the entire world.

What a great chapter this is. It takes us through the entire period just before His return to us and if you have His seal in your mind, your brain; if you have His knowledge in your grey matter and not the lies of the world and Satan/Antichrist, you'll be in really good shape.

# *The Book of Joel*

## *Chapter 3*

### *Evil Removed*

As with the prior chapter of this book, this chapter will deal with the same period of time: the days and events just before His return on the Lord's Day, which is the first day of the Millennium, the last day of this dispensation.

Did you ever, for a moment, imagine that you could be standing here with the end of human life so near? Not because of some gigantic meteoric impact, or the explosion of a nuclear bomb but under the controlled, guided and loving hand of the God of the heavens. **THE** Father of the heavens and the earth.

To step, in organized fashion, from an earthly body into a spiritual body? The possibility is very real because we are indeed living in the generation of the fig tree that began back in 1948 when the good and bad fig began to return to the land of their forefathers. Israel.

The parable of the fig tree will help you out on that, to a certain extent, but the combination of several verses and some good common sense will bring you to the same conclusion. We are living in the generation of the fig tree and this generation will not pass away until all the things spoken of by Christ have come to pass.

★ *Luke 21:31 So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.*

What things? The seven events that our Lord said must happen before He returns.

★ *Luke 21:32 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.*

That's the generation of the fig tree, people.

★ *Luke 21:33 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. KJV*

This heaven and earth **AGE** will pass away and give over to the time of the Millennium.

The earth will not explode and fragment all of us into outer space but there will be a cleansing of all that was evil, destructive and harmful to our soul. When the transformation is over, these earthly bodies will be just a memory and we'll stand proud and tall in a body that will never get sick, never break a bone, and never die of old age.

But there's a lot of work to do in what little time is left. Even though no one knows the exact moment.

*Joel 3:1 For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem,*

Not *captivity* but the restoration of prosperity after the coming judgment.

★ *Captivity\_OT:7622 shebuwth (sheb-ooth'); or shebiyth (sheb-eeth'); from OT:7617; exile, concretely, prisoners; figuratively, a former state of prosperity:*

*In those days*.....these last days there is going to be a gathering together.

*Joel 3:2 I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.*

First off, let's clarify this word *plead* in the Hebrew:

★ *Plead\_OT:8199 shaphat (shaw-fat')*; a primitive root; **to judge**, i.e. **pronounce sentence** (for or against); by implication, to vindicate or punish; by extension, to govern; passively, to litigate (literally or figuratively):

He's not going to *plead* with Judah, Jerusalem and all the other nations, He's going to **JUDGE** them.

It may sound as though our Father is putting the blame on the other nations for the dispersion of His people but we know that it was His decision to have the House of Israel taken captive by the Assyrians and it was, not only His decision, but the fulfillment of prophesy as well, when those ten Tribes migrated and fell into the background among all those nations and they became as numerous as the sand of the sea.

Why will He *bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat*?

It is believed by many that the valley of Jehoshaphat is also the valley of Kedron. Kedron is the valley that runs between Mount Zion and the Mount of Olives on the east side of Jerusalem and each time that our Lord moved between those two Mounts He had to walk through that valley.

Jehoshaphat, in the Hebrew, means *Yahaveh has judged* and that puts a time element on it because the subject of this chapter, and the prior one, concerns the events of these end times and the subsequent Judgment.

This won't be the day of the Great White Throne Judgment, this is the day before the beginning of eternity, but there will be judgments there regardless. Every one that has died up to this time has already been judged to some degree.

Some souls went to the right side of the Gulf while others went to the left. Some will go through the Millennium and be taught while others will do the teaching. And some will remain exactly where they are, in Paradise, because their actions in the age that was, assured their place in the eternity and they have nothing left to prove. Judgment Day for them will be rewards and not conviction of guilt.

But the valley of Kedron runs north and south and at one end it joins into another valley called the valley of Hinnom. There are other names for this valley depending on what activity is going on there at the time but the valley of Hinnom is where the spiritual battle of Armageddon will take place, so this area is pretty important when it comes to our Father's judgments.

This is the same valley in which King Solomon built "*high places*", altars upon which to worship idols, and that brought about the separation of the Kingdom of Israel into two separate Tribes, the House of Israel and the House of Judah.

This valley is also called the valley of Tophet because the Israelites would offer their infant babies to the fire-god Molech, a practice known as "*passing through the fire*", by burning these infants on the outstretched arms of this idol.

It is also called the valley of Berachah in 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles:

★ *2nd Chronicles 20:21 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the Lord, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the Lord; for his mercy endureth for ever.*

★ *2nd Chronicles 20:22 And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.*

★ *2nd Chronicles 20:23 For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another.*

★ *2nd Chronicles 20:24 And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped.*

★ *2nd Chronicles 20:25 And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much.*

★ *2nd Chronicles 20:26 And on the fourth day they assembled themselves in the **valley of Berachah**; for there they blessed the Lord: therefore the name of the same place was called, **The valley of Berachah**, unto this day. KJV*

Verse 3 in Joel:

*Joel 3:3 And they have cast lots for my people; and have given a boy for an harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink.*

The nations have taken His people captive and sold some of them on the auction block: a young boy to be the “toy” of a prostitute or a young girl sold for the price of a flagon of wine.

*Joel 3:4 Yea, and what have ye to do with me, O Tyre, and Zidon, and all the coasts of Palestine? will ye render me a recompence? and if ye recompence me, swiftly and speedily will I return your recompence upon your own head;*

Why do you trouble me, Tyre and Zidon? If you injure me I will put it back on you tenfold.

*Joel 3:5 Because ye have taken my silver and my gold, and have carried into your temples my goodly pleasant things:*

What are the *goodly pleasant things*? The chalices and dishes and vessels that were used within the Temple when offering communion to the people. If you will remember, ‘ole Belshazzar used those vessels to throw a huge drunk party. Sacrilegious, at best:

★ *Daniel 5:1 Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand.*

★ *Daniel 5:2 Belshazzar, whiles he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein.*

★ *Daniel 5:3 Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them.*

★ *Daniel 5:4 They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.*

★ *Daniel 5:5 In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. KJV*

Can you get the mental picture here? You've got over one thousand men and women, drinking to excess, eating to excess and having sex anywhere and everywhere and all of a sudden, they see this "*hand*" begin to write on the wall.

You know there was a lot of talk the next morning as to whether it was a drunken hallucination or if it was for real. In fact, if you read the next verse you will read of how much it affected King Belshazzar:

*Daniel 5:6 Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another. KJV*

Scared him so badly that his knees became weak and,..... how should I say this....., he had to change his skivvies. His underoos. His underwear, because he wet them.

You can bet your next three paychecks that your pastor will never let those words pass his lips at any service the he is in charge of. And probably threatened the associate pastors not to do it as well.

What our Father is saying here is that you have taken My people and sold them and mistreated them when all I wanted you to do was chastise them, not to be cruel to them. And you bring this awful thing upon yourselves for the price of a slave?

In the spiritual sense, it's like a false teacher misleading His children by teaching false doctrines. He wanted them to teach them about His Word and they end up teaching the traditions of some religion.

Same effect; same judgment.

Our Father only wants His children to love Him but when some idiot behind the pulpit tells his flock that the way to show our love for the Father is to believe in the false doctrines of the rapture and the fly away theories and all that, He doesn't like it!

*Joel 3:6 The children also of Judah and the children of Jerusalem have ye sold unto the Grecians, that ye might remove them far from their border.*

★ *Grecians\_OT:3125 Yevaniy (yev-aw-nee')*; patronymically from OT:3121; a Jevanite, or descendant of Javan:

*Grecians* literally means "*the sons of Javan or the sons of the Javanites*". In Genesis 10:1 we will find that Japheth is a son of Noah, whose offspring eventually became the birth seed of the Greeks.

★ *Genesis 10:10 Now these are the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth: and unto them were sons born after the flood. KJV*

Probably the germ of Greek civilization in part came through the Jewish slaves imported into Greece from Phoenicia by traffickers. A verse that seems to support this is:

★ *Ezekiel 27:13 Javan, Tubal, and Meshech, they were thy merchants: they traded the persons of men and vessels of brass in thy market. KJV*

They were slave traders. As I mentioned earlier, our Father may use other nations to chastise His people but when the rod is applied beyond what is expected, He takes offense to that and begins to destroy them.

Also known as the Ionians, these were the first Greeks that the Jews came in contact with after the captivity, a colony of them lived along the coastline of Asia Minor.

*Joel 3:7 Behold, I will raise them out of the place whither ye have sold them, and will return your recompence upon your own head:*

Father is going to take His children back, from wherever they were sold, and bring them back to the land of Judea. What else is He going to do? First, we need to find out what *recompence* means:

★ *Recompence\_OT:1576 gemuwl (ghem-ool!); from OT:1580; treatment, i.e. an act (of good or ill); by implication, service or requital:*

He's going to treat them and their children as they treated His children. Who is our Father going to do this to? The Phoenicians and the Philistines.

*Joel 3:8 And I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the children of Judah, and they shall sell them to the Sabeans, to a people far off: for the Lord hath spoken it.*

The Phoenician and Philistine powers were greatly reduced when they were conquered by the Persian King Artaxerxes. Thirty thousand Tyrians were sold into slavery to "a people afar off", as Greece was "a far-off place" to the Israelites.

Who are these Sabeans? They were of the kingdom of Sheba, located in a place that we know today as Yemen, so it was indeed "a place far off" from Judea. Their ancestry began with Noah and progressed to Ham, then Cush, and then Raamah.

They were an extremely wealthy bunch of people and from Joel we know that they dealt in slavery.

*Joel 3:9 Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up:*

Shout this out to all nations. There is a spiritual war coming.

*Joel 3:10 Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.*

Take all of your farming tools and make swords out of them and even if you're afraid, you shout as though you're going to clean house and kill every one of them.

When will this war happen? On the day that our Lord returns, the battles of Hamon-Gog and Armageddon. And boy, that just scares the hell out of a lot of people.

*"I don't want to have to kill anybody to get into heaven!"*

Well, you won't have to, our Lord is going to do the fighting for us. You probably couldn't do that even if it was **REQUIRED** to get into heaven. After all, we don't follow the **Quran**, we follow the **Bible**.

Relax and have another spritzer or whatever.

This will be a spiritual battle between our Lord and the powers that be in the world of Satan/Antichrist and one of His weapons will be hailstones that weigh a talent:

★ *Revelation 16:21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great. KJV*

Depending on whose table of weights and measures you use, a talent could weigh from 80-120 pounds. Imagine one of them falling on your noggin. Or on that new Infinity you just bought.

And this locust army of Satan's followers will blaspheme and curse the very existence of our Father because of it. They will shrink in fear and hide their faces with their forearms. No more will anyone dispute the existence of such an entity nor the power that He has at His fingertips.

The antithesis of this event can be found in Isaiah, chapter 2:

★ *Isaiah 2:1 The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.*

★ *Isaiah 2:2 And it shall come to pass **in the last days**, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and **all nations shall flow unto it.***

★ *Isaiah 2:3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.*

★ *Isaiah 2:4 And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: **and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.***

Why will there be no need for swords here? Because it's all over. The sun has set on the Lord's Day, the Millennium has begun, and the cleansing of the rudiments and all that is evil in this world is complete. The Lord is in complete control and we are all in spiritual bodies. No need for any more wars between His children and the ethnos, the nations.

*Joel 3:11 Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord.*

The spiritual battles of Hamon-Gog and Armageddon. Gather all these people together in the valley where the Lord is sitting and waiting to perform judgment. That's the purpose of it all.

And hey.....bring the **best you got!!** Bring your *mighty ones* 'cause it won't make any difference at all. Big and tall, they're all going to fall.

*Joel 3:12 Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.*

*"Hey, if y'all 'aint doin' nothing, mosey on up here, let's chew the fat for a minute."*

*Joel 3:13 Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great.*

If you read the closing verses of Revelation, chapter 14, you will find the same subject discussed:

★ *Revelation 14:14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.*

Sharp sickle.

★ *Revelation 14:15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.*

★ *Revelation 14:16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.*

★ *Revelation 14:17 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.*

★ *Revelation 14:18 And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.*

★ *Revelation 14:19 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.*

★ *Revelation 14:20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs. KJV*

But hang on just a minute here because something doesn't ring true. You don't harvest ripe grapes with the heavy, swift thrust of a sickle. You pick them gently so as not to bruise them. You put them in strong crates so that the weight of the crate above doesn't crush the grapes below when stacked on top of one another.

If this angel is brutally cutting down these "*grapes*" at the "*harvest*", who do these grapes represent? Very good question, I'm glad that you asked! (LOL). Let's go back and read words of Christ when He taught the "*parable of the tares of the field*":

★ *Matthew 13:37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;*

★ *Matthew 13:38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;*

★ *Matthew 13:39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.*

With sickles in hand, here they come.

★ *Matthew 13:40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.*

That *fire* is going to be the Lake of Fire.

★ *Matthew 13:41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;*

Everything that was evil, destructive and harmful to our soul

★ *Matthew 13:42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. KJV*

Satan and his followers. His locust army. Everybody that worshipped him during these last five months. Their *wickedness is great* but not for long.

These are not His children.

Joel, verse 14:

*Joel 3:14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.*

It's called here the valley of decision. Every different name for this valley illustrates a different event that happened there. "*Decision*", "*Kedron*", "*Jehoshaphat*", "*Slaughter*", "*Tophet*", "*Berachah*", "*Hinnom*".

Busy, busy, busy.

*Joel 3:15 The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.*

Because the glory of our Lord will outshine everything and anything that was ever created.

*Joel 3:16 The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.*

It didn't say a "sweet song of hope and change", did it? Nope, it said *the Lord also shall roar out of Zion.*

If you stand there during this time and you have the seal of God in your forehead, not one hair will be singed. If you think that our military can drop precision, laser-guided bombs with an accuracy of less than one inch, you haven't seen anything yet.

*Joel 3:17 So shall ye know that I am the Lord your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.*

On this day He will end up standing on His mountain, Zion and the word *strangers* needs to be looked at more closely:

★ *Strangers\_OT:2114 zuwr (zoor); a primitive root; to turn aside (especially for lodging); hence to be a foreigner, strange, profane; specifically (active participle) to commit adultery:*

That means the children of the darkness, Satan's children. The locust army of Satan/Antichrist. They won't be here anymore.

*Joel 3:18 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the Lord, and shall water the valley of Shittim.*

Imagine that. This happens the day after His return. Our Lord is going to cleanse all the crap off of this earth, because that's exactly what it is. Spiritually and physically.

The 250-pound sluggards won't be using their computer to apply for the SNAP program anymore because they're "pitiful and hungry."

They won't be lying on the couch eating Doritos and drinking beer and doing drugs while watching TV anymore.

This is the Millennium and a new Temple will be there, *the house of the Lord*, and you can read of the waters that flow out from under it in Ezekiel 47:1..

★ *Ezekiel 47:1 Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar. KJV*

Verse 19.

*Joel 3:19 Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness, for the violence against the children of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land.*

These countries won't be there anymore. There won't be any atheists or unbelievers any more. **EVERYBODY** will be a believer here.

*Joel 3:20 But Judah shall dwell for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation.*

This verse jumps from the Millennium to the Eternity. *From generation to generation* is a figure of speech because there won't be any births during this time; we'll all be in spiritual bodies. It means forever and forever and ever.

*Joel 3:21 For I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed: for the Lord dwelleth in Zion. KJV*

He will take away their guilt. Sometimes the hardest thing we have to do is to forgive ourselves for the sins that He has already forgotten about after we repent.

And then you've got the goody-goody so-called Christians, that place the back of their hand to their forehead and say:

*"I'm so bad that even God Himself will not forgive me."*

Well, poor pitiful you. In your effort to show everybody how important you are, you have just blasphemed the Holy Father. To say that there are sins that even He cannot forgive is blasphemy. You've just told Him that the death of Christ on the cross didn't cover everything so it's all for naught.

Be very, very careful. Playin' church can be dangerous.

That's all of the book of Joel. There are so many places throughout Scripture that teach us about the end times and it is so very important that each one of us read them with understanding. Don't be caught **unawares** on this most important day.

Some people may be asking themselves this question: what happens if I am **not alive** when Satan/Antichrist comes to Jerusalem? When these five months begin? What happens if I die before then?

And that is a very reasonable question. Here is a very reasonable answer: you will still end up with the seal of God in your brain and not the mark of the beast. Do you realize how well that will sit with the Father? And how much more dedicated, to Him, your earthly life will be?

You know what the end times will be like, you can build your spiritual life around that knowledge, you can walk right past a lot of the pitfalls of Satan that the biblically uneducated cannot, and you can build your "database" of good works, aka, rewards that will be given to you on Judgment Day.

It can mean the difference between an eternity full of love, care and understanding within the presence of our Father, our Lord and the Holy Spirit or a short time in the Lake of Fire with Satan.

Understanding the truth of our Father's Word should not just be an escape module that you discover in the nick of time, climb into and blast off into the eternity, safe and sound.

It has to be a life transformation. I've never understood...

*"Well, you have to walk with Jesus."*

Boy, that sounds so simple to the biblically retarded while they're being fed a plate full of church traditions that will take their soul to hell.

*"Well, all you have to do is believe."*

Believe in what? A Sunday school lesson that was handed down by the hierarchy of some religious organization? Handed out to thousands of churches across this great country? Barely studied the night before by some Bubba who happens to be the class teacher?

It's just down right stupid to say

*"Well, all you have to do is believe in Jesus. Says so right there in John 3:16. That's it. Don't have to know any more than that."*

What are you going to do when the false "**Jesus**" shows up, acting, talking, and looking just like the real One? What are you going to do when, for that fraction of a moment, you see two of them standing in Jerusalem?

Just recently we were told that Jimmy Carter had cancer and that it had traveled to his brain. I wish him well but he teaches a Sunday school class down in his hometown of Plains, Georgia and since his malady was picked up by the news media hundreds more people are coming to his Sunday school class.

In fact, they have now limited the number from several hundred to just four hundred, because of the logistics of it all.

Jimmy Carter hasn't changed one lick since his cancer became known publically. He's still one of the worst presidents this country has had and his Sunday school messages probably haven't changed one bit. It's the "*same 'ole times 2.*"

But now he's popular. He's loved. And everyone wants to hang on every word he says. But it won't last long, the novelty will wear off rather quickly, Plains will go back to being just another mid-Georgia spot on the map and his Secret Service detail will still moan and complain when they get assigned to protect him.

How much more popular will the news media make the false messiah? They will probably have a huge influence on the ones that think that all they have to do is believe on Jesus. It's not a crime to be ignorant but it is to continue to be so.

Our Father wants a lot more out of His children than what He's getting. He wants children that can stand up and be counted on, those that read His letter with understanding, those that can plant seeds and get others to start thinking about their spiritual future.

But do it with truth, not traditions.

My goodness. Look at the rewards He'll give you if you do that. He doesn't expect you to change the world, He just wants **YOU** to change.

It's your call.

*COPYRIGHT 2015 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED*

*\_\_28 August 2015\_\_*

*<http://www.thelightforever.com>*