

The book of Joel -- the Feasts of Trumpets and the day of Atonement

1 The word of Jehovah that came to Joel the son of Pethuel.

2 Hear this, ye old men, and give ear, all ye inhabitants of the land. **Hath this been in your days, or in the days of your fathers?**

There is no example, no precedent for what has happened. It is startling. For example, even though we have had plagues before that have killed millions, have we ever seen anything like this? The entire world shuts down?

3 Tell ye your children of it, and *let* your children *tell* their children, and their children another generation. 4 That which [a]the palmer-worm hath left hath [b]the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath [c]the canker-worm eaten; and that which the canker-worm hath left hath [d]the caterpillar eaten.

Every creature moves at God's command. He is describing them like an assembly line in which the entire world's economy is dismantled and consumed. The ability of this little virus to so completely destroy the economy is what makes this judgement so remarkable and unique.

5 Awake, ye drunkards,

Awake from the drunken stupor. The people fail to see the hand of God in the terrible calamity. You can compare this virus to locusts. It was at the gates while these drunken revellers were still carrying on their feasts.

and weep; and wail, all ye drinkers of wine, because of the sweet wine; for it is cut off from your mouth. 6 For a nation is come up upon my land, strong, and without number; his teeth are the teeth of a lion, and he hath the jaw-teeth of a lioness.

The term nation has the meaning not only of a people but of a foreign people. The bible often refers to creatures like ants and bees as "a people". But this virus is not simply a people but it is a "foreign people". It devours everything. A lion doesn't just eat the

meat, it eats the bones, it will devour everything. And just like a lion, once it has the prey there is no hope of rescuing it from him.

7 He

Now it refers to this plague as “He”. It has been compared to insects, worms, a foreign nation, a lion, and now “He”. That is it represents every enemy that wastes the inheritance of God. “The prince of this world”. This plague will be used by those seeking a new world order to impose the mark of the beast.

hath laid my vine waste, and [e]barked my fig-tree: he hath made it clean bare, and cast it [f]away; the branches thereof are made white.

The church is the vine tree, the Jewish nation is the fig tree. The gathering of believers in the church and in synagogues is the greatest threat to the prince of the power of the air, so they have attacked the church and God’s people during this age. As you have done it will be done to you, for 2,000 years “he” attacked and killed the church and the Jews, so in like ways God will do the same to them.

8 Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth for the husband of her youth.

The analogy is to a virgin lamenting because she has forfeited her marriage due to unworthy conduct. I go into detail on this point in the book of Habakkuk.

9 The meal-offering and the drink-offering are cut off from the house of Jehovah; the priests, Jehovah’s ministers, mourn.

All the outward and visible signs of communion with God are cut off. Ellicot’s commentary

10 The field is laid waste, the land mourneth; for the grain is destroyed, the new wine is [g]dried up, the oil languisheth.

The field is where we work, where we labor. That has been laid waste. The land mourneth, you see this on the news, and on social media. The grain is our wealth, that is destroyed. The New wine is the delight of life, that is dried up. The oil makes our face

to shine, instead of shining we see languishing. People are weak, feeble, losing their vitality.

11 [h]Be confounded, O ye husbandmen, wail, O ye vinedressers, for the wheat and for the barley; for the harvest of the field is perished.

Be struck with confusion. Look at all the leaders, the “husbandmen” and the “vinedressers”. They don’t know what to do.

12 The vine is [i]withered, 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: for joy is [i]withered away from the sons of men.

The economic loss is universal. All the trees of the field are withered. This is not just the US, or Europe, or Ethiopia.

13 Gird yourselves *with sackcloth*, and lament, ye priests; wail, ye ministers of the altar; come, lie all night in sackcloth, ye ministers of my God: for the meal-offering and the drink-offering are withholden from the house of your God.

Prepare yourself for a national humiliation, there are no offerings, it will be a time of fasting.

14 Sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the [k]old men *and* all the inhabitants of the land unto the house of Jehovah your God, and cry unto Jehovah.

This refers to a festival day, the Feast of Trumpets.

15 Alas

Alas.—The exclamation is repeated three times in the LXX. and Vulg., thus giving occasion to Jeremy Taylor’s comment: “When the prophet Joel was describing the formidable accidents in the day of the Lord’s judgment, and the fearful sentence of an angry judge, he was not able to express it, but stammered like a child, or an amazed imperfect person. Ellicot’s commentary

for the day! for the day of Jehovah is at hand, and as destruction from [l]the Almighty shall it come.

The Feast of Trumpets is *"is the entranceway into the 'Days of Awe.' The blasts of the shofar are our wake-up call to repent before it is too late. Even those of us who have received salvation need to be shaken out of our complacency and pushed to higher levels in Messiah"* <https://www.jewishvoice.org/learn/prophetic-nature-fall-feasts>

The Feast of Trumpets foreshadows this event. It kicks off the "days of awe" and it is a wake up call before it is too late. This is a day of rest, it is a day to blow trumpets and offer sacrifices. The trumpet was sounded to indicate the Lord's coming as a conquering king. It is a day of trumpets, these trumpets announce the soon arrival of the coming king and conclude with the voice of an archangel and the blast of God's shofar, and the dead in Christ rise first, and then those of us who remain. Jesus said that He would return and when He did we would need to settle accounts with Him. This settling of accounts begins after this day. The feast of trumpets announces His return. It is also the resumption of Daniel's prophecy of the 70 weeks. So then we will see Israel sign the peace treaty during this day and sacrifice the red heifer to dedicate the building of the third temple.

16 Is not the food cut off before our eyes, yea, joy and gladness from the house of our God?

All of this is happening right before your eyes. Use the TV, use the internet, whatever you are watching you are seeing all the food cut off and you are seeing the joy and gladness from the house of God cut off.

17 The seeds [m]rot under their clods; the garners are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the grain is [n]withered.

We are not just talking about the present but also the hope for the future. The collapse of the economy is not only temporary, it will result in a great depression for years to come.

18 How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep [o]are made desolate.

The beasts of burden groan, there is no way for them to find food. Even the sheep who will be satisfied with worse conditions, they too cannot find food.

19 O Jehovah, to thee do I cry; for the fire hath devoured the [p]pastures of the wilderness, and the flame hath burned all the trees of the field.

The prophet is crying.

20 Yea, the beasts of the field pant unto thee; for the water brooks are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the [q]pastures of the wilderness.

Even the beasts are echoing his cry. Why are the people still dumb?

2 **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 Jehovah cometh, for it is nigh at hand;

This is the festival of trumpets. We, the prophets of God, sound the alarm. This day announces the coming of the day of Jehovah. It is an approaching judgement.

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

It is a thick, dark cloud settling on the nation. What we are experiencing and going to experience, there has never been the like. So he is using analogies of locusts and other figures of speech, but this is something unique in human experience. What we are seeing is not simply a plague, but for the first time we are seeing the entire world shut down together.

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 none hath escaped them.

It is like this army came to the Earth when it was a paradise and when it leaves all that is left is a desolate wasteland. And no one on the face of the Earth escapes this

invader. Therefore this cannot be literal locusts as many would escape the plague of locusts. But it can refer to this pandemic, no country will escape.

4 The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as [a]horsemen, so do they run.

This virus appears so rapidly it as if it was like horseman running on us.

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

The virus leaps from place to place. He is comparing this very unique plague as locusts, and as worms, and as horses, and as chariots. A horseman could be bringing a message, but chariots, that is the sound of war. When you hear the chariots coming you know the battle is on. In those days a few advance riders would come racing back from the front warning that the enemy is approaching, then when you hear the chariots you know they are here. So today you hear the warning on the TV, you see what happened in Italy and NYC, but then the next thing you know you are locking down some small town in Texas.

6 At their presence the peoples are in anguish; all faces are waxed pale. **7** They run like mighty men; they climb the wall like men of war; and they march every one on his ways, and they break not their ranks.

There is a feeling of helplessness and resignation as the virus approaches. While it is still in China or NYC you can feel that it isn't here, but once it gets to your town you know there is nothing you can do to stop it. Also, one strange thing about wearing the masks, all of our faces are waxed pale. Now the comparison is to an army moving across the land in wave after wave.

8 Neither doth one thrust another; they march every one in his path; and [b]they burst through the weapons, and [c]break not off *their course*.

Fascinating imagery that would be totally incomprehensible a year ago. Today we are practicing social distancing, that is our weapon, and it means that "neither doth one

thrust another” and we are “marching everyone in his path”. But it doesn’t matter, the virus burst through our weapons. We have not been able to cut them off from their course.

9 They leap upon the city; they run upon the wall; they climb up into the houses; they enter in at the windows like a thief.

There is no place that this virus will not go.

10 The earth quaketh before them; the heavens tremble; the sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining.

Fear ripples through the earth. The highest among them tremble, the kings and queens are darkened, they have no insight, no guidance.

11 And Jehovah uttereth his voice before his army; for his camp is very great; for he is strong that executeth his word; for the day of Jehovah is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?

God can make even microscopic viral agents into an army. God is giving notice of His judgement. This is the most authoritative and weighty utterance.

12 Yet even now, saith Jehovah, turn ye unto me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: **13** and rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto Jehovah your God; for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness, and repenteth him of the evil. **14** Who knoweth whether he will not turn and repent, and leave a blessing behind him, even a meal-offering and a drink-offering unto Jehovah your God?

Who can abide it? Jesus! Our Lord! Turn to Him. There is nothing you can do. Call your scientists and soothsayers, you who worship science. They can not abide it, only Jesus. Our only hope is if God repents of His evil. As you have done it will be done to you, repent of your evil so that God may repent of His evil. The best way to repent of

your evil is to be gracious and merciful to others. Leave a blessing to others and who knows, God may leave a blessing to us.

15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly;

This is the festival of trumpets. This time we blow the trumpet to let the world know God is gracious and merciful, we are calling a fast to abstain from all fleshly appetites.

16 gather the people, sanctify the assembly, assemble the [d]old men, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts; let the bridegroom go forth from his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.

Everyone, old, young, even the babies need to assemble. We need to abstain, even from lawful delights.

17 Let the priests, the ministers of Jehovah, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Jehovah, and give not thy heritage to reproach, that the nations should [e]rule over them: wherefore should they say among the peoples, Where is their God?

We are a royal priesthood. We are ministers of the Lord. We need to weep that the Lord would spare His people, His heritage. This shifting of gears that “the nations should rule over them” indicates that the worldly rulers will use this plague to introduce stronger bondage, the mark of the beast. Everyone will need to receive this mark to be allowed to buy or sell.

18 Then was Jehovah jealous for his land, and had pity on his people.

The world’s attempt to use this plague to tighten the yoke on God’s people provokes His jealousy and His pity. The end of the age is a battle to determine who your redeemer is. Do you belong to Jesus or to the beast?

19 And Jehovah answered and said unto his people, Behold, I will send you grain, and new wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations;

The mark of the beast is instituted with the threat that you cannot buy or sell without it. To counter this the Lord promises to send us food and remove our reproach. The mark of the beast treats people like they are cattle, slaves, a possession of the state.

20 but I will remove far off from you the northern *army*, and will drive it into a land barren and desolate, [f]its forepart [g]into the eastern sea, and its hinder part [h]into the western sea; and its stench shall come up, and its ill savor shall come up, because it hath done great things.

This makes it clear that the use of “locusts” is an analogy as they don’t come from the North they come from the South.

21 Fear not, O land, be glad and rejoice; for Jehovah hath done great things. **22** Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field; for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth its fruit, the fig-tree and the vine do yield their strength. **23** Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in Jehovah your God; for he giveth you the former rain [i]in just measure, and he causeth to come down for you the rain, the former rain and the latter rain, [j]in the first *month*.

Fear not, O land - Before, they were bidden to tremble Joel 2:1, now they are bidden, "fear not;" before, "to turn in weeping, fasting and mourning;" now, "to bound for joy and rejoice;" before, "the land mourned;" now, "the land is bidden to rejoice." The enemy had "done great things;" now the cause of joy is that God had "done great things;" the Almightyness of God overwhelming and sweeping over the might put forth to destroy. It is better rendered, "the Lord hath done great things." If Joel includes herein God's great doings yet to come, he speaks of them as, in the purpose of God, already in being; or he may, in this verse, presuppose that this new order of God's mercies has begun, in the destruction of the Pagan foe. Barnes notes on the Bible

God will provide the latter rain, a word that restores us back to life.

24 And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil.

The church will be full of believers, and our spirits will be full of life and of the Holy spirit.

25 And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the canker-worm, and the caterpillar, and the palmer-worm, my great army which I sent among you.

There will be divine compensation for the losses we incur during this time. The army was sent among us, but not to us. Before the Lord can plunder the strong man's house He must first bind the strong man. This army bound the strong man that wanted to turn us into slaves, then we were plundered by the Lord to be His ministers.

26 And ye shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and shall praise the name of Jehovah your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you; and my people shall never be put to shame. **27** And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am Jehovah your God, and there is none else; and my people shall never be put to shame.

This experience helps us all to know that God is in our midst and that there is none else and to know that it is through the cross that Jesus put the enemy to shame. If you see this you would rejoice and praise the Lord.

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: **29** and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my Spirit.

This is the Festival of Trumpets. Believers all over the world, of every nation, will be praising the Lord, proclaiming the gospel, giving bold and faithful preaching, telling of the latter day judgements, and proclaiming the coming of the King.

30 And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. **31** The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of Jehovah cometh. **32** And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of Jehovah shall be delivered; for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those that escape, as Jehovah hath said, and [k]among the remnant those whom Jehovah doth call.

The great day of judgement, foreshadowed in the Day of Atonement. We saw this at the beginning of this age, with the day of Pentecost followed by the destruction of Jerusalem. That was simply a foretaste of the end of the age. How often do the atheists claim that those stories of the plagues in Egypt, Noah's flood, or even the time of Jesus were "myths". So to put them to an open shame yet once more will God shake the heavens and the earth. This age is all about "who is Lord". So, whoever calls on Jesus as Lord will be delivered. At some point everyone will bow the knee, the sooner the better.

3 For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall [a]bring back the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem,

He is describing the days and the time when this happens. It will be when Judah and Jerusalem are restored from captivity.

2 I will gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will execute judgment upon them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations: and they have parted my land,

This is an amazing story, Israel was menaced by an opposing army, they fasted, they prayed, they went down to this valley praising and worshipping God and God defeated the enemy. His people watched as God delivered them. The same will happen at the the battle of Armageddon.

3 and have cast lots for my people, and have given a boy for a harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they may drink.

Treated God's people as slaves, chattel. To feed their debauchery and evil appetites.

4 Yea, and what are ye to me, O Tyre, and Sidon, and all the regions of Philistia? [b]will ye render me a recompense? and if ye recompense me, swiftly and speedily will I return your [c]recompense upon your own head.

As you have done it will be done to you. Their attitude had been “what are you to me” well now God replies with the same judgment.

5 Forasmuch as ye have taken my silver and my gold, and have carried into your temples my goodly precious things, 6 and have sold the children of Judah and the children of Jerusalem unto the sons of the Grecians, that ye may remove them far from their border;

These are God’s people they have stolen. These are ones dedicated to the service of God’s house.

7 behold, I will stir them up out of the place whither ye have sold them, and will return your [d]recompense upon your own head; 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 men of Sheba, to a nation far off: for Jehovah hath spoken it.

Vengeance is mine saith the Lord, I will repay. The day of atonement is a day of judgement. The Lord has noticed the contempt and scorn, He will repay.

9 Proclaim ye this among the nations; [e]prepare war; stir up the mighty men; let all the men of war draw near, let them come up. 10 Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning-hooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. 11 [f]Haste ye, and come, all ye nations round about, and gather yourselves together: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Jehovah. 12 Let the nations bestir themselves, and come up to the valley of [g]Jehoshaphat; for there will I sit to judge all the nations round about. 13 Put ye in the sickle; for the [h]harvest is ripe: come, [i]tread ye; for the winepress is full, the vats overflow; for their wickedness is great.

Wow! They thought they were so strong, they despised the weak and fatherless, and they challenged God. So God is now challenging them to a test of strength.

Armageddon will be a battle between God and these unbelievers. Once again, I would remind all the believers that “vengeance is mine, saith the Lord”. The Lord’s vengeance is far more severe and extensive than anything that I would hand out, but His

knowledge and searching the hearts is also far more extensive. God's judgements are just because He knows the whole story, no one is hidden before Him. He knows their wickedness is great. We should not look at ourselves as being "weak", instead we should see ourselves as lion cubs going to the war with the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. There is no escaping, even if they don't want to come they will be "caused" to come.

14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! for the day of Jehovah is near in the valley of decision.

The prophet stares in disbelief at the multitudes that are gathered in the valley.

15 The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining.

The political, ecclesiastical and economic state of antichrist shall be shut down and destroyed.

16 And Jehovah will roar from Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but Jehovah will be a refuge unto his people, and a stronghold to the children of Israel.

All of these arrogant "mighty men" will realize they are simply the weaker beasts of the field when they hear the Lord's roar. "The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God"

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

Once again we are told that the reason for this is so that all would know that Jehovah is our God and He dwells in Zion. If you understand that this is the reason for these great and terrible days you would rejoice. You will never convince the wicked and the atheists with your arguments, you need this great and terrible day for them to know.

18 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down sweet wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the brooks of Judah shall flow with waters; and

a fountain shall come forth from the house of Jehovah, and shall water [j]the valley of Shittim.

This is hysterical! God has a wonderful sense of humor. We have been told about “trickle down” economy that cutting the taxes on the rich will result in more prosperity for the poor. Yet, since the time of Reagan’s weird economics we have seen the opposite, the divide between rich and poor grew wider and wider. Well after God judged and defeated them He will institute a divine “trickle down” economy.

19 Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness, for the violence done to the children of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land.

“Because they have shed innocent blood in their land”. Habakkuk goes into detail on this, and this points us to the 5th seal with the the souls of those who have been killed because of their testimony and because of the word of the Lord.

20 But Judah shall [k]abide for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation. **21** And I will [l]cleansing their blood, that I have not cleansed: for Jehovah dwelleth in Zion.

When the 5th seal is opened they ask how long till the Lord avenge their blood. Here He says that He has avenged it, and will avenge any that has yet to be dealt with.