

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD IS AT HAND, AND AS A DESTRUCTION FROM THE ALMIGHTY SHALL IT COME

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.

SUNDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

SCRIPTURE READING: **JOEL 1:14-17**

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.

1. BACKGROUND

- a. The author of this **book is Joel** and was written between 835 and 800 B.C.
- b. It is a small book containing only three brief chapters; however, it has a very potent and powerful message.
- c. We know little about this prophet except what God tells us in **Joel 1:1, The word of the Lord that came to Joel the son of Pethuel.**
- d. This was a common name at that time, and some people have jumped to the conclusion this prophet is identified in **1 Samuel 8:1-2, And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel. 2: Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah: they were judges in Beer-sheba.**
 1. If we keep this verse in context and read on, we will find out that this could not be the Joel that is the author of this book. **1 Samuel 8:3, And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.**
 2. So Samuel's son could not have been the same prophet we are speaking about today.
- e. It is especially important for us to know that Joel prophesied in Jerusalem and the surrounding area.
- f. **There has been a lot of error concerning this passage, but God gives us a specific setting of the place that this prophesy was and does not apply it to the church.**
- g. Throughout his prophesy he refers to the house of the Lord. **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.**
 1. He mentions Jerusalem again in **Joel 3:20, But Judah shall dwell for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation.**
 2. Also, in **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.**
 3. Therefore, we know now that this man was a prophet in the Southern

Kingdom of Judah.

- h. Joel prophesied as one of the early prophets.
- i. It is believed by conservative Bible scholars that Joel prophesied about the time of the reign Joash, king of Judah.
- j. This means that he would have been a contemporary of both Elisha and Elijah.
- k. Joel's theme is the Day of the Lord.
- l. He makes that specific reference in:
 - 1. **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.
 - 2. **Joel 2:1-2**, 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 the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand; 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.
 - 3. **Joel 2:10-11**, 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: 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?
 - 4. **Joel 2:30-31**, And I will shew 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 the terrible day of the Lord come.
 - 5. **Joel 3:14-16**, Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. 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.
- m. I mention all these references to give you a right division of the Word of God and that **this does not represent the Day of Pentecost and was not a fulfillment of that day.**
- n. **Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel** and **Daniel** all refer to the Day of the Lord.
- o. Sometimes the Day of the Lord is called That Day, as Zachariah puts it in **Zechariah 9:16**, And the Lord their God shall save them in that day as the flock of his people: for they shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon his land.
- p. What is That Day; what is the Day of the Lord or what is the Day of Jehovah? What is the day of Christ? **2 Thessalonians 2:2**, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.
- q. They are all synonymous terms used in the Word of God to introduce a day that the Lord will in fact allow some troubling things to happen.
- r. This prophet was able to look down through the centuries; seeing further than any other prophet and saw the Day of the Lord.
- s. The Day of the Lord is a technical expression used in Scriptures that encompass the Tribulation Period, Millennial Kingdom, which will come at the second coming of Christ; the second stage of the second coming.
 - 1. Joel makes it clear that it begins with the Tribulation Period; a time of trouble which God talks about for His people Israel. **Jeremiah 30:7**, Alas! for that day

is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it. Daniel 9:24, Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

2. The end of the Millennial Reign is when the Lord Jesus Christ puts down all unrighteousness and establishes His eternal Kingdom upon the Earth.
- t. The Day of the Lord is peculiar to the prophets of the Old Testament.
1. **It is especially important for us to understand that this does not include the church.**
 2. None of the prophets in the Old Testament spoke about a group of people who would be called out for the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
 3. They did not speak about the one body that is called the church that would be raptured out of this world.
 4. There is a lot of error that has been associated with the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.
- u. James spoke of the relationship between the church age and the period known as the Day of the Lord.
1. Simeon had declared how that God at first did visit the Gentiles to take out a people for His name. **Acts 15:14-16, Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. 15: And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, 16: After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:**
 2. The term "*After this*" jumps out at us; He is calling out the church out of this world.
 3. This simply means that after God calls out the church from this world in the rapture, He will turn to His program with Israel and that is considered the time of the Day of the Lord.
 4. **Acts 15:17, That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.**
- v. We know that we live in the time of the church age, when God is calling out a people for His name; however, **this passage in Joel does not deal with the church in any way, shape or form.**
1. God follows His own program. **Acts 15:18, Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.**
 2. **We must remember that God is in absolute control; He owns the universe, the church, Israel, and He owns the land he promised to give them.**
 3. **None of the Old Testament prophets saw the church age; as a matter of fact when Jesus was on the Mount of Olives, they were questioning Him as to what is the sign of the end of the age.**
 4. The Lord did not mention anything about the rapture of the church or the coming of the Holy Spirit.
 5. He refers to what the **Book of Daniel** says. **Matthew 24:15, When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)**

6. This gives us the meaning of the Day of the Lord and its beginning.
 7. Joel makes it abundantly clear that it begins at night.
 8. Those of you who have sat under my teaching before knowing that the Hebrew day always begins at sunset. **Genesis 1:5, And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.**
 9. Our day begins at sunup, but God says it begins at sundown.
 10. We conclude that the Day of the Lord will begin at night with the Great Tribulation Period.
- w. Unlike the other prophets, Joel does not condemn Israel for idolatry.
- x. Early in the history of this nation, idolatry was a great sin; Joel only mentions the sin of drunkenness.
- y. Some other themes of this book are:
1. **Without repentance judgment will be harsh.**
 2. **Our trust should not be in our possessions which can be taken away, but in the Lord our God. Colossians 3:1, If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.**
 3. **God, at times may use nature, sorrow, or other common occurrences to draw us closer to Him.**
 4. **God's covenant with His people will endure forever.**

2. INTRODUCTION

Refer to the Morning message September 27, 2020

3. THREE POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

h. Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly,...

1. **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.**
2. He summons them back to the house of the Lord.
3. Notice, He gives them four things:
 - a. **Sanctify ye a fast.** God wants us to have our total mind and our total focus on Him. **Isaiah 55:6-7, Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: 7: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.**
 - b. **Call a solemn assembly.** The Bible tells us in **Hebrews 10:25, Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.**
 - c. **Gather the elders and all the inhabitants.** There are so many people who are not in the house of the Lord. Many times, when they do come, they are plagued with emotion and entertainment. **Nehemiah 8:3, And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law.** God wants us to gather around to hear His Word. Do not find yourself placing other things ahead of hearing the Word of God. 2 Timothy 2:15, Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Remember

Jesus warned Martha of this very thing. **Luke 10:41**, *And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: Luke 10:42, But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.*

d. **Cry unto the Lord.** Why? Because God is merciful, gracious and wants to forgive us. How wonderful God is! **Proverbs 3:5-6**, *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6: In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

4. Joel has given a warning to the people as to what is about to take place.
5. These four things should be displayed in the life of every believer if they want to be blessed of the Lord.

i. **...For the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.**

1. **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.*
2. This epidemic of the local plague in that day is what Joel is telling the Nation Israel; this is all about what is going to happen in the future.
3. It is a picture of the coming Day of the Lord and people should be on the alert.
4. As indicated before, the Day of the Lord must be understood in contrast to other days which are mentioned in Scripture.
5. You and I are living in man's day which started with Nebuchadnezzar and the time of the Gentiles.
6. The Bible says Jerusalem shall be trodden down until the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled. **Luke 21:24**, *And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.*
7. Man thinks he has a solution to the problem; however, we know man does not.
8. We are attempting to modify and change the Preserved Word of God, but that will not do the job.
9. **Men and woman must line up with God's program and do what He has called us to do.**
10. **The day of the Lord Jesus Christ is another day we must not confuse with the day of the Lord.** **1 Corinthians 1:7-8**, *So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: 8: Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
11. The day of the Lord Jesus Christ is the day He is coming to call His church out to go to the Judgment Seat of Christ and be judged for stewardship. **Philippians 1:6**, *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*
12. The New Testament speaks of the day of Christ. **2 Thessalonians 2:2**, *That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.*
13. The Thessalonian believers were afraid they had missed the rapture.

14. The Bible tell us in **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**, *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

15. Joel makes it abundantly clear that the Day of the Lord is a dark, gloomy, and difficult day.

16. It is indeed the Great Tribulation Period.

17. The day of the Lord occurs about 75 times in the entire Bible; 5 times as "that day."

18. All the prophets have a great deal to say about the Day of the Lord.

19. There is man's day in which we are living now; the Day of Christ is when He will take His church out of the world and the Day of the Lord begins with the Tribulation Period.

20. We cannot umbrella these terms.

j. Is not the meat cut off before your eyes,...

1. **Joel 1:16-17**, *Is not the meat cut off before our eyes, yea, joy and gladness from the house of our God? 17: The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered.*

2. Joel continues to say what will happen during this plague.

3. There is no more joy and gladness in the house of the Lord.

4. The day in which we live now there is no joy in the average church; people are going through the motions having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof. **2 Timothy 3:5**, *Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*

5. The Word of God is true and there will come a time when the joy will be gone from the Nation Israel. **Amos 8:11** *Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:*

6. Today, everything is about emotion and entertainment, seldom do we come across a preacher who is willing to teach and preach the whole counsel of God. **Acts 20:26-27**, *Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.*

7. Anyone who has that desire; stay on the firing line. **Galatians 6:7**, *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*

4. CONCLUSION

a. Do you know the Saviour today?

b. If you do not know Jesus as your personal Saviour you are lost.

c. When we give the invitation walk the aisle and we will take the Bible and show you what it means to be saved.

d. **Matthew 11:28**, *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29: Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

e. **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

- f. **Romans 6:23**, *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*
- g. **Romans 10:9**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*
10: *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- h. **There is room at the cross for you.**
- i. Please stand.

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