

Week 19 | Joel 3:14-17 “It’s Time To Move Your Assets”

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Last week we looked in detail at God’s call for the ungodly nations that have mistreated both Jewish and Gentile followers of Jesus (**Joel 3:2**) to come and fight against Him in the valley of Jehoshaphat/Megiddo (**Joel 3:9-11; Rev. 16:12-16**).
- B. We talked extensively about the fact that it’s going to take a demonically fueled pep-talk to gather the kings of the earth, along with their armies into this valley, under a strong delusion assuming they can actually fight/win against the Lord’s Christ (**Psalm 2:1-5, 10-12; 2nd Thess. 2:9-12; Rev. 13:3-4, 8, 12, 14, 16; 16:12-16**).
- C. Today, we are going to continue looking at what most people call, “The Valley of Verdict”, where the Lord Jesus (**John 5:22**) will give the decisive answer to the deceived, insolent and proud heart of untold millions/billions. But it’s also here, among Jesus judgment’s, that God will be a shelter for His people, and He alone will make Jerusalem Holy, eternally!

II. THE VALLEY OF VERDICT (JOEL 3:14-16B)

- 1. **Joel 3:14** “Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord Is near in the valley of decision.”
- B. The prophet Joel sees this vision, this mass of humanity coming into this valley, carrying their swords, and others dragging their plowshares/farming equipment. This sea of humanity is boiling over with anger and indignation towards the Lord Jesus Christ, and His people (**Rev. 12:17**).
- C. They’ve arrived under the impression there’s a fight that they can win, but in reality, the fight is fixed. The valley of Megiddo has been transformed into the “Valley of verdict.”
- D. Joel rightly mentions the multitudes twice to highlight the masses that have gathered. Duane Garrett rightly says, “*mobs, mobs in the valley of decision.*” This is a melee, a moment of mass confusion, hysteria, and chaos as these ungodly nations have traveled to fight the Lord’s Christ.
- E. This verse, often used in evangelism meetings, is greatly misquoted. These multitudes aren’t here to make a decision, to either choose Christ, or the anti-Christ; they’ve already made up their mind. It’s the valley of verdict, because Jesus is going to execute a swift judgement against them.
- F. Joel’s making clear that the Day of the Lord is among them, it’s happening now, not later, or in a little while. And this judgment being issued, isn’t being thrust upon multitudes, but upon individuals (**Matt. 12:36; Rom. 2:6; 1st Cor. 3:8; 4:5; 2nd Cor. 5:10; 1st Pet. 1:17; Rev. 20:12**). Among the masses, Jesus see’s names.
 - 1. **Joel 3:15** “The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will diminish their brightness.”
- G. The Lord has many resources at His disposal, including the sun, moon, stars and the earth itself. As the masses of ungodly, reprobate nations, led by the Anti-Christ and the false prophet have come with their great weaponry, the God of **Genesis 1** will also present His weapons!

- H. While this mass of humanity is gathered together in the Valley of Verdict, God is going to put on a show that Disneyland, Stephen Spielberg, and George Lucas combined could never recreate. Among this densely packed multitude, God is going to kill the lights, removing the sun, the moon and the stars!
- I. If they weren't nervous already, they will be utterly trembling in terror as Yahweh, the Creator and covenant keeping God flexes on the nations, smalling them up in an instant as He displays His power over the cosmos (**Joel 2:10; Matt. 24:29-31; Rev. 6:12-17**).
1. **Joel 3:16a-b** "The Lord will also roar from Zion (Jerusalem), and utter His voice from Jerusalem; the heavens and the earth will shake..."
- J. Along with the sights the eye will see (sun, moon, stars), the sounds, the shout from the Lion of the Tribe of Judah will be beyond what anyone is able to bear. This type of Day, a Day of truth and exposure of deception the earth has never seen!
1. **Amos 1:2** "The Lord roars from Zion, and utters His voice from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds mourn, and the top of Carmel withers."
 2. **Jeremiah 25:30** "...the Lord will roar from on high, and utter His voice from His holy habitation; He will roar mightily against His fold..."
 3. **Job 37:4** "After it a voice roars; He thunders with His majestic voice, and He does not restrain them when His voice is heard."
 4. **Psalms 29:3-4, 5, 8-9** "The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is over many waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty...The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars, yes, the Lord splinters the cedars of Lebanon...The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh...and in His temple everyone says, glory!"
- K. God has promised, in both testament's that He's committed to shaking everything that can be shaken, for the purpose of breaking all that can be broken (**Haggai 2:6-9; Hebrews 12:18-29**).
- L. This Day, the Day of the Lord is fraught with dismal hopes for the ungodly. It's the Day when the long-awaited patience of God has come to an end, when God no longer struggles with the nations, but once and for all puts an end to the reign of wickedness.

III. CHRIST, THE SHELTER OF GOD'S FAMILY (JOEL 3:16C)

1. **Joel 3:16c** "But the Lord will be a shelter for His people, and the strength of the children of Israel."
- B. During unparalleled upheaval, disruption and judgments, God Himself will be the shelter for God's family. During the most significant crisis in human history, God's family has nothing to fear, because the One who's leading the charge is at the same time, the One who's protecting them.
- C. But it's important to read the context of this shelter; it's Christ and no other. The Shelter isn't your gated community, your stockpiled food and ammo, it's not your 401k, it's not your career, it's not your chosen political party, or even our democratic system, our shelter is found solely, and squarely in the Person of Christ.
1. **Exodus 15:1-2; Psalm 118:8-9, 14** "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the Lord, than to put confidence in princes...The Lord is my strength and song. And He has become my salvation."

- D. And here's the thing, if you're not practicing to make Christ your shelter now, you're going to struggle to do it in that day. All these opportunities that come our way, are chances we get to make Christ our shelter, our refuge, our strong tower.
 - 1. When pain comes our way, when job loss comes our way, when the death of loved ones come our way, when real persecutions come, these are opportunities for us to allow Christ to be our shelter.
 - 2. The battle of the ages is this; who, or what will be your shelter? Christ, or something else?
- E. It's to move our assets from life in this age, into the age which is yet to come. It's time to pull up stakes and take up the identity of a pilgrim, a Christ following vagabond, one who's searching for the city, Who's Builder and Maker is God (**Matt. 6:19-21; Heb. 11:8-10; Rev. 17:4**).

IV. FINALLY, JERUSALEM WILL BE HOLY (JOEL 3:17)

- 1. **Joel 3:17** *“So you shall know that I am the Lord your God, dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, and no aliens shall ever pass through her again.”*
- B. God's wants His people to know His heart and to experience intimacy with Him in covenant relationship (**Joel 2:27; 3:17; Ex. 6:7; 7:17; 8:22; 11:7; 16:6, 8, 12**). This happens as we allow God to be our shelter during trouble, during crisis. This is what the Reformers called, “Experimental/Experiential knowledge (**Eph. 3:14-20**).”
- C. Notice how it's not until after the Lord comes, releases judgments and shelters His people that Jerusalem shall be made holy? This is simply because both Jerusalem is unable to purify herself apart from Christ. It doesn't matter how many temples walls are erected, how many animals are sacrificed, or how much of the Hebrew language is restored; Israel/Jerusalem can't save itself (**Rom. 11:26-27; Heb. 8:1-13; 9:1-28; 10:1-8**).
- D. But what's true of Israel/Jerusalem, is also true of the nation's/our lives; you/we can't fix, save or heal ourselves. Only Christ, only the Lord Jesus Christ can set our path aright!
- E. In what ways are you making the Lord your fortress, today? Not in word, but in action? Words aren't bad, but words without action, is faith without works. In order for God to be a fortress, a shelter in that day, He has to become your fortress today!