

The Day of the Lord – Part 2

The Coming Crisis

Joel 2 & 3

Repentance is always the first visible evidence of the Holy Spirit's presence and activity. Where he is at work, repentance and a resulting belief in Jesus as Savior follow.

-James Montgomery Boice

I. The Imminent Day

II. The Ultimate Day

Into the Bible

1. Joel's description of the "great and terrible" Day of the Lord finds echoes in the rest of the prophets—both major and minor. Christ describes His return in judgment using similar terms in Matthew 24. And John's visions in Revelation are equally dramatic. Prophecies like this demonstrate the "now and the not yet" aspect of God's timing. Centuries have now passed. What does 2 Peter 3:9 tell us about the reason for the long delay?

2. The twin themes of God's judgment and His mercy are connected by repentance. Joel 2:11-17 records such a call for repentance. Jonah chapter 3 tells us what happens when Nineveh hears this call from Jonah the prophet. Is anyone too far gone in sin that God's mercy is not available? How does Romans 5:10 apply here?

Application

3. In Acts 2 at Pentecost Peter cites Joel's promise of the outpouring of the Spirit to silence a mocking crowd. Joel describes all who would experience this outpouring. How important to us in the Church is the extent of the gift of the Spirit? What does Paul admonish us about life in the Spirit? (1 Thessalonians 5:18-21)

For Families

4. Talk with your children waiting for God to do what He promises.