

Eschatology: Studies Concerning Future Events

5/20/2018

Lesson 3. The Day of the Lord as Described in Joel and Zephaniah

- The Day of the Lord begins with the tribulation and includes the return of Jesus and His kingdom reign. It speaks of desolation followed by deliverance and blessing.

I. Signs Preceding the Day (Joel 2:30-32)

- A. Wonders in the sky and on earth
- B. Blood, fire, smoke, sun darkened, moon turned to blood

II. Description of Desolation and Destruction

- A. A destruction from the Almighty (Joel 1:15-20)
(famine, fire devours pastures and trees, drought)
- B. Darkness and gloom, clouds and thick darkness (Joel 2:1-2)
(sun, moon, and stars darkened; heaven and earth trembles – Joel 3:15-16)s
- C. A great and awesome day... who can endure it? (Joel 2:11)
- D. A day of wrath (Zephaniah 1:15)
(trouble and distress, destruction and desolation; darkness and gloom, clouds and thick darkness)

III. Judgment upon the nations (Joel 3:1-17, especially :14; Zephaniah 1:14-18)

- A. War! (Joel 3:10 contrast Micah 4:3)
Trumpet and battle (Zephaniah 1:16)
- B. Physical punishment of mankind (Zephaniah 1:17 because they have sinned!)
- C. Judgment of all the nations (Zephaniah 3:8)
At the valley of Jehoshaphat (Joel 3:2)
- D. The whole earth devoured (Zephaniah 1:18)

IV. Exhortation for Repentance, Righteousness, and Humility (Zephaniah 2:1-3)

V. Restoration of God's People

- A. The Lord is a refuge for His people (Joel 3:16).
- B. Jerusalem is holy (Joel 3:17).
- C. Regathered and restored people (Zephaniah 3:18-20)
- D. A purified people (Zephaniah 3:12-13)

VI. Description of Blessing

- A. Enemies removed (Zephaniah 3:15); opposing army removed (Joel 2:20)
- B. Land renewed
 - grain, new wine, and oil (Joel 2:18, 24)
 - land, vegetation, and animals restored (Joel 2:21-22)
- C. Prosperity and physical blessing (Joel 3:18)

- D. Fortunes restored to Judah and Jerusalem (Joel 3:1)
- E. People rejoice and praise God (Joel 2:21, 23, 26)
 - satisfied (Joel 2:19, 26)
 - no longer a reproach (2:19)
- F. God's Spirit poured out... prophesy, dreams, and visions (Joel 2:28-29)

VII. The King will reign!

"The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst" (Zephaniah 3:15, 17)

The Lord dwells in Zion (Joel 3:17)

God is in the midst of His people. (Joel 2:27; 3:17)

The Day of the Lord in the New Testament

- BOOK 1 Thessalonians 5:2
The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night. Peace and safety will turn into destruction.
- BOOK 2 Thessalonians 2:2-9 "the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ," "the day of the Lord"
Apostasy precedes the Day of the Lord
- BOOK 2 Peter 3:10
The Day of the Lord will come like a thief. Heavens and earth will pass away. There will be a new heaven and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Other names to consider:

- The time of Jacob's trouble**
- Abomination of desolation**
- Daniel's 70th week**
- The Great Tribulation**