

Week 27

Joel 2 Lifestyle



*The Day of the  
LORD*

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*For the day  
of the LORD*

*is great  
and*

*very terrible...*

Joel 2:11

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Five times in the Book of Joel, the prophet used the term “The Day of the LORD” to warn the people of Israel of the events that are about to happen. At every instance, he spoke of the devastating and terrifying events that accompanied the day, with each one being worse than the ones before.

There must have been many questions running through the minds of the Israelites as they hear the prophet make these alarming proclamations.

“What is this Day of the LORD?”

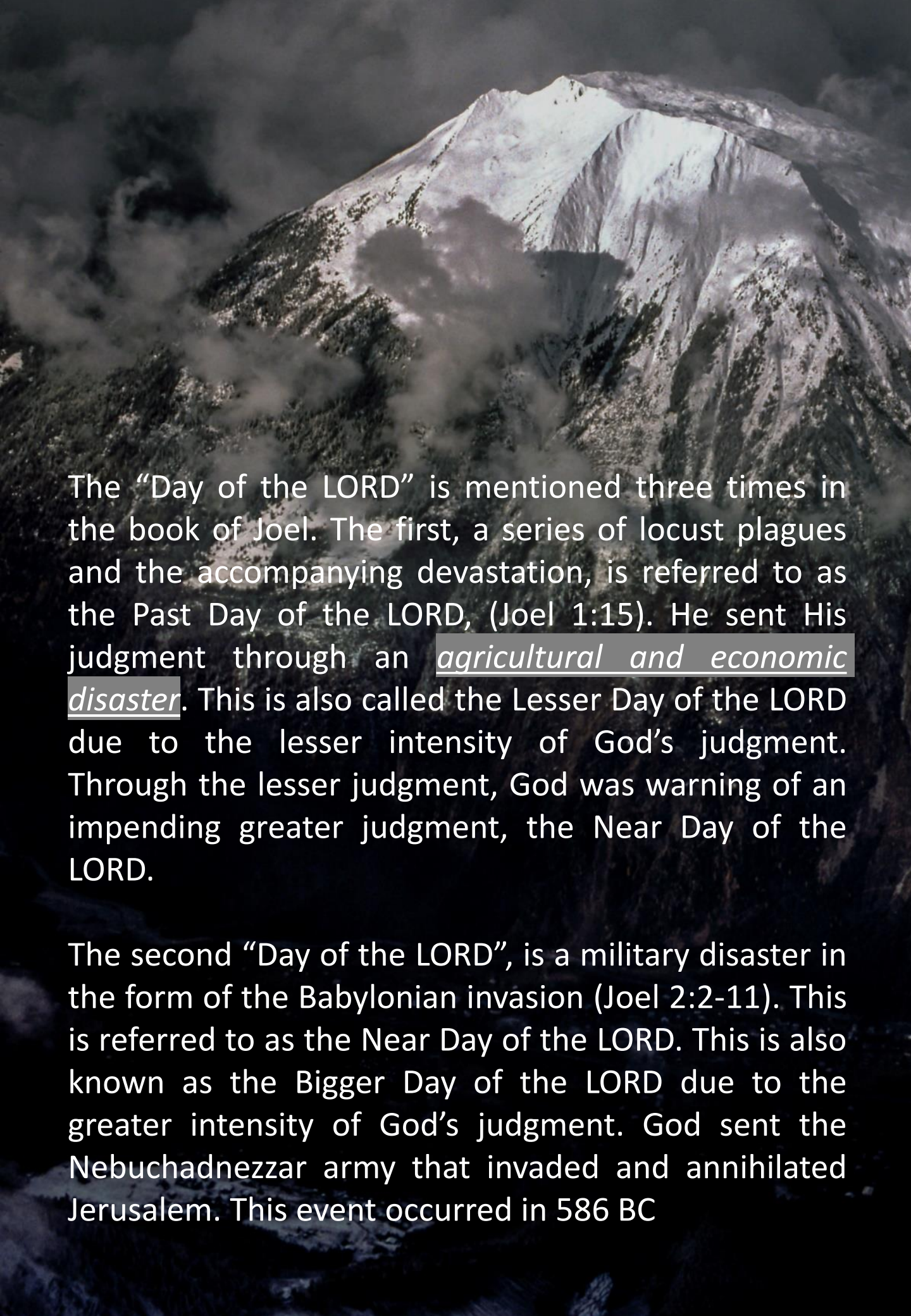
“Why such extreme shakings?”

“Who is behind these shakings? If it is God, what is He saying and what is He looking for?”



The *“Day of the LORD”* is the primary theme of the Book of Joel. It is a *unique time frame when God acts with an unusual manifestation of power* for His people and against His enemies, by *breaking in to judge and to confront sin openly on a large scale*. God comes as the Warrior-King to wage war against the sin lodged in the hearts of man. These open demonstrations of His zeal for wholeheartedness and against man’s sin are called the judgments of God. He is not coming against man but against wickedness and evil. *The time frame within which the judgments occur* is the Day of the LORD

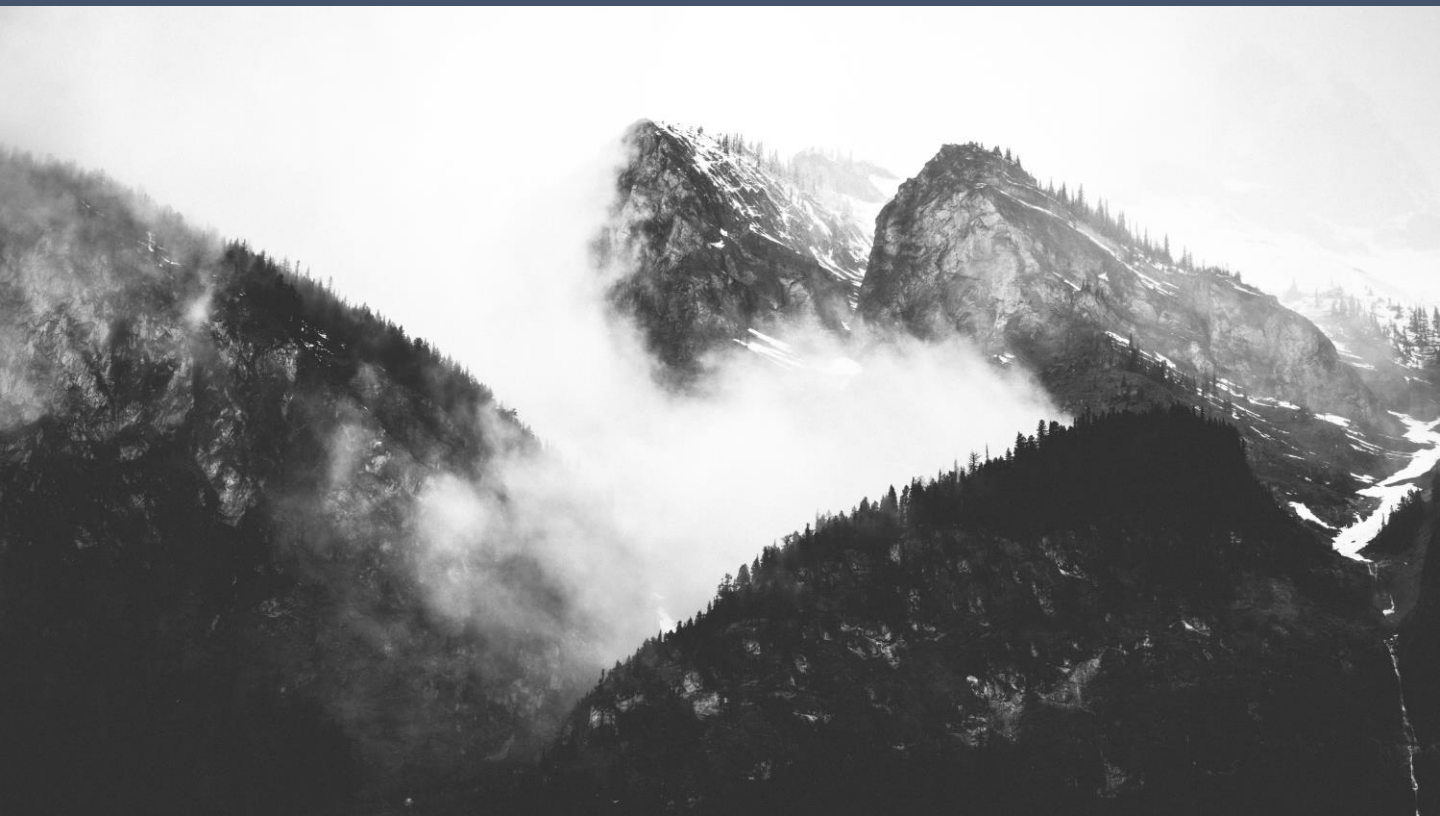
God is zealous for a holy people and will come against anything that hinders love. Peter tells us that the Lord restrains His intensified judgments against sin, giving man time to repent and turn to Him (2 Peter 3:9). He sends voices to warn His people, calling them to turn. He sends lesser shakings to get the attention of His people, so that hopefully some will turn. He suffers long, but His righteousness and holiness demand that sin and evil be dealt with. When sin reaches its fullness, He will break in to confront it (Gen 15:16; Dan 8:23)



The “Day of the LORD” is mentioned three times in the book of Joel. The first, a series of locust plagues and the accompanying devastation, is referred to as the Past Day of the LORD, (Joel 1:15). He sent His judgment through an agricultural and economic disaster. This is also called the Lesser Day of the LORD due to the lesser intensity of God’s judgment. Through the lesser judgment, God was warning of an impending greater judgment, the Near Day of the LORD.

The second “Day of the LORD”, is a military disaster in the form of the Babylonian invasion (Joel 2:2-11). This is referred to as the Near Day of the LORD. This is also known as the Bigger Day of the LORD due to the greater intensity of God’s judgment. God sent the Nebuchadnezzar army that invaded and annihilated Jerusalem. This event occurred in 586 BC





The third “Day of the LORD”, called the Future Day of the LORD, speaks of the End-Time events. This is depicted in the book of Revelation and will lead to the Second Coming of Jesus (Joel 2:31; 3:1-21). This has not yet happened; when it does, it will be a season of global revival and judgment at the End of the Age.

The judgment of God will be ultimate and unprecedented due to the fullness of man’s sin and the rise of an evil Antichrist empire.



The coming crisis of the Jewish nation at the hand of the Antichrist will far exceed all of the previous military conflicts that she has ever known. Israel will be surrounded by a coalition of nations and many Jewish people will be taken captive. Anti-Semitism will increase worldwide and concentration camps like those seen during the second world war Holocaust will once again be established (Joel 3:1-3, Zech. 12-14). Israel will be backed into a corner as all the nations gather to annihilate her. Many Jewish people will die. Yet in the end, God will show Himself as the deliverer of Israel as she calls upon His name.

God, through the Scripture, shows us the Past or Lesser Day of the LORD and the Near or Bigger Day of the LORD to help prepare us for the Future Day of the LORD which will occur before the return of our Lord Jesus. Through the progressive and intensifying nature of His judgments, God desires to awaken people to repent and turn away from sin and wickedness. God's heart is never for the wicked to perish, but for people to return to Him (Ezekiel 33:11).

The shakings we see today in various nations of the earth act as speed bumps on the road. They slow us down or give us “jerks” to get our attention and caution us of the judgments that are ahead. They give us time to repent. They also give us time now to prepare and strengthen ourselves in the Lord.

God's character and His ways of dealing with His people will never change. The Lesser Days of the LORD through history will help those in the final generation appreciate the fact that God's ways will never change. He has made known His unchanging ways so that we have clarity in the coming hour. We have no reason to flounder in confusion. We can know what He is doing and how He wants us to respond as His judgments unfold.





Let us take time to seek God and to go deep in the messages He has given us through the book of Joel and other Scriptures so that we will have confidence in God's nature and His love, and insight into the great and very terrible Day of the LORD.

*God is trying to get our attention! Are we hearing and responding?*

A vintage typewriter and a notebook on a wooden surface.

# Readings and Prayers for the week

## **Readings for Week 27**

Take some time to read Hebrews 12:26-29. Why does God allow shakings among His own people? What is God saying? What does He want from His people? What should we do to realign our lives to what He is looking for?

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## **Prayers for Week 27**

Pray for the rising up of voices who have understanding of the times we are living in. As they speak, pray that the Church will hear, tremble and respond (2 Thessalonians 3:1, 5; Joel 2:1).

Pray Colossians 1:9-10 for the Church to have a spiritual understanding of the times we are living in. Pray for wisdom for us to know what God is looking for and for grace to walk worthy of Him