


Week 51

Joel 2 Lifestyle



*The Valley
of Decision*

A scenic view of a mountain valley. The foreground shows a rocky, brownish slope leading down to a small, clear blue lake. The middle ground is a valley floor with patches of green grass and brown earth, surrounded by dense evergreen forests. The background features steep, rocky mountainsides covered in more forest, with some rocky outcrops visible. The lighting suggests a bright, sunny day, casting shadows on the slopes.

*Multitudes, multitudes in
the valley of decision!
For the Day of the LORD
is near in the valley of
decision.*

Joel 3:14

The Scripture makes it clear that human history will end with a great battle. This battle is not of man coming against man, but of evil human beings coming against God. This is what Joel 3:9 - 17 is about.

It will be in the final days of natural history that the nations will respond to the summoning of God, the deception of Satan, and the pride of their own hearts to gather against Israel. The timing will be at the end of the final seven-year period prophesied by Daniel (Dan. 9:24, 27).

Millions will be gathered to Israel and the surrounding areas of the Middle East. Evil men from all the nations of the earth will gather in the Valley of Jehoshaphat. It is here that the Lord will sit as Judge and condemn all the hostile nations that surround Israel.

On that day, Jesus will show Himself as the One with fire in His eyes and with a robe dipped in blood. The armies of heaven, clothed in the whitest linen, will follow Him on white horses. Out of His mouth will go a sharp sword with which He will strike the nations. He will tread the winepress Himself with the fierceness and wrath of the Almighty God (Rev. 19:12 - 15).

The winepress will be full and the vats will overflow because of the great wickedness of the nations. The winepress represents the drunkenness of the nations with the sins of fornication, idolatry, murder, theft and the occult (Rev. 9:20, 21).

Jesus comes to trample on this wickedness. He uses the graphic metaphor of treading upon grapes to portray the blood of the nations that will flow far and wide. The winepress of sin will be full and because the nations overflow in sin, they will overflow in blood as God comes to judge them (Zech. 14:3 - 5).

Jesus

will stomp upon these nations in rage for their disregard of His love. Human blood will inundate the land and stain the robes of the conquering King (Isa. 63:1 – 6).

This may seem very extreme and even unreasonable to us now, because we have yet to face the rage of the coming evil Antichrist system that seeks to exterminate Israel and destroy the Body of Christ.

When we actually live in that environment and begin to witness the torrents of sin and perversion that will fill the earth, this fury of the Lord will not seem offensive or excessive, but absolutely true and righteous. We will be so glad that He is passionate about righteousness.

The Valley of Decision (Joel 3:14)

The valley of decision is not an actual physical valley but the valley that the human heart lives in. Even now, every human being on the earth who has reached the age of accountability is lining up and moving either towards God or away from Him.

Every person on the face of the earth is constantly deciding on their life vision, passions, strengths and influence. They are charting their way ahead in life which will take them either closer or further away from the Lamb of God.

No one will find himself in the valley of decision for the first time when he looks up and sees Jesus coming in the clouds with His sword. That would be way too late to make a choice. Rather, the Lord places everyone in the valley of decision throughout their lifetime.

There is no neutral ground in this valley of decision.

We cannot claim neutrality and deem the Lord as being too intense or Satan as being too wicked. There is no such thing as indifference in the Kingdom of God. Everyone is given a choice and everyone must decide!

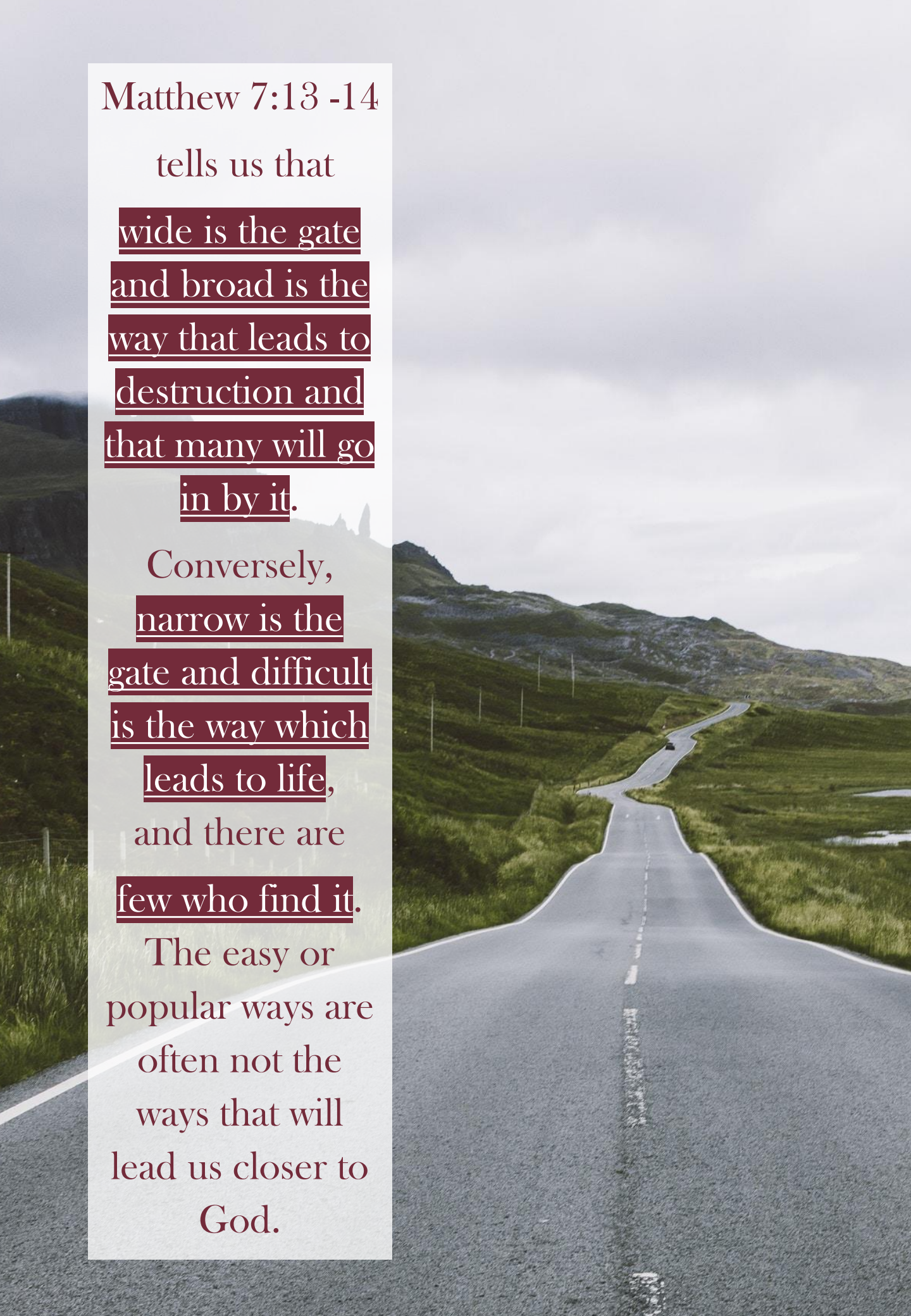
Matthew 7:13 -14

tells us that

wide is the gate
and broad is the
way that leads to
destruction and
that many will go
in by it.

Conversely,
narrow is the
gate and difficult
is the way which
leads to life,
and there are
few who find it.

The easy or
popular ways are
often not the
ways that will
lead us closer to
God.





**We have to
dare to live
differently.**

**We have to
live for God.**

**We have to
consciously
and
intentionally
align every
part of our
lives and
every
decision we
make with
God,
His ways
and His
purposes.**

Every decision we
make will make a
difference to our lives
and will either bring
us closer or further
away from God.

On the earth today, things are escalating as we draw closer to the End of the Age. The decisions that we make today will affect tomorrow's decisions. What we choose and walk out now will make subsequent decisions easier – whether for good or for evil, for compromise or for wholeheartedness towards God.

The secret

compromises that we live in today will make it easier for us to live in greater and greater compromises tomorrow.

On the other hand, the secret abandonment to God that is costing us today will give rise to greater abandonment in our hearts and lives tomorrow.

We must intentionally find ways to be abandoned to God in every area of our life – be it money, possessions, position, strength, honor, relationships and ministry. This is what the valley of decision is about. Everything in our lives must belong to the Lord – literally, not just figuratively speaking. And we want to go after Him in every area of our life.

Many people around us, even believers, will question such a way of life. Yet we must persevere in it, with our eyes fixed on Jesus.

**Remember,
every moment in
our life could be
a valley of
decision.**

**And every
decision we
make today will
determine where
our hearts are
tomorrow.**

May we be wise and walk circumspectly. May we consciously make decisions that are in line with God's heart, every moment and every day!



Readings and Prayers for the week

Readings for Week 51

Read Joel 3:12 -14, Matthew 7:13 -14 and Ephesians 5:15 -17. How do we make decisions in life? Do we go with the flow with and simply conform to what everyone else is doing? Or is every decision in our lives consciously made with the purpose of aligning our lives with the heart of God?

Prayers for Week 51

Using Col.1:9 -10, pray for ourselves and the Church that we will know the will of God and consciously align every decision in our lives with His heart, His purposes and His ways.