

An aerial photograph of a desert landscape featuring a winding river with several meanders and oxbow-like curves. The terrain is arid and brown, with some darker, possibly rocky or shadowed areas. The river is a deep blue-green color, contrasting with the dry earth. The overall scene is rugged and expansive.

Week 48

Joel 2 Lifestyle

*God
Bringing
Back the Captives*

A sunset over a field with a gravel path in the foreground. The sky is filled with golden light and clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon. The foreground shows a gravel path leading into a field of dry grass.

For behold, in those days
and at that time, when
I bring back the captives
of Judah
and Jerusalem...

Joel 3:1

Joel 3:1 – 8 is about the events that will happen prior to the Second Coming of our LORD Jesus Christ. The greatest drama of all time will unfold before the eyes of all mankind – specifically in the context of Israel. It will be a drama unsurpassed by any other event.

When Jesus returns, He will return to an earth that is shaking beneath His judgments, staggering under the pressure of mankind's sin, and broken under Satan's rage.

Joel 3:1 mentions about captives. Who are the captives and where have they been? The answer is that these are the captives from Israel; they are citizens of Jerusalem and Judah that were scattered all over the nations.

Many passages in Scripture speak of this coming captivity of the Jewish people and the Jewish prisoners being scattered amongst the nations in the generation when the Lord returns. This “bringing back of the captives” was only partially fulfilled in 1948, when Jewish people were brought back to the land and Israel became a nation.

Though many interpret the captives of Joel 3:1 as the Jewish people throughout history, the context is actually about a very specific generation – the generation of the LORD's return.

This is a part of God's End-Time plan and both Jews and even Gentile believers will face captivity by evil enemies. The glory that follows for these captives will far outweigh the suffering.

A season is coming yet again to the nation of Israel when there will be great hostility among the nations towards her. Hostile nations will once again imprison and capture the Jewish people, treating them with hate-filled injustice and scattering them all over the earth (Luke 21:24). Many Jewish people will be deported out of the land against their will.

Scripture does not tell us the exact number that will be taken captive but Scripture makes it clear that in that day, there will be many captives that the Lord will bring back and many prisoners that the Lord will release. Zechariah prophesied that half the city of Jerusalem will be deported and taken into captivity (Zech. 14:2).

We will witness the reality of Jewish captives all over the earth, with no hope of deliverance because all the nations will be their enemy. Unsaved Jewish prisoners will be awaiting and even desiring for the hastening of their own deaths, so that they might escape the unrelenting hatred of the nations that has tormented them throughout the centuries.

The LORD

will protect a number of the Jewish people in the land and they will experience the supernatural safety that Joel prophesied about (Joel 2:32). Others will actually join the Antichrist and his regime; these will become the apostate of Israel. Yet others will flee as instructed by Jesus (Matt. 24:15,16).

Just as the nations force Israel to a corner with no hope of deliverance, Jesus will show Himself strong on their behalf. Those who have been fleeing for their lives will suddenly see their Deliverer – the LORD Himself.

At that time, the sun will be darkened, the moon will withhold its light, the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. God will distress the nations and men's hearts will fail them from fear and expectation of what is coming (Luke 21:25-28).

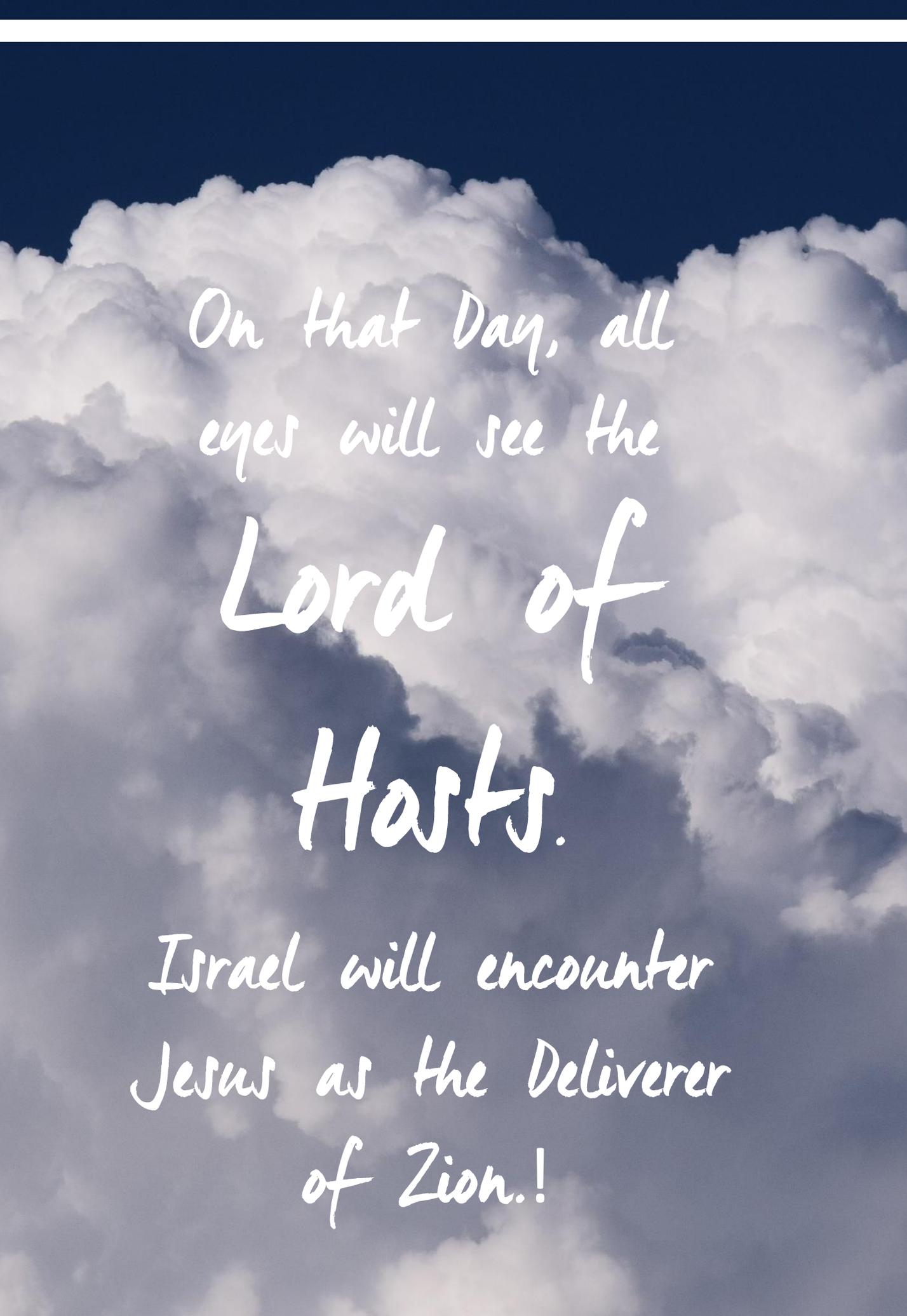
As the captives tremble in their prisons, devoid of all hope of liberation, the Son of Man will be seen coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. The captives will lift up their heads to see their redemption drawing near.

When the Lord Jesus returns, He will set all the captives free from prison camps. We often limit these verses to the spiritual deliverance that Jesus brought in His first coming. Yet they will be fulfilled in the natural when Jesus comes to reign as King over all the earth. Jesus will open real prison doors and the captives that He frees will journey back to Jerusalem. He will show them that He is truly their God and their Deliverer (Zech. 9:11 – 17; Isa. 61:1).

Unsaved Jewish people who are held captive will see Him in the sky, shining with brightness. Their Messiah will free them from their captivity and make them part of His army. He will supernaturally anoint them with power to fight in battles alongside Him and as they do so, they will get saved.

As the captives journey back to Jerusalem, the Lord will supernaturally direct and provide food and water along the way. Hundreds of thousands of refugees will be marching across the nations from different directions, returning to their homeland (Isa. 49:10 – 12; Jer. 31:9).





On that Day, all
eyes will see the

Lord of

Hasts.

Israel will encounter
Jesus as the Deliverer
of Zion!



Readings and Prayers for the week

Readings for Week 48

Read Joel 3:1- 8 and Zech. 13:8 to 14:5. Ask God to give you revelation of Jesus as the Deliverer and the King who fights on behalf of justice and righteousness. Ask God for understanding of His heart for Israel and His zeal for justice.

Prayers for Week 48

Using Col. 1:9-10, ask God for understanding of His heart concerning Israel and for revelation to see Him as the Deliverer of Zion. Pray for Israel that she will not trust in chariots or horses (Ps. 20:6 - 7), but trust in the Lord alone and turn to Him as her Deliverer.