

Week 25

Joel 2 Lifestyle

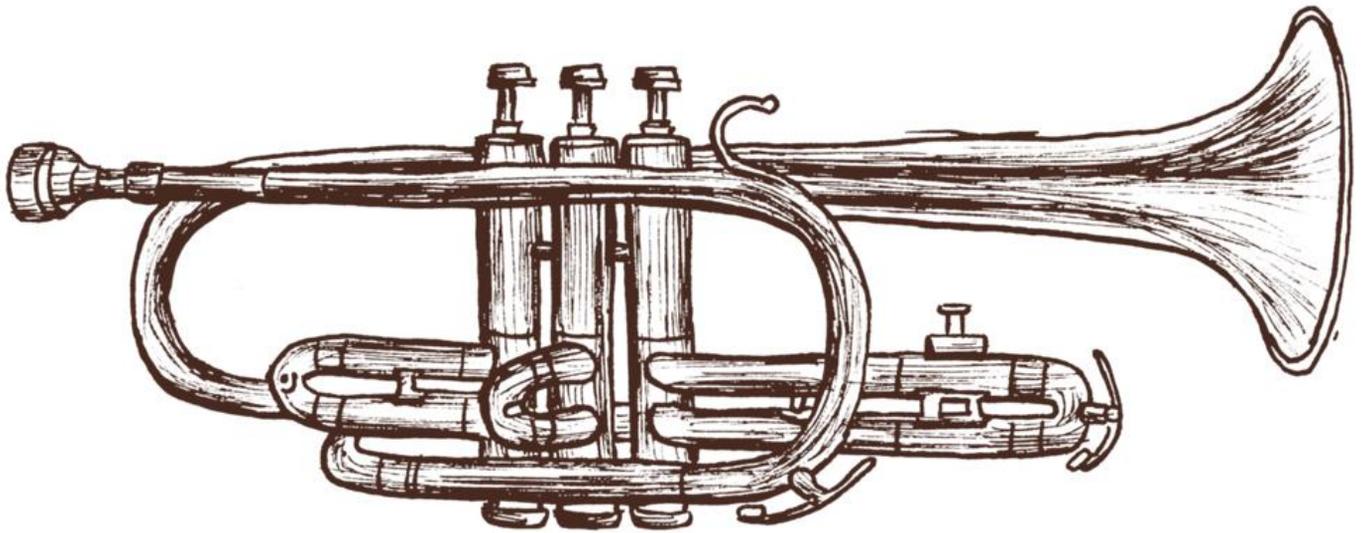


*The Necessity and Role of the
Voice of God*



Joel 2:1

*Blow the trumpet in Zion, and
sound an alarm in My holy
mountain! Let all the inhabitants
of the land tremble; For the day
of the LORD is coming, For it is
at hand*



Before the first coming of Jesus, God raised up John the Baptist to prepare the way. John was a forerunner - a voice crying in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord (Luke 3:4).

The Scriptures emphasize that John was a voice. He had deep personal revelations of God in his spirit and his message sprang forth from his encounters. As a result, John was a voice with authority, not just an echo who repeated the spiritual slogans of the day.

Today God is raising up men and women, old and young, who will have a forerunner spirit like John the Baptist. They will prepare the way of the Second Coming of the Lord by preparing His people to receive the things that God will release, which include the Holy Spirit's activity and power in unprecedented dimensions.



Forerunners are the voices of God who proclaim God's Word and His truths in order to make sense of things before they happen. They will declare and announce the unprecedented events that are expected to take place in this generation.

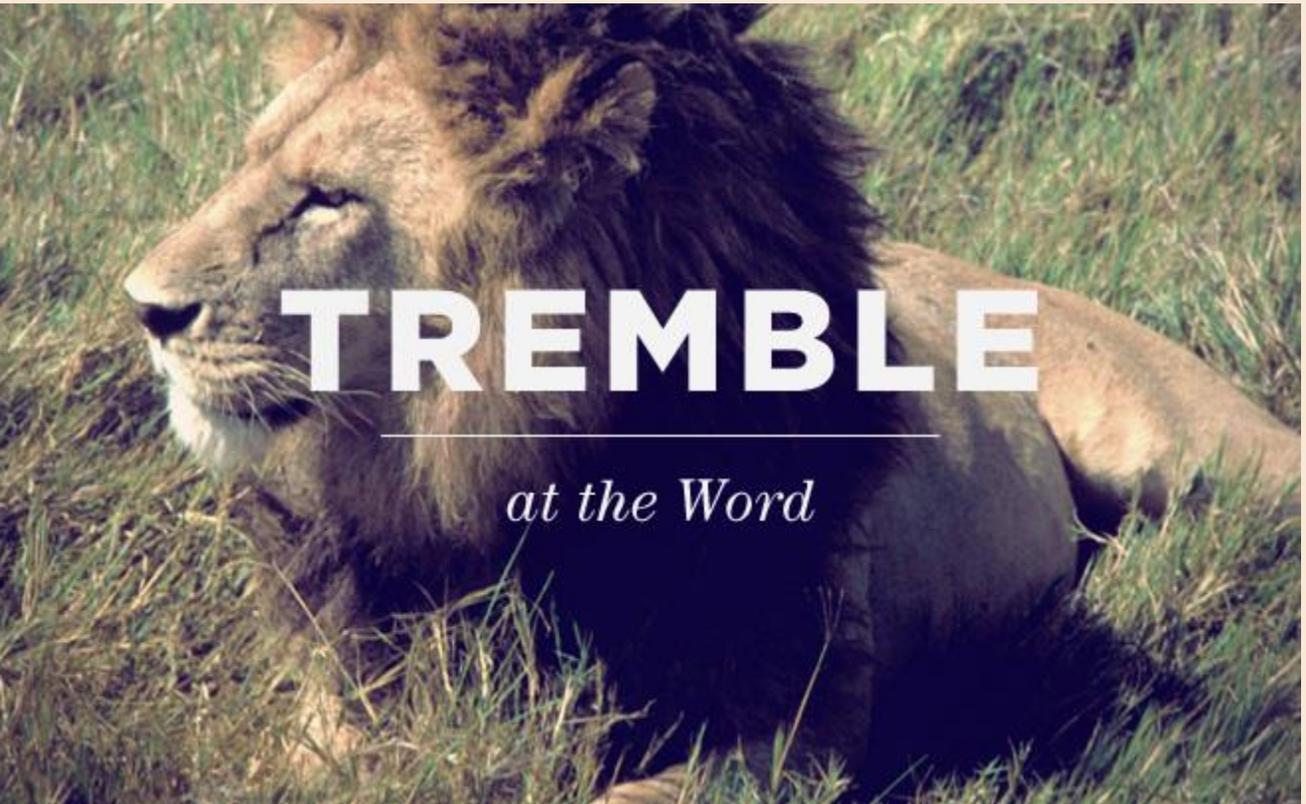
Radical new paradigms about God's heart and His purposes must be established. The purpose of the forerunner ministry is to “prepare the way for His people” by helping them make sense of things, so that they will not be confused or offended with God in the face of coming shakings and judgment. Instead, they will understand and become confident in His love, fully trusting Him.

Revelation

A distinctive quality of forerunners in our generation is that they have the revelation of Jesus as the Bridegroom God.

This was what John the Baptist had. He said that his joy was made complete by hearing the voice of the Bridegroom (John 3:29). John's forerunner message and lifestyle was energized by his encounter of the Bridegroom God. In the same manner, God is raising up forerunners like John who will experience Jesus as a Bridegroom and are therefore filled with the same joy in the intimacy of their relationship with God.

Forerunners proclaim what the Holy Spirit is about to emphasize - that which God is determined to do in the near future. God will raise up these men and women so that when the great and terrible Day of the LORD comes, the Church will have been warned and be prepared! They will have already heard the trumpet sound and been given the choice to respond rightly. When these prophesied dramatic events begin to unfold, they will not be angry and offended with God. Instead, they will be ready to cooperate with Him voluntarily because their hearts are deeply connected with the heart of the Lord and the truth of who He is.



Right now, God is raising up forerunners as His voice to preach the “Day of the LORD” message. He is also commissioning men and women all over the earth to sound the prophetic alarm to others (Joel 2:1)

The “Day of the LORD” preaching is to create a sense of spiritual alarm in God’s people and cause their hearts to tremble. To alarm is to agitate people by the preaching of the Word so that they will be awakened to the seriousness of the times and the urgency of the hour. To tremble is to cause hearts to be engaged with God in the fear of the Lord.



In this hour of history, we need the “Day of the LORD” prophetic preaching! We need the kind of clarion call that causes trembling in the hearts of men.

Just as Joel proclaimed the Day of the LORD and His judgments, the Lord is raising up prophetic messengers to make known the message of what is coming at the End of the Age; it is a message that can offend hearts. He wants the message to go forth like a trumpet blast, alarming hearts and leading people to repentance and wholeheartedness.

Joel was a “Day of the LORD” prophetic messenger used by the Lord to prepare all who would hear the word about the Babylonian invasion. His message was more than simply stating what will happen in the future. He was proclaiming the imminent Day of the LORD, and exhorting the people to realign their lives and respond rightly to God.

Our generation is similar to Joel's generation. We are living in a very unique time frame in history, in which the Day of the LORD is at hand. But there is a huge difference - this time it will be the ultimate Day of the LORD. Only one generation in history will witness the final Day of the LORD. We are likely to be this generation and many who are alive on the earth today will see this Day come in their lifetime.

The Lord is raising up a whole company of "Day of the LORD" forerunners like Joel, with the anointing to raise the alarm and cause trembling in the hearts of men.

Will you say yes to being one?





Readings and Prayers for the week

Readings for Week 25

Take time to read through the Bible on the life of John the Baptist (passages include Luke 3:1-22, John 3:22-36, Matthew 3). What was his primary preoccupation? How was he able to develop a history with God and hear God's voice so clearly such that he could declare it with such confidence and authority?

Once again God will raise up His voices to prepare the nations for Jesus' Second Coming. Take some time to read Isaiah 40 which talks about who a forerunner is, the preparation that is needed and the message that he will proclaim.

Prayers for Week 25

Pray 2 Thes. 3:1 for the Lord to raise up many voices who will stand in God's counsel and hear His Word so we can proclaim His heart to the Church and the nations. Pray for yourself too, that as you say yes, God will give you grace to be faithful and walk worthy of Him.

Pray Acts 4:29 for boldness for these voices to speak forth what is on God's heart even though the message may be unpopular. Pray that we will not shrink back even in the face of rejection or misunderstanding.