

Week 49

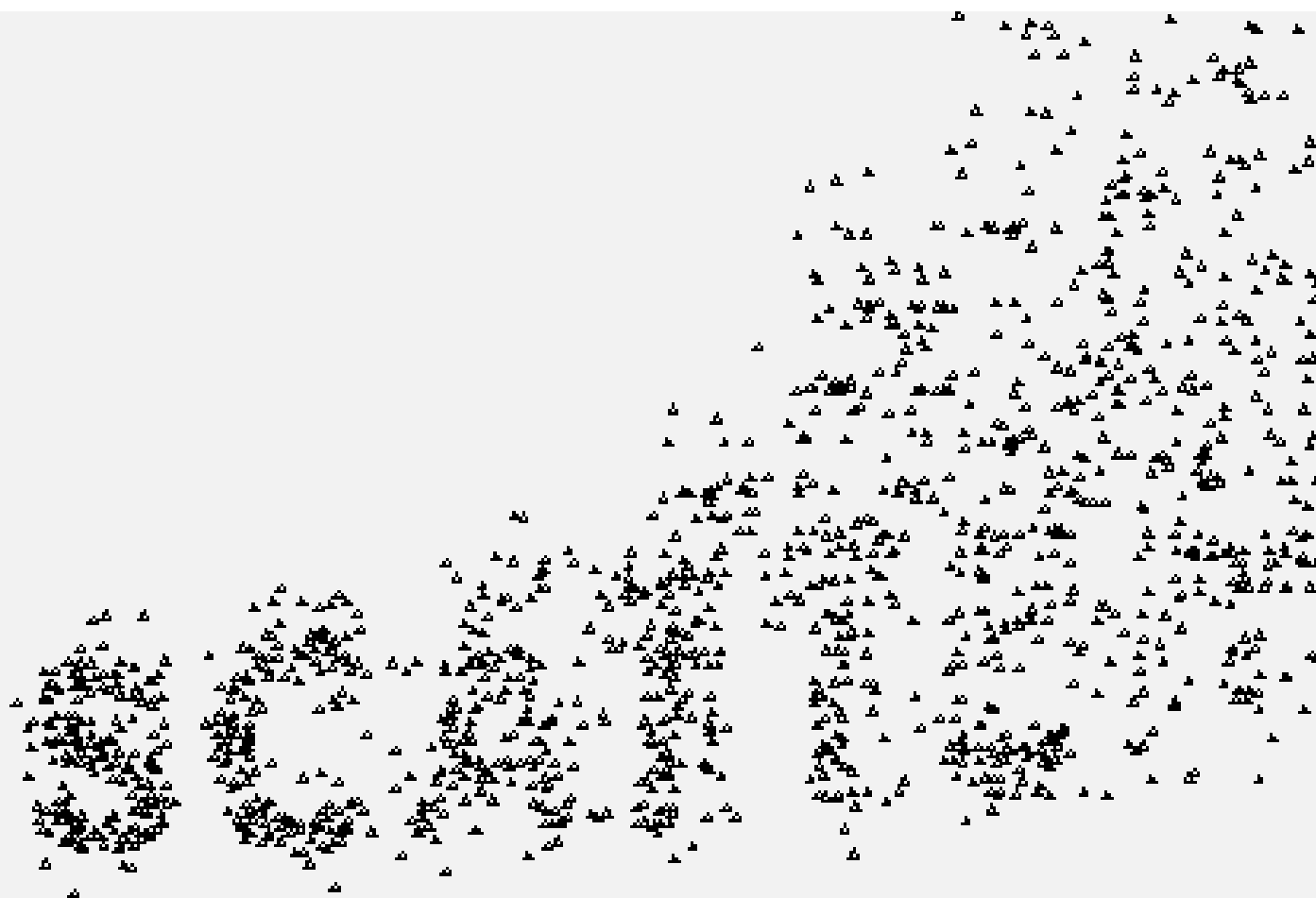
Joel 2 Lifestyle



*God's gathering of
and judgment on all the
nations*

*I will also gather all nations, and bring them
down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and I
will enter into judgment with them there on
account of My people, My heritage Israel,
whom they have scattered among the nations;
they have also divided up My land,
They have cast lots for My people...*

Joel 3:2 - 3



There are five things that will happen simultaneously during this one dramatic time frame indicated by the words “in those days” and “at that time” (Joel 2:29, 3:1).

- 1** The great outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28).
- 2** An unprecedented increase in the level of the prophetic spirit, accompanied by the release of tremendous and terrifying signs and wonders in heaven and on the earth (Joel 2:28-31).
- 3** Jewish people crying out to Jesus for deliverance and salvation (Joel 2:32).
- 4** The setting free and bringing back of Jewish captives (Joel 3:1).
- 5** The gathering and judging of anti-Semitic nations (Joel 3:2).

God will gather and bring the nations into a specific place – the Valley of Jehoshaphat. The battle at the Valley of Jehoshaphat is very likely to be the Battle of Jerusalem, more commonly known as the Battle of Armageddon.

RESISTANCE

The LORD is bringing judgment to the nations because of their horrific treatment of Israel. Many Gentile believers are unprepared for what this passage implies. To the unrenewed mind of a Gentile believer, this is an offensive concept

Many of us are unaware of an unspoken and subtle resistance within our own hearts towards God's sovereign choice of the nation of Israel and His plan of performing a special work of grace in their midst.

Most believers are unfamiliar with this topic, only finding assurance in the fact that it is mentioned in the Bible. Yet the Lord wants us to have a *deeper and fuller understanding of what He is doing, and greater agreement with His plans and desires for Israel.*

The judgment of God on the nations is in relation to the horrific treatment of Israel by the nations. God reveals the standard by which He will judge the nations through Joel 3:2–3. He proclaims His reasons for His judgment by naming three transgressions.

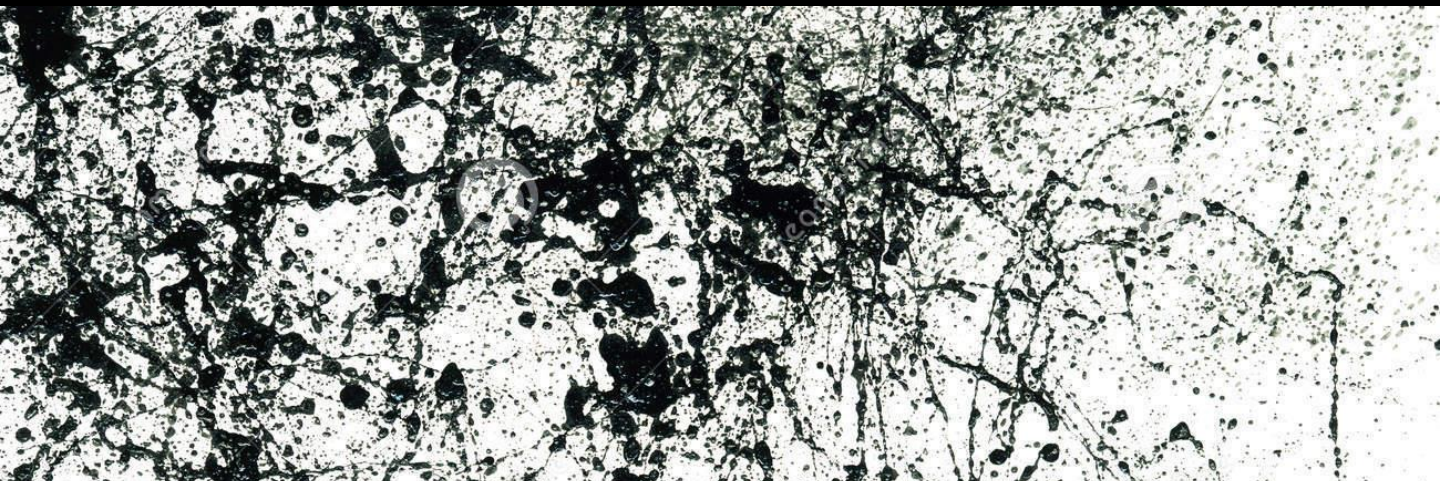
The scattering of God's
people, Israel, among the
nations.

The nations will seek to scatter the people of Israel from the land and they will succeed to some degree for a short time. This is a terrifying idea to the people in Israel.

But the greater point of the passage is not what man will do to Israel, but what

God

will do to the nations that come against Israel. The nations which persecute Israel should tremble and be afraid.



The division of God's land.

God charges the nations for dividing His land and using it in ways contrary to His purpose. He will bring them into judgment over this issue.

This speaks of the way the nations have seized the land of Israel and divided geographic areas for their own agenda, making their own political domains and governmental divisions.

This is exactly what the Antichrist will do when he marches into Jerusalem and sets up his headquarters there. He will use the nation for his own purposes, in spite of this warning against using the land for intentions that are contrary to God's will. Do you know that in our present day, this is beginning to happen?

On January 15 2017, seventy nations gathered in Paris, calling for a two-state solution in the land of Israel. They are in effect, calling for the dividing of the land of Israel.

The summary statement declares that the seventy nations only recognize the June 4, 1967 borders. So according to this document, Israel does not own the Wailing Wall, the Temple Mount, a single inch of the West Bank or a single inch of East Jerusalem.



If this comes into effect, the city of Jerusalem will no longer be fully in the hands of Israel.

The enslavement of God's people, the Israelites.

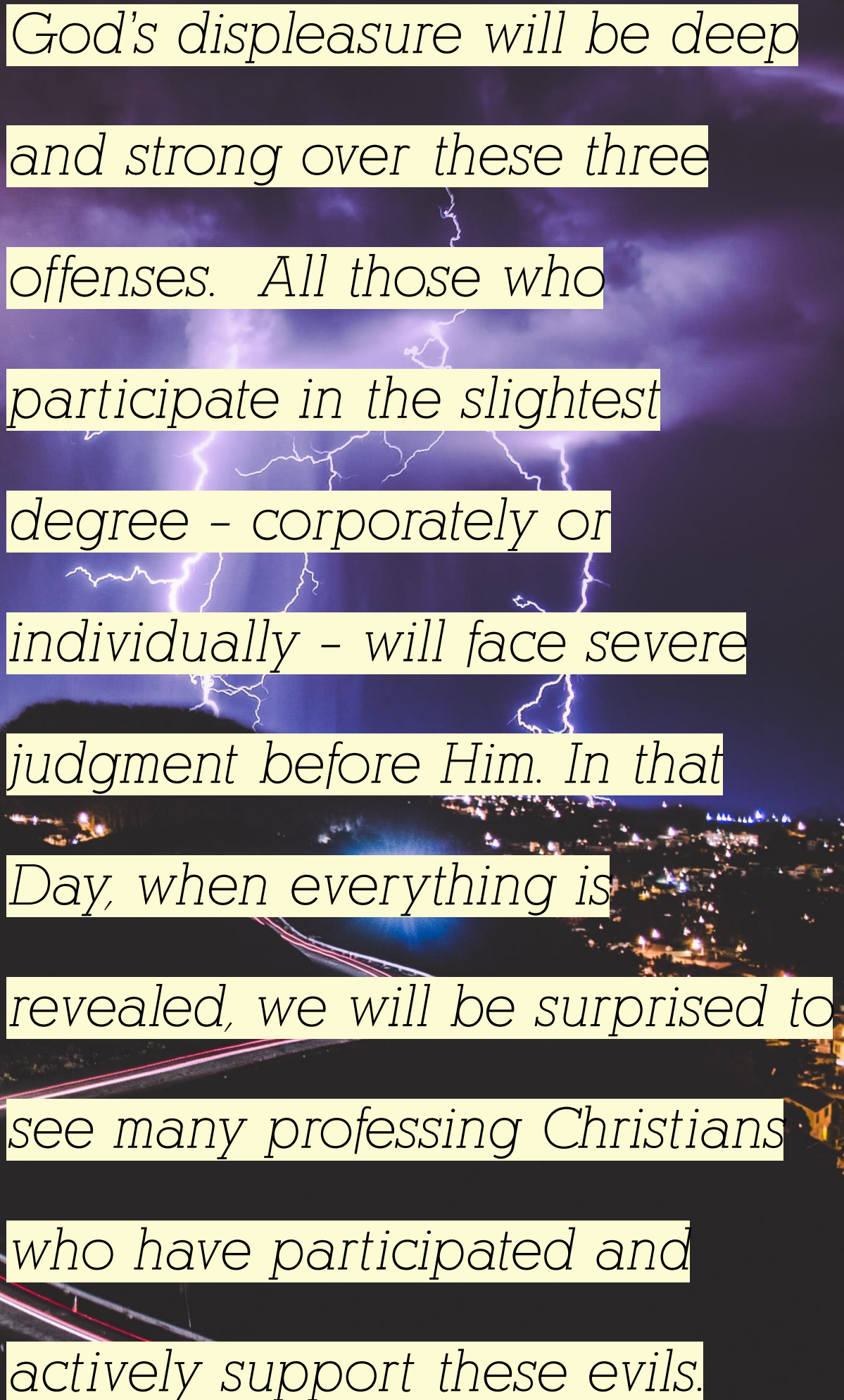
God's third reason against the nations is that they have cast lots for His people. In other words, they have enslaved His people and put them in prison (Joel 3:3, 6).

Many passages in Scripture make reference to the nations enslaving Jewish people. The LORD continues, "*They have given a boy as payment for a harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they may drink.*" (Joel 3:3)

They have so degraded and devalued a little Jewish boy that they use him as payment for a brief moment with a prostitute.

They will even sell a little girl in exchange for one glass of wine.

God's anger with these nations is that they have so utterly despised the lives of the Jewish people, counting them as completely worthless and without value. They were selling them in large numbers and at low prices.



God's displeasure will be deep and strong over these three offenses. All those who participate in the slightest degree - corporately or individually - will face severe judgment before Him. In that Day, when everything is revealed, we will be surprised to see many professing Christians who have participated and actively support these evils.

It is important for us

to understand the gravity of such atrocities to God, how He sees them and why He will have to bring judgment to the nations of the earth. God has no pleasure for the death of the wicked (Ezekiel 33:11).

Out of His great mercy

for us and His fiery zeal for His people, God is warning the nations right now to stay clear and far from these three offenses.

May we, the Church,

hear and understand the heart of God! May there be nations who choose to stand with Israel even in the most difficult of times!



Readings and Prayers for the week

Readings for Week 49

Read Joel 3:1-6. Try to feel how God feels when He sees the nations treat His people with indignity, enslaving, imprisoning and scattering them all over the nations. Feel God's zeal when He says, "On account of My people, My heritage Israel...".

Prayers for Week 49

Using 2 Cor. 13:7, pray for your nation that she will have the wisdom to stand with Israel in the midst of increasing pressures and even in her most difficult hour.