

Week 19

Joel 2 Lifestyle



*Understand the  
“Cry” of Joel*


*Joel 1:15 Alas for the day! For the day of the Lord is at hand; It shall come as destruction from the Almighty.*

Locust invasion, famines, droughts, raging fires.....

All of Israel's life resources were being threatened by this progressive crisis. Things were not looking good. The devastations were not letting up (Joel 1:4, 17 – 20).


The people in the land of Israel were shocked and confused. They needed someone to bring understanding as to WHY the crisis was growing and not subsiding.

*In came Joel who cried, "Alas for the day..."*



Joel was crying out “Woe!” to the inhabitants of the land. There was a sense of shock and terror in Joel’s heart because he understood what was happening. He wanted this extreme situation to be fully understood by the Israelites so that they would respond in the way that would minimize the crisis.

Joel was also sounding the alarm to the people. He was summoning their full attention so that they might heed the word of the LORD. Destruction was coming, and in mercy God had sent him to warn. Joel was crying and going against the “currents” of his day.



Joel boldly interpreted the crisis as coming from the hand of God. Joel told the people that the locust plague, the drought, the raging fires, the famine and the starvation were all a part of the Day of the Lord.



*God was behind all this,  
and more was coming.*

The Day of the Lord is a time when God fights against His enemies. In this case, sin within Israel was the enemy that God was fighting against. His enemy, in one word, is unrighteousness. The problem was that Israel was on the side of sin, and that made them an enemy of God.

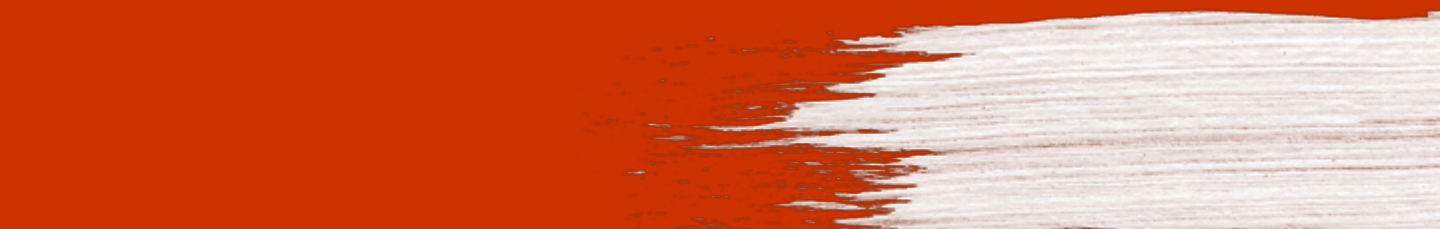
Joel described this day as destruction coming from the Almighty. "Almighty" or "Shaddai" was understood by Israel as the covenantal name for God. Under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, Joel was declaring a powerful statement by using this specific name of God. Joel defined the destruction as coming from El Shaddai, the all-sufficient God! This totally shocked the nation of Israel.



*In the mind of Israel, El Shaddai had always been the God who provided for them. They could not comprehend how El Shaddai, the covenantal God of Israel was in fact the cause of the coming judgment!*

*What they did not see was that the covenantal God was zealous for their wholehearted love. The only reason why He was coming against them was because He was coming against sin and wickedness.*

*Israel was deeply troubled at Joel's interpretation of the current events. They felt abandoned by God. They could not see and understand from God's perspective. They could not understand what God was looking for and what He desired from His people.*



*The crisis would not abate until God's desired effect took place* (Joel 2:1). The Lord wanted His people to turn to Him with all their hearts. *His purpose in releasing judgment is to remove everything that hinders love in the life of His people.*

*God's zeal in judgment is proof of His commitment to His people.*

God's discipline reveals *His divine jealousy for us to be holy.* When God disciplines His sons, it is proof that He loves them. God will not allow things to go unchecked and unmeasured. He will intervene to correct the situation (Heb. 12:5 – 12).

This is a hard message to accept. It will be *equally offensive to our generation* even when it is declared with the anointing of the Holy Spirit. As the voice of God, our desire should not be to preach popular messages, but to equip the people of God with understanding of what is before us. We must understand the principles of God's judgment.

*Are we hearing the "Cry" of Joel?  
Will we be the ones who speak forth  
God's heart in this hour, even if it is  
unpopular?*



# Readings and Prayers for the week

## Readings for Week 19

Read Deuteronomy 28 where God promises to bless Israel if she obeys and to curse her if she disobeys. What is the extent of the disasters that will befall her if she turns away from God?

Take time to read Hebrews 12:5-11. Ask Holy Spirit to give you revelation of the righteousness of God that desires the best for His children.

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## Prayers for Week 19

Pray 2 Thessalonians 3:1 for God to raise up voices with understanding who will arise in boldness to speak forth God's heart to the Church, even if the message is not popular.

Pray Ephesians 1:17 for the Church to have a revelation of Jesus' jealous love for and commitment to us, so that we may arise as the wholehearted Bride without spot or blemish.