

Week 31

Joel 2 Lifestyle



*God the Chief
Orchestrator*

*“...for strong is the
One who executes
His word”
Joel 2:11*



The One who wrote the prophetic Scriptures will reveal His might by fulfilling the Word of prophecy.

Through the prophets, from Moses (Deuteronomy 28:49-50) to Jeremiah (Jeremiah 25:9-11) to Joel (Joel 2:2-11), God had said time and time again that if His people turn away from Him and turn toward wickedness and evil, He Himself would bring judgment on them. He spoke of how He would “give voice before His army” and He would use “Nebuchadnezzar His servant” to bring discipline and punishment to His people.

The Lord declares that His camp is very great and He is the strong God who is executing His Word. He is the One fulfilling His eternal plan as declared by the prophets. His plans will be fulfilled precisely.

It is obvious that God is the One who brings this Babylonian army into power. It is He who will provide them with divine direction and prophetic leadership

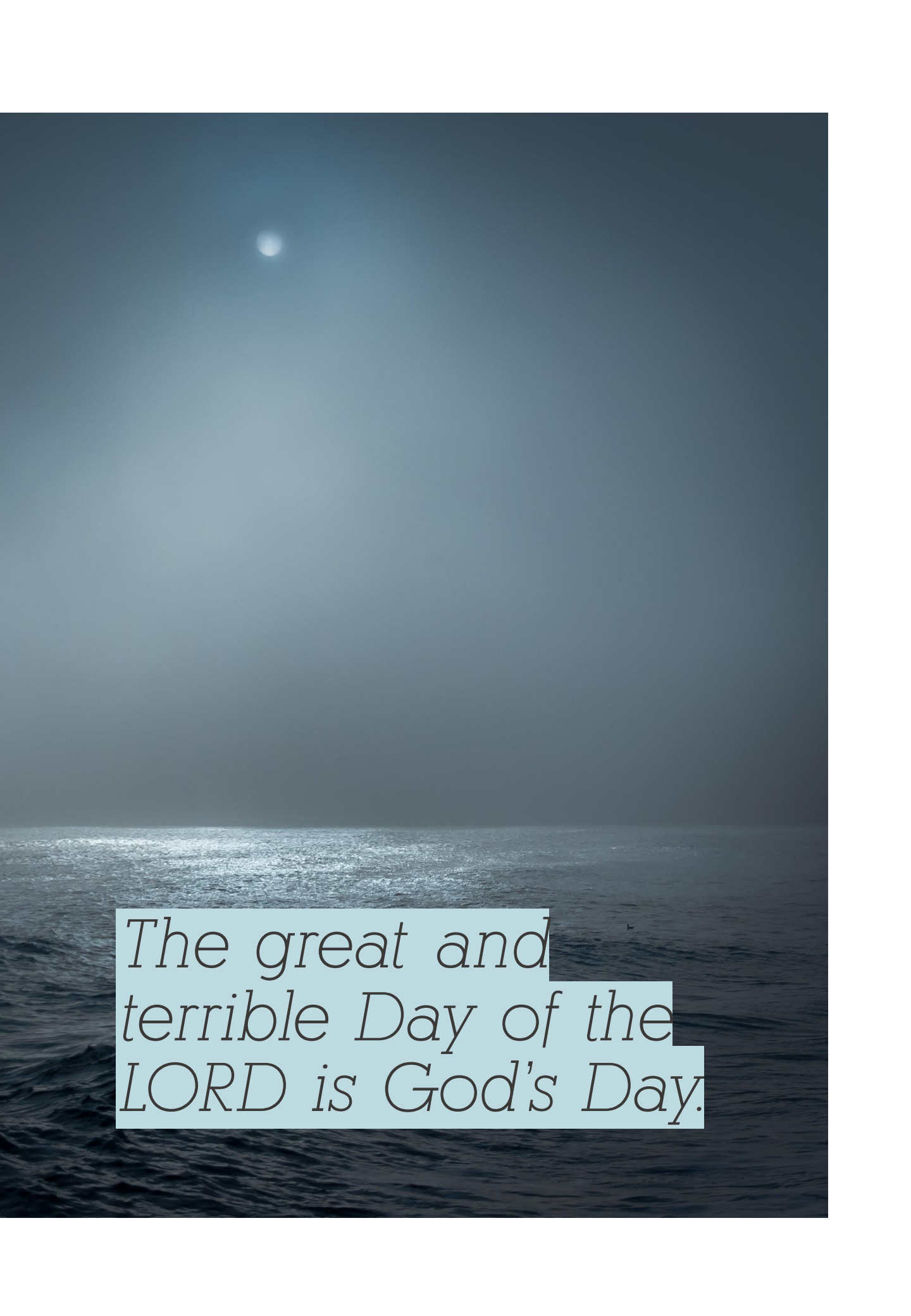
We must reckon with this truth at our heart level.

It offends our minds and disrupts our understanding that God is the One in control of a brutal army and that He would use them as His instrument to fulfill His purposes. The Body of Christ around the world will be troubled by this idea that God raises armies up as His own tool of chastisement.

To understand this, we must settle some truths in our heart. Firstly, God does NOT make any army evil or make them do wrong. But He employs their choice for evil, which is done out of free will, to purify His people. These armies have already intended to do evil and have time and time again chosen the path of evil.

Secondly, they are His army NOT because He raised them up to be evil. They are His army in the sense that they are fulfilling His purpose even in their wickedness. He is not responsible for their wickedness. He is only responsible for using them to impact His people. Babylon was God's army, because He was using this evil nation as a rod in His hand (Isa.10:5) to discipline His people.

Thirdly, God never leaves wickedness unpunished. Even for these evil armies that God uses to bring judgment to His people, He Himself will eventually judge and punish them. In Jer. 25:12, God says He Himself will punish the king of Chaldeans for their iniquity. God says He will repay them according to their deeds and according to the works of their own hands.



*The great and
terrible Day of the
LORD is God's Day.*

God is the One who orchestrates this Day and He is the One who will fulfill His Word.

We must also see the grace of God and His goodness in His perfect plans even in the release of His judgment.





He will send military invasions that disrupt the national life of Israel and all other peoples. But He has “pre-appointed times and boundaries of nations so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him.” (Acts 17:26 – 27). He allows these invasions for a season in the hope that the nations will turn to Him.

The desperation of the times will propel His people into intense fasting and prayer, which will result in God pouring out His Spirit like never before. There will be salvations, unprecedented release of great signs and wonders. He shows His power so that the nations will know that He alone is God. He shows His might so that perhaps even those who are evil may turn to Him. In the end, God will fulfill His End-Time plan to bring the greatest number of people to Himself at the deepest level of love through the least severe means possible.



And through this process He will have a Bride who is purified and adorned for her Husband.

We the Church and the Israelites, through the refining will be made ready for Christ's return.

May we have true understanding of who God is and what He is looking for in His people so that we will align our lives with Him, choose His righteous ways and arise as a beacon of light in the darkest hour.



Readings and Prayers for the week

Readings for Week 31

- Take time to read through Deuteronomy 28 and Jeremiah 25:1-14 where God spoke of judgments because of disobedience. What are some things we can learn from studying these past prophecies that have been fulfilled? What can we do to live differently?

Prayers for Week 31

- Use Col. 1:9-10 to pray for the Church to know the relevance of the Book of Joel for the times that we are living in. Pray that we will have understanding of who God is and what He wants from His people. Pray that we will be ones who love what He loves and hate what He hates.