



*Babylonian invasion
- a foreshadow of End -
Time military invasion*

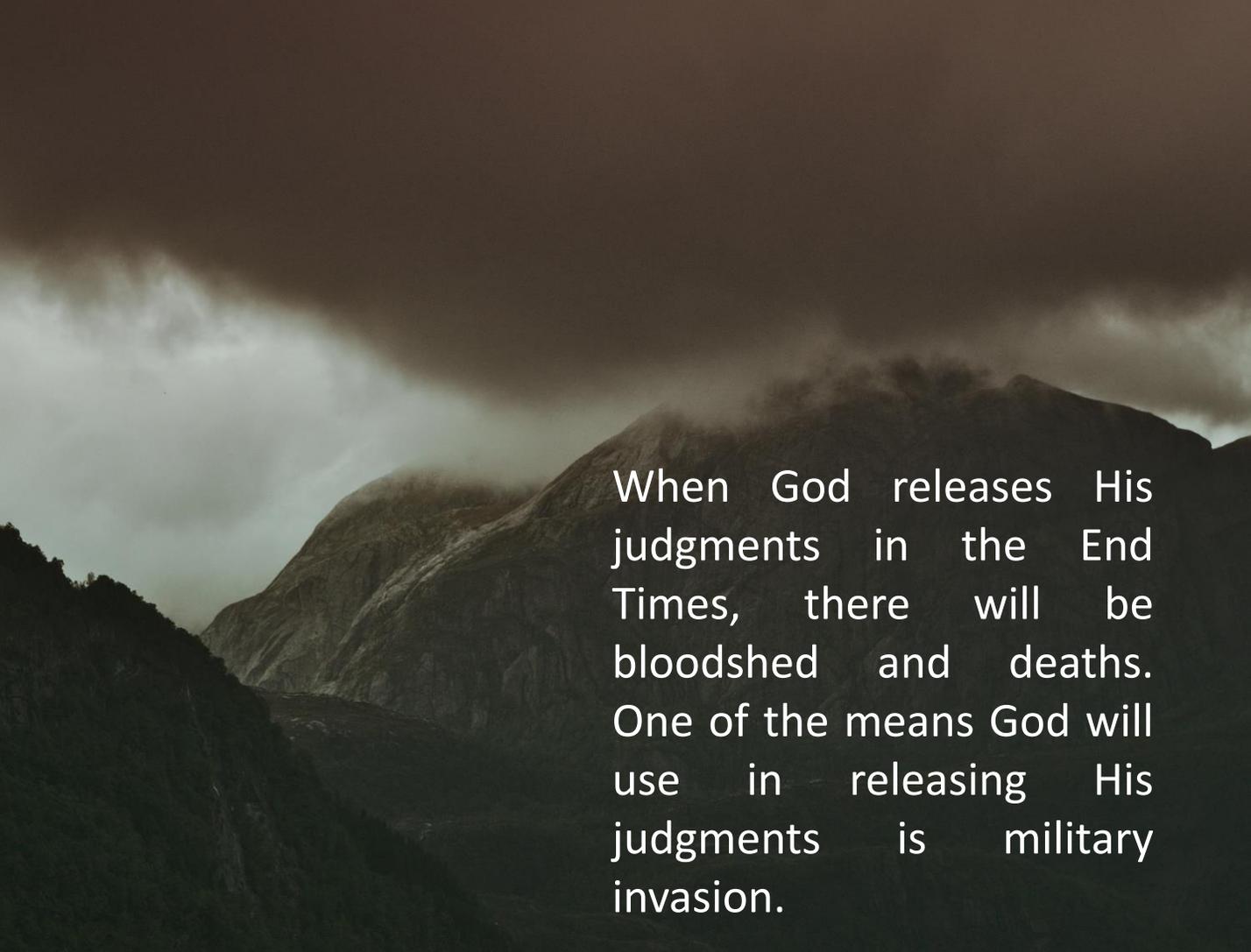
*A day of darkness
and gloominess,
a day of clouds
and thick darkness...
Joel 2:2*

Many people shudder at the thought of war breaking out and armies invading their land. The trail of death and destruction that war leaves, the suffering of the innocent people and the mindlessness of it all paint a sickening and painful picture.

Can God use military invasions to judge His people? Can a righteous judge even use an evil army to release judgment? Will our hearts be offended if He does so?

Through the previous sessions, we have seen how a righteous God cannot leave sin and wickedness unpunished. We see how in His mercy, He sends warnings through the prophets, how He brings waves of shakings to shout to His people, so that many hearts can turn to Him in wholeheartedness. Despite these warnings, the hearts of many will still choose to defy God. They will choose their own ways and turn to sin and wickedness.

*Sin and iniquity will keep
on increasing and when
they reach their fullness,
God will judge.*

A dark, atmospheric landscape featuring a mountain range under a heavy, stormy sky. A prominent volcano is visible in the background, with smoke or ash rising from its peak. The foreground shows a valley with dark, silty slopes. The overall mood is ominous and dramatic.

When God releases His judgments in the End Times, there will be bloodshed and deaths. One of the means God will use in releasing His judgments is military invasion.

The Old Testament prophets such as Isaiah, Joel and Moses spoke about it. In the New Testament, Jesus, Paul and John also spoke of military invasions that God will use in judging nations at the End of Age.

Jesus spoke clearly that military invasion will be a significant part of God's plan in judging nations at the End of the Age. He prophesied of the military invasion of Israel by the Romans in AD 70.

Not only was He describing a near invasion that would happen within one generation, but He was also describing a far-future invasion that would happen at the End of the Age. This far-future invasion will be many times worse in terms of its severity.



The apostle John also prophesied about military invasions that will be used in God's End-Time plan. In Rev. 6, he saw Jesus as the Lamb, opening the seals at the End of the Age. With the breaking of the second seal, John beheld a red horse whose rider was granted the ability to make war with the nations.

Who is the one opening the seals, releasing the End-Time judgments? It is Jesus.

The invasion of Israel by Babylon, which is talked about in Joel 2:2-9, is actually a foreshadow of End-Time military invasion.

The Babylonian invasion, the most terrible military crisis for Israel in the Old Testament, occurred when King Nebuchadnezzar attacked Israel three times successively over a twenty-year period. These three waves occurred in 606, 597 and 586 BC and left the nation utterly decimated.

For sure, the Babylonian army was an evil and cruel army. In Hab. 1:5-11, God Himself told Habakkuk that He is the one who raise up the evil Babylonians to judge Israel. Out of His jealousy for the wholehearted love of Israel, He raised the Chaldeans up.

Zech. 12 -14 prophesied that in the End Times, the Joel. 2:2–9 military invasion against Israel would be repeated. An evil and hostile empire will shake Israel to the core of its foundation. This conflict will far surpass the intensity and magnitude of the devastation brought by Babylon in 586 BC and by Rome in AD 70.

Study the books of Ezekiel, Daniel and Revelation, and you will see how God raises up the evil leader Antichrist. It is God who will cause the ten nations to unite and give the fullness of their power – military, political, and economic power – to the Antichrist. This empire under the reign of the man of sin will impact the entire globe (Rev. 13:7; 17:16–17). This empire will first attack Israel, and then they will turn on the nations of the world.

Joel. 2:2–9 itself paints a clear prophetic picture of the hostile military conflict that nations will have with the coalition of nations under the Antichrist. It gives us a clear description of what is going to happen to Israel, and to a lesser degree, the nations of the Earth at the End of the Age.



We need to be watchful of the things that are to come. We must not be caught unaware! Paul warns us in 1 Thessalonians 5:3 that it will come unexpectedly for those who are not watching. Just when the whole world thinks that it is an hour of peace, the peace will suddenly be disrupted and forcibly taken away, leaving many shocked, confused and offended.

Military invasion by evil armies will certainly happen at the End of the Age. It is not a question of if it will happen but when. Hence it is absolutely crucial for us to acquire full understanding and have clarity concerning the things that are to come, so that we can prepare ourselves and our children.

Like the sons of Issachar, may God give us understanding and wisdom to know what to do!



Readings and Prayers for the week

Readings for Week 29

- Take time to read Luke. 21:2-24, Matt. 24:15-22 and Rev. 6:3-8. Ask the Holy Spirit to impress on you the severity of the invasions at the End of the Age. Be watchful and keep abreast of the current world news. Gain understanding and seek for wisdom to know what to do, and for grace to live out the lifestyle of the wise and watchful.

Prayers for Week 29

- Using 1 Thess. 5:4-5 pray for the Church to arise to be sons of light, awakening to the severity of the things that are to come.