

THE DAY OF THE LORD, PART 2: “THE LORD’S WARNING & INVITATION”

Joel 2:1-17

Ps. Jeffrey Susila

*The Lord warns us of coming judgment
because He lovingly wants us to return to Him.*

¹ Blow a trumpet in Zion;
 sound an alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
 for the day of the Lord is coming; it is near,
² a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains
 a great and powerful people;
their like has never been before,
 nor will be again after them
 through the years of all generations.

³ Fire devours before them,
 and behind them a flame burns.
The land is like the garden of Eden before them,
 but behind them a desolate wilderness,
 and nothing escapes them.

⁴ Their appearance is like the appearance of horses,
 and like war horses they run.

⁵ As with the rumbling of chariots,
 they leap on the tops of the mountains,
like the crackling of a flame of fire
 devouring the stubble,
like a powerful army
 drawn up for battle.

⁶ Before them peoples are in anguish;
 all faces grow pale.

⁷ Like warriors they charge;
 like soldiers they scale the wall.
They march each on his way;
 they do not swerve from their paths.

⁸ They do not jostle one another;
 each marches in his path;
they burst through the weapons
 and are not halted.

⁹ They leap upon the city,
 they run upon the walls,
they climb up into the houses,
 they enter through the windows like a thief.

¹⁰ The earth quakes before them;
the heavens tremble.
The sun and the moon are darkened,
and the stars withdraw their shining.
¹¹ The Lord utters his voice
before his army,
for his camp is exceedingly great;
he who executes his word is powerful.
For the day of the Lord is great and very awesome;
who can endure it?

¹² “Yet even now,” declares the Lord,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³ and rend your hearts and not your garments.”
Return to the Lord your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.
¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the Lord your God?

¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶ gather the people.
Consecrate the congregation;
assemble the elders;
gather the children,
even nursing infants.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her chamber.

¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep
and say, “Spare your people, O Lord,
and make not your heritage a reproach,
a byword among the nations.
Why should they say among the peoples,
‘Where is their God?’”

Overview

- I. **The Lord’s warning: “Judgment is coming” (vv. 1-11)**
- II. **The Lord’s invitation: “Return to me” (vv. 12-17)**
 - A. Return to the Lord with all your heart (vv. 12-13a)
 - B. Return to the Lord who is gracious and merciful (vv. 13b-14)
 - C. Return to the Lord together as His people (vv. 15-17)