

The Day of the LORD, Part 4: “The LORD Is Judge and Refuge”

Joel 3:1-21

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Joel 3:1-21 (ESV)

3 “For behold, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, ² I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. And I will enter into judgment with them there, on behalf of my people and my heritage Israel, because they have scattered them among the nations and have divided up my land, ³ and have cast lots for my people, and have traded a boy for a prostitute, and have sold a girl for wine and have drunk it.

⁴ “What are you to me, O Tyre and Sidon, and all the regions of Philistia? Are you paying me back for something? If you are paying me back, I will return your payment on your own head swiftly and speedily. ⁵ For you have taken my silver and my gold, and have carried my rich treasures into your temples. ⁶ You have sold the people of Judah and Jerusalem to the Greeks in order to remove them far from their own border. ⁷ Behold, I will stir them up from the place to which you have sold them, and I will return your payment on your own head. ⁸ I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the people of Judah, and they will sell them to the Sabeans, to a nation far away, for the LORD has spoken.”

⁹ Proclaim this among the nations:

Consecrate for war; stir up the mighty men.

Let all the men of war draw near; let them come up.

¹⁰ Beat your plowshares into swords,
and your pruning hooks into spears;
let the weak say, “I am a warrior.”

¹¹ Hasten and come, all you surrounding nations,
and gather yourselves there.

Bring down your warriors, O LORD.

¹² Let the nations stir themselves up
and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat;
for there I will sit to judge
all the surrounding nations.

¹³ Put in the sickle,
for the harvest is ripe.
Go in, tread,
for the winepress is full.
The vats overflow,
for their evil is great.

¹⁴ Multitudes, multitudes,
in the valley of decision!

For the day of the LORD is near
in the valley of decision.

¹⁵ The sun and the moon are darkened,
and the stars withdraw their shining.

¹⁶ The LORD roars from Zion,
and utters his voice from Jerusalem,
and the heavens and the earth quake.

But the LORD is a refuge to his people,
a stronghold to the people of Israel.

¹⁷ “So you shall know that I am the LORD your God,
who dwells in Zion, my holy mountain.

And Jerusalem shall be holy,
and strangers shall never again pass through it.

¹⁸ “And in that day
the mountains shall drip sweet wine,
and the hills shall flow with milk,
and all the streambeds of Judah
shall flow with water;
and a fountain shall come forth from the house of the LORD
and water the Valley of Shittim.

¹⁹ “Egypt shall become a desolation
and Edom a desolate wilderness,
for the violence done to the people of Judah,
because they have shed innocent blood in their land.

²⁰ But Judah shall be inhabited forever,
and Jerusalem to all generations.

²¹ I will avenge their blood,
blood I have not avenged,
for the LORD dwells in Zion.”

One Thing from Joel 3:1-21

Our refuge is the Judge of all nations who will bring final retribution and restoration.

Overview of Joel 3:1-21

1. The reasons for world-wide judgment (vv.1-8)
2. The pictures of final judgment (vv.9-15)
3. The only refuge in judgment (vv.16-21)

Application: “Seek refuge in the LORD your God”...

- For your own sins.
- In others’ sins against you.
- Is our message to lost people we love.