

Joel 3:14-15

- I. The final conclusion in the valley – Joel 3:14
 - a. We find that God uses the words Multitudes twice
 - i. When we see something repeated or quoted or stated more than once, God is emphasizing something here
 - ii. In this instance, the emphasis is on the numbers of people!
 - b. The people are now in the valley. They will be judged (as we saw last week)
 - c. What is interesting is that the word decision used here
 - i. The word bears in it the idea of cutting and sharp! (For example Job 41:30)
 - ii. The judgment of God, will be one that is sharp and cutting. It will spare no one.
 - iii. Let us get a glimpse of this in Revelation 19:15¹ (Notice it is the sword)
 1. This word sword is the idea of sabre or a cutlass
 2. It was used for blowing heavy strikes and massive damage without regard to object being hit!
 3. When God brings Judgment, it is not going to be tiny little jabs...He will be here for vengeance on the enemies of His people – Revelation 19:21
 4. The only place you find this word is in Revelation (Show all references)
 - a. there is one exception - Luke 2:35
 - b. Do we get a sense now of how Mary was going to feel?
 - iv. The decision is not whether or not someone is innocent. That was decided when they took the mark of the beast – Revelation 14:9-11 (the result being verse 11)
 - v. This is God's decision to condemn them eternally now. God is in the middle between the enemies of God and God's people and He separates them – Matthew 25:33²
 1. This will take place after the great battle when the actual judging of the surrounding nations take place – Joel 3:12 (Attested to in many different prophecies which we have already discussed)
 2. This will be, as many scholars believe, before the great white throne judgment which happens in Revelation 20
- II. Then we find also, the creation itself responds – Joel 3:15
 - a. The sun and moon will grow dark
 - i. This again has a lot of connection to the time of Revelation
 - ii. Look at what is said in Revelation 19:17³ (two views toward handling this)
 1. One the sun is darkened and the angle stands out brighter than it
 - a. This would enable the people to stare at the sun

¹ Revelation 19:15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

² Matthew 25:33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

³ Revelation 19:17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God,

- b. The people would see the angel because it is brighter than the sun will be.
 - c. We find where the sun is darkened a couple of times throughout Revelation
 - i. **Revelation 6:12** – Sun became black as sackcloth
 - ii. **Revelation 8:12** – 3rd part of the sun was struck
 - 2. Two the angel is brighter than our present day sun
 - a. This would burn the eyes of the viewers in any regard
 - b. There seems to be no scriptural evidence to this end
 - b. Stars will diminish their brightness
 - i. This fits with
 - 1. **Revelation 12:4** - the third of the heaven being thrown to earth –
 - 2. **Revelation 8:12⁴** – 1/3 of the stars do not shine
 - ii. Now, let us put everything together from what we have seen
 - 1. We know that God is calling the people to their own judgment; are we going to continue on our own path, pursuing our own life
 - 2. I would be remised if we didn't reference **Jude 1:7-11** and I wonder, how many of us even sitting here, are going to be held guilty for not warning those we can?
 - iii. Notice also what is said in **2 Thessalonians 1:9-10⁵** (This fits in line with the coming of God as a warrior in Revelation 19
 - 1. Mankind will be judged. Yet we as a church sit in our pews not caring. Not feeling. Not concerned. We think that we are ok. As long as we just keep in our own world and only once in a while step out of it, we are fine. We may even attend church one time a year to show that we are good right?
 - 2. God expects more. He is pleading with His people to call out for laborers – **Matthew 9:38** (**Luke 10:2⁶**) (The fields are white to harvest – **John 4:35**)
 - a. We are praying that God will open the hearts of believers to fulfill the call to work in the harvest of souls
 - b. This prayer, however, may result in us being called ourselves...are we willing to answer that call?
 - iv. So then we need to ask ourselves...What do we do with this information that we have looked at for the most part of chapter 3?
- III. Lesson for us: Do we pity those who are going to go under this judgment?

⁴ **Revelation 8:12** Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.

⁵ **2 Thessalonians 1:9-10** These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

⁶ **Luke 10:2-3** Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

- a. It is not just a head issue. We know the Word. We know what it says. It is a heart issue
 - i. It is the issue of putting into action what we know
 - ii. It is allowing our actions to pursue what God's Word is telling us
 - iii. It is, sadly, common of many believers to state that they believe, but then never put to practice their belief.
- b. Yes, we can call ourselves Christians. Unfortunately in our culture that term has been warped into so many things. Instead, I love the name Christ-Followers.
 - i. This removes our ability to just claim a name and go on without any change
 - ii. It now gives us a standard to measure ourselves to. Are we following?
 1. In the verse in Matthew, It says that Jesus had compassion!
 2. He was moved with grief over the lostness of the people
 3. How do we stack up to that emotion?
 4. See, not as just a Christian, but as a Christ Follower, we are to be moved as well! If we are not, then we are not a follower. We are just claiming the name of Christian.
 - iii. May our hearts be moved. May our souls be stirred. May we realize the calling of God. If not, where or better yet what, is our fruit.

Where are we? Are we moved, are we changed? Or are we saying, you know...I know it. But I am not affected. I am not motivated. I don't feel it. I am not changed. Where are we?