

Joel 3:9-11

Now we are continuing our study from the book of Joel as we march forward to the greatest blessing that the people of Israel can receive.

- I. We find a proclamation to the people – Joel 3:9
 - a. They are going to do some things
 - i. Prepare for war
 1. We find that the world is constantly at war with God and His people (Taught by Jesus in the N.T.)
 2. This call just encourages them to do what they do already! Fight God
 - ii. wake up the mighty men
 1. Does not mean that they are sleeping
 2. It means that they are to be prepared and stirred up
 3. Isn't it amazing what stirs the world to go against God?
 - a. Look at the causes we see in our culture
 - i. There is the abortion cause
 - ii. The call for marriage equality
 - iii. the freedom from religion call
 - b. Each of these calls are desirous to bring out in mass force all who oppose the truth found in God's Word!
 - c. The forces of evil are bent on nothing more than to remove God and anything and everything that represents God out of society!
 - iii. draw the men of war near
 1. This is where they gather together.
 2. This is where their entire physical might in arms is seen and observed
 3. Example: me growing up and seeing the military on the bases in formation in Ft. Leonard Wood
 4. The people, whose whole life is built on just the physical will be impressed by the sight of such power!
 5. Can you feel the pride that is building in their hearts and minds?
 6. We will see where this leads
 - b. All of this can partially be seen in passages such as Jeremiah 6:4¹
 - c. This also can be pictured in the final battle
 - i. We see the prophecy in Ezekiel 38:7
 - ii. Revelation 19:17-21
- II. They are to do some things – Joel 3:10-11
 - a. beat their plowshares into swords and pruning hooks into spears
 - i. What are these tools
 1. Plowshare

¹ Jeremiah 6:4 "Prepare war against her; Arise, and let us go up at noon. Woe to us, for the day goes away, For the shadows of the evening are lengthening.

- a. This is the blade that sits on the front of the plow
 - b. It is used to help divide and break up the ground in order to make it ready to harvest
 - 2. pruning hook
 - a. It was a pole with a curved blade used to prune plants
 - b. It was not originally a weapon
 - c. It allowed the plants to grow healthier and more fruitful
 - ii. I get the image here of those who are normally what we would consider peaceful are now taking their tools of peace and making them into tools of war
 - iii. They are taking their tools of growth and prosperity and are turning them into tools of destruction and violence
 - iv. However, when God does set up His kingdom...There is an amazing change – [Isaiah 2:4](#)² (Notice the instruments of war are now used for prosperity and growth!) God's rule is marked with peace! (We will pursue this more in [Joel 3:18-21](#))
 - b. Brag about their prowess in war
 - i. Notice even the weak are getting into this
 - ii. They are talking about their might in war and power...yet they physically or emotionally are incapable.
 - c. assemble together all including the mighty ones
 - i. All of these weak fighters and even the truly brave will be brought together!
 - ii. This will be an impressive array of military might
 - iii. If we think about this in our day and age can we imagine the machines of war that are present?
 - 1. The armored tanks
 - 2. The air power
 - 3. Even the foot power!
 - 4. The sea power
 - 5. It is an awesome sense of full might!
 - d. go to war! (I would suggest [Romans 3:14-18](#) which quotes several O.T. Passages)
 - i. Their purpose again is to go to war (who is directing them here...That will be discussed in [Joel 3:12-13](#))
 - ii. They want to overthrow any remnant of God and His people!
 - iii. They do not want any form of God over them. They want to be their own gods!
 - iv. This reminds me of what Satan said in [Isaiah 14:13-14](#)
 - v. These people are the physical embodiment of that very sentiment from Satan. They want to be god and in order to do so they have to overthrow God!
- III. Lesson for us: Mankind is bent for war against God

² [Isaiah 2:4](#) He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.

- a. What does that say about our efforts now?
 - i. Today, we hear many say, "If only we can get control of government and then make people realize the truth".
 - ii. The truth is they don't want to realize the truth. They suppress it – Romans 1:18³
 - iii. If God, even after the Millennial reign will have many revolt against Him, what chance do we have because we are just human – Revelation 20:7-10
 - iv. What we can do however, is to show and preach and teach and live godly so those around us who still have a full mind (unlike the debased mind that God gives to many- Romans 1:28) will come to Salvation
- b. What does this tell us about man's efforts against God?
 - i. First, it tells us that their efforts will be driven with a seemingly mentally mad mindset of self importance and rule
 - ii. Second, it tells us that they are also driven by pride
 - 1. They love themselves and look highly on themselves – 2 Timothy 3:1-5
 - 2. They are love to be in control and the thought of being told there is a moral absolute and that they are wrong drives them crazy!
 - a. That is why we now have a generation of young people going to school and instead of coming out with a basis of knowledge, they come out trying to support social causes which remove moral absolute
 - b. This is promoting and propagating a narrative that right and wrong is something that is not objective but subjective to the individual's sense of truth.
 - c. look in our society today...surly we don't see young people protesting, destroying, looting, etc. right?
 - 3. Notice what happens with pride though – Proverbs 16:18
- c. What does this speak of when we talk about true peace?
 - i. This tells me that true peace is not found by throwing God out (our society is proving this every day is it not?)
 - ii. Even those who should be sounding the alarm are in on this – Micah 3:5⁴
 - iii. Where does true peace come from?
 - 1. First it comes from a relationship with God – Romans 5:1
 - 2. Second, it comes from the Holy Spirit – Galatians 5:22
 - 3. Third, it comes from God's sacrifice which restores fellowship – Ephesians 2:14-15
 - 4. Third, it doesn't come from man – 1 Thessalonians 5:3⁵

³ Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

⁴ Micah 3:5 Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets Who make my people stray; Who chant "Peace" While they chew with their teeth, But who prepare war against him Who puts nothing into their mouths:

⁵ [1 Thessalonians 5:3](#) For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.