

**The Coming Day of the Lord:
A Warning to Escape the Coming Judgment
Joel 02: 12–27**

1. *The urgent appeal for genuine sorrow and repentance*

a. The LORD's plea
for a personal change of heart

1) The plea: Be radical
and tear your heart — change it
— and return to the LORD

2) The reason

- The LORD is merciful
- The LORD at times turns back His judgment
- The Lord may answer genuine prayer and repentance

b. The prophet's plea
for a public worship service:
A call for all to fast and pray

1) His call for everyone
to attend and be consecrated
(set apart to God)

- The elders and children
- The bridegroom and bride

2) His call for the priests to take
the lead in crying out to God

- That God spare them
- That God keep His people (heritage) from being scorned, from discrediting God's Name before unbelievers

12 “Even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting and weeping and mourning.”

13 Rend your heart and not your garments.
Return to the LORD your God,
for he is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in love,
and he relents from sending calamity.

14 Who knows? He may turn and relent
and leave behind a blessing —
grain offerings and drink offerings
for the LORD your God.

15 Blow the trumpet in Zion,
declare a holy fast,
call a sacred assembly.

16 Gather the people,
consecrate the assembly;
bring together the elders,
gather the children,
those nursing at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room
and the bride her chamber.

17 Let the priests, who minister before the LORD,
weep between the portico and the altar.
Let them say, “Spare your people, LORD.
Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn,
a byword among the nations.
Why should they say among the peoples,
‘Where is their God?’ ”

2. *The Lord's wonderful promise to the repentant — mercy and restoration: A picture of God's coming kingdom*

- a. The promise of restoration
- 1) God would restore material prosperity
 - 2) God would restore respect and honour to His people
 - 3) God would restore peace and national security
 - He would drive back the northern army and defeat them
 - He would do this great thing Himself
 - 4) God would restore the land (Psa 65:9-13; Rom 8:19-22)
 - He would provide for the wild animals
 - He would provide abundant fruit from both trees and vines
 - 5) God would restore good weather — abundant rain, both in the spring and the fall
 - 6) God would restore their food supplies
 - He would fill the storage facilities and distribution centres with food

18 Then the LORD was jealous for his land and took pity on his people.

19 The LORD replied to them:
“I am sending you grain,
new wine and olive oil,
enough to satisfy you fully;
never again will I make you
an object of scorn to the nations.

20 “I will drive the northern horde far from you,
pushing it into a parched and barren land;
its eastern ranks will drown in the Dead Sea
and its western ranks in the Mediterranean Sea.
And its stench will go up;
its smell will rise.”
Surely he has done great things!

21 Do not be afraid, land of Judah;
be glad and rejoice.
Surely the LORD has done great things!

22 Do not be afraid, you wild animals,
for the pastures in the wilderness
are becoming green.
The trees are bearing their fruit;
the fig tree and the vine yield their riches.

23 Be glad, people of Zion,
rejoice in the LORD your God,
for he has given you the autumn rains
because he is faithful.
He sends you abundant showers,
both autumn and spring rains, as before.

24 The threshing floors
will be filled with grain;
the vats will overflow
with new wine and oil.

- He would repay the years of food lost due to the invasions by the locusts and the northern army

- The people would have plenty to eat

b. The purpose for restoration

1) To stir the people to praise the LORD

2) To make sure God's people are never again shamed

3) To make sure God's people know...

- That He is with them

- That He is the LORD, the only living and true God

25 "I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten — the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and the locust swarm — my great army that I sent among you.

26 You will have plenty to eat, until you are full, and you will praise the name of the LORD your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will my people be shamed.

27 Then you will know that I am in Israel, that I am the LORD your God, and that there is no other; never again will my people be shamed.