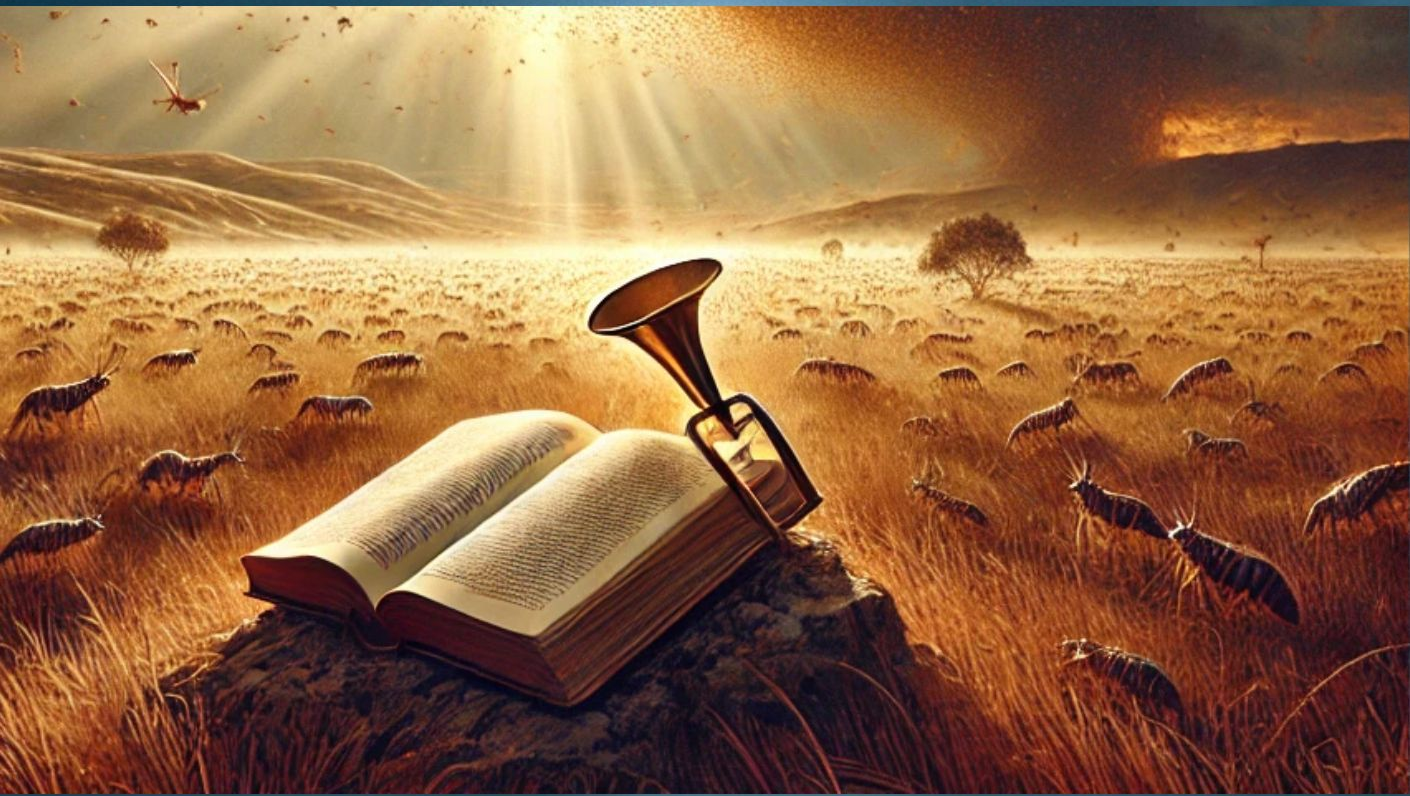


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THE DAY OF THE LORD

A STUDY ON THE BOOK OF JOEL

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The Book of Joel

The book of Joel is a *small* book of prophecy in the Old Testament, with only three chapters. It is familiar to many because the apostle Peter quoted from it on the day of Pentecost. The key to rightly dividing this book is to correctly apply the key words *sun*, *moon*, *earth* and *heavens* that are found in the book. In the Body of Christ, we are familiar with the meaning of these basic Bible “key” words, as found in Rev. 12:1. In that reference, “the sun” is a symbol of the truth of the word of God in the New Testament, or the Lord Jesus Christ, and “the moon” is a symbol of the law of Moses in the Old Testament.¹ But every place in the Bible where the words *see* and *soon* appear does **not** automatically mean that the writer is referring to the same symbolic meaning as found in Rev. 12:1. **The setting** of the particular passage or book **must** be considered carefully to determine how these “Key” words apply there; in fact, this is the case when we examine **the book of Joel**. In this book, these terms do **not** refer directly to the truth of the word of God in the Old and New Testaments. What *do* they mean in this setting? This brief lesson will pursue that answer.

In the book of Joel, the words “sun and moon” with “earth and heavens” are found in chapters 2:10, 2:30-31, and 3:15-16. Let's begin by reviewing these terms and see how their symbolic meaning can vary based upon the setting in which they are used; more specifically, we will see how they apply in the book of Joel.

Sun, Moon, Heaven, Earth

Let's begin with some background concerning the **origin** of mankind's religious-civil government, a relationship that began in Gen. 11! It is here that the fallen man's religion, as depicted by the tower of Babel and symbolized as “the sun,” was also established with fallen man's civil government. The civil-city of Babel was also symbolized as the moon. **The false sun and moon (also referred to as heaven**

¹ Jn. 1:17; Ps. 104:19; Heb. 7:19

and earth respectively²), along with the **absolute** (idolatrous) worship of Nimrod the mighty hunter, is found in Gen. 10:8-10; 11:1-9, note verses 4-5. The word “Babel” means *confusion* (Gen. 11:9), and was the origin for the religious-civil Babylon mentioned six times in the book of Revelation³; as six is the Bible number for “man without God.”⁴

With this background, we can now examine how the terms sun and moon were used in Isa. 13 when God pronounced judgment against **Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon.**

Isa. 13:1, 6, 9-10, 13, 19 "The burden of **Babylon**, which Isaiah the son of Amoz did see.... 6 Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as **a destruction from the Almighty**... 9 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. 10 For **the stars** of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: **the Sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine**... 13 **Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place**, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.. 19 And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.⁵

In addition, in Isa. 14:4,12, King Nebuchadnezzar was called by the Lord, “**Lucifer son of the morning**,” or “*time false day-star (sun)*”. He was **compared** to the **true** day-star (sun), which is Jesus Christ;⁶ also to “the **true** sun and moon” of Jesus Christ in the new covenant and Moses in the old covenant, as in Rev. 12:1-2. The **false** “sun **and** moon” in Isa. 13:10, are compared with “the heavens and earth” in Isa. 13: 13, respectively. Note also that this false **sun** has a **present-day counterpart** in the Pope of the Catholic Church (2 Thes. 2:3-4);

² Sun and heavens are used interchangeably to symbolize the religious component of a government or empire; whereas, moon and earth are used interchangeably to symbolize the civil system.

³ Rev. 14:8; 16:19; 17:5; 18:2, 10, 21

⁴ Rev. 13:18

⁵ See Gen. 19:24-25, 27-28

⁶ In 2 Pt. 1:19; Ps. 84:11; Mal. 4:2; Dan. 12:3 compared with Mt. 13:43

also, the false **moon** in civil powers or human governments, called “the dragon” in Rev. 12-13, and the false **stars** in the World Council of Churches (Joel 3:15).

Now, let us outline the time frames of the book of Joel, in **type and shadow** (Heb. 10:1).

1. **Chapter 1** takes place during the time of the Old Testament in the land of Judea, which includes the city of Jerusalem from the time of the kingdom of Babylon to John the Baptist.⁷
2. **Chapter 2:1-17** takes place in Israel, **at the same time** as the ministries of Jesus, and the 40-year dispensation of the early church.
3. **Chapter 2:18-32** describes events that will take place during “the last hour” (15 years) of our present Gentile world, these will include the battle of Armageddon and the beginning of the 1,000-year reign of Christ.⁸
4. **Chapter 3** will take place in the Gentile world also, but with special emphasis on Israel just before, during, and shortly after, the battle of Armageddon in our present day.

Joel 2:28-32 is very familiar to us today, as the **apostle Peter** quoted it in **Acts 2:16-21** at the birth of the early church. But was the prophecy of Joel 2:28-32 completely **fulfilled** in the days of the **early** church, as Peter's quote suggested? No, because the early church was only in divine order for about forty years (AD 30-70), and saw only a **partial fulfillment** of this prophecy! Therefore, there remains a **complete fulfillment** of Joel 2:28-32 in the days of the **latter** church (7^{1/2} years) **and** “the last hours a 15-year period that is to occur during our present Gentile world.

The apostle Peter **did apply** Joel 2:28-32 to the time of the **early** church, so this reference was **partially fulfilled** at that time. But to understand **the remaining part of the fulfillment**, it is important to look more closely at the actual reference.

⁷ See Mt. 3:7, the wrath to come.

⁸ AD 26-70; Jn. 1:26; Lk. 19:41-42

Joel 2:28-32 And it shall come to pass **afterward**, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: **29** And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. [see verse 32] **30** And I will show wonders **in the heavens and in the earth**, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. **31** **The sun** shall be turned into darkness, and the **moon** into blood, **before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come**. [False religion and human government during the seven vials of plagues of Rev. 15 - 16, in the last half-hour, or 7 ½ years, leading to Armageddon] **32** And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

In a **complete** fulfillment of this reference, **two different things** are happening *chronologically* **in these five verses**.

1. *Verses 30-31* occur "**before**" the battle of Armageddon, that is referred to symbolically as the day of the Lord in verse 31, in "the last hour"
2. *Verses 28-29,32* occur "**afterward**"; that is, **after the battle of Armageddon** (see verse 28).

The word "**before**" in **verse 31**, refers to **the day of the Lord** in that verse, which is the battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16:16) at the end of our present day. This is also seen in **Joel 3:14**, where the day of the Lord is near! The word "**afterward**," in **verse 28**, refers to "after" the events in the previous verses 18-27 (including verses 30-31), and then this ties to verse 32.⁹

Jesus applied a portion of the book of Joel **to his day** in his ministry to the nation of Israel. He **paralleled a portion** of the prophecy of Joel (see Joel 2:1-17); however, he made certain **adjustments** to the prophecy. To understand his adjustments, compare the word "before" in Joel 2:30-31 with the word "after" in the settings of the following table.

⁹ See Ezk. 37:9-10; 39:25-29 with Joel 2:18; 3:1

Mt. 24:29-31	Mk. 13:24-27	Lk. 21:24-28
<p>29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:</p> <p><i>[compare the word “before” in Joel 2:30-31 with the word “after” here!]</i></p> <p>30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.</p> <p>31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.</p>	<p>24 But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,</p> <p>25 And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.</p> <p>26 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.</p> <p>27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.</p>	<p>24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.</p> <p>25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;</p> <p>26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.</p> <p>27 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.</p> <p>28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.</p>

Note that in these settings, the key words are highlighted and their meanings are outlined below:

Sun - The sun symbolizes the High priest of Israel, with the Sadducees.

Moon - The moon symbolizes the civil powers, such as the Herodians

Stars—The stars are an extension of the meaning of “sun,” and refer to the Pharisees.

Clouds—Compare “clouds” in Mt. 24:30 and Mk. 13:26 to Mt. 26:64. In Lk. 21:27, it is a **single cloud**¹⁰ that is made up of the **two clouds** in Rev. 1:7, or the **complete** Bride or man-child.

¹⁰ Rev. 10:1; 14:14-16

Also, **connected with the above references**, Jesus prophesied that **“heaven and earth shall pass away,”** meaning “the first heaven of the law of Moses (Old Testament), in the nation of Israel” would pass away in the destruction of AD 70!

Mt. 24:35	Mk. 13:31	Lk. 21:33
Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass	Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass	Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass

Heaven and earth shall pass away—The first heaven and the first earth in Israel passed away in AD 70.

My words—During the early church in the second heaven, “my words” produced Bride members who are mentioned in Rev. 6:9-11.

The ministry of the apostles in the early church, from AD 30 to AD 70, continued the ministry of Jesus. This was a **partial fulfillment** of the prophecy in Joel, as well as in Joel 2:11, “and the Lord shall utter **his voice** before **his army**.” In this partial fulfillment of Joel, “**his voice**” referred to the apostolic ministry of the early church,¹¹ and the phrase, “**his army**” referred to the Roman General Titus and his army that destroyed Israel in AD 70!

But, towards the end of the forty years of the early church, as the pagan Roman Empire was destroying the land of Israel, **the apostle John** was given the last book of the New Testament, “the Revelation” of Jesus Christ. At that time, John was imprisoned far away from Israel on the island of Patmos (Rev. 1:9), in the Aegean Sea.

In “the Revelation” the Spirit of God showed John things from the book of Joel that fit as the fulfillment in **our present day**. One example of this is found in **Rev. 6:12-17**, as “the sixth seal” of “the little book”¹² was opened for John to record.¹³

Rev. 6:12-17 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a **great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; 13 And the**

¹¹ Jn. 3:29, Jesus; Jn. 5:25, the apostles in the early church.

¹² Rev. 5:1-6; 10:2-3

¹³ See “the sixth seal” in the Bible lesson “Revelation 6,” in Book 3.

Stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. 14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. 15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; 16 And Said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and front the wrath of the Lamb: 17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Note that the above events above will happen “before” the great day of his wrath as in Joel 2:30-31!

In verse 1.7, “the day of his wrath is come” agrees with “the day of the Lord,” in Joel 3:9-16, which speaks of the beginning of “the last half-hour” that leads to the battle of Armageddon in our day.

The phrase, ***the day of the Lord***, is found **five times** in the book of Joel;¹⁴ and the meaning and application of these references need to be clearly understood. There are **three** general applications of this phrase:

- 1) At the **end** of “the Jewish world,’ in the destruction of Israel in AD 70.¹⁵
- 2) At the **end** of “the present Gentile world,’ in the battle of Armageddon.¹⁶
- 3) At the **end** of the 1,000 years and a little season. **In the pattern of Joel 2:11**, *his voice* will refer to 144,000 restored Jewish ministers **before** the last battle of the world in Gog and Magog.¹⁷

The destructive day of the Lord for the *nation of Israel*, in AD 70, was based on what Jesus had prophesied in Mt. 23:34-39 and Lk. 11:49-51!¹⁸

¹⁴ Joel 1:15; 2:1; 2:11; 2:31; 3:14

¹⁵ Heb. 9:26; Mt. 13:40, “this world”; Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11

¹⁶ Mt. 13:39, “the world”; Rev. 16:16; Joel 2:31; 3:9, 14.

¹⁷ Ezk. 38-39; Rev. 20:7-9

¹⁸ See also Heb. 11:4-32; with Mt. 8:11 and Lk. 13:28

Mt. 23:34-39	Lk. 11:49-51
<p>34 Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:</p> <p>35 That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zechariah son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.</p> <p>36 Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.</p> <p>37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!</p> <p>38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.</p> <p>39 For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.</p>	<p>49 Therefore also said the wisdom of God, I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they shall slay and persecute:</p> <p>50 That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation;</p> <p>51 From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation.</p>

God the Father, through Jesus Christ his Son, demanded righteous judgment upon the nation of Israel for all the **righteous blood** that had been shed in it, from "righteous Abel to the prophet Zacharias." This judgment applied to item 1, in **the day of the Lord** paragraph above.

In like manner, the blood of all the righteous in the New Testament will demand righteous judgment, from the fall of the early church through the latter church, in the battle of Armageddon for *the Gentile world* (see item 2 above).

Note: Even though, in type, portions of the book of Joel happened at **the same time** as the early and the latter churches, Joel was *not* prophesying to either of these spiritual churches as such. He was dealing **exclusively** with the unbelieving natural Jews and the stubborn, rebellious nation of Israel! This truth **must** be kept in mind in order for the book of Joel to be rightly divided!

The text of the book of Joel

In type and shadow, *Joel chapter 1* is the time of the Old Testament; and takes place in the land of Judea and city of Jerusalem, from the time of the kingdom of Babylon to John the Baptist,

Joel 1:1-4 The word of the LORD that came to Joel the son of Pethuel.

2 Hear this, ye old men, and give ear, all ye inhabitants of the land. Hath this been in your days, or even in the days of your fathers? 3 Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation. 4 That which the **palmerworm** hath left hath **the locust eaten**; and that which **the locust** hath left hath **the cankerworm** eaten; and that which **the cankerworm** hath left hath **the caterpillar** eaten.

The four stages of locust used by Joel (1:4) as a symbol of the coming destruction for the land of Israel are more clearly seen in **the four beast symbols of Dan. 7:4-7, 12.**

In Daniel 7:4-7, 12,

1. The lion represented the **Babylonian Empire**, under Nebuchadnezzar.
2. The *bear* represented the **Medo-Persian Empire**, under Cyrus the Great.
3. The *leopard* represented the **Grecian Empire**, under Alexander the Great.
4. The *fourth beast* represented the **pagan-papal Roman Empire** under the Caesars and later, the Popes.

Therefore, the **four** stages of locust in Joel, and the four animals in Dan. 7, represented **the same four Gentile empires**.¹⁹

Joel 1:5-20 Awake, ye drunkards, and weep; and howl, all ye drinkers of wine, because of the new wine; for it is cut off from your mouth.

6 For **a nation** is come up upon **my land**, strung, and without number, **whose teeth are the teeth of a lion**, and he hath the cheek teeth of a great lion [Dan. 7:4-7, 12].

¹⁹ A parallel symbolism to “the locust” as nations and empires, in the book of Joel (1:4; 2:25), is that of “the grasshoppers” as people and nations, in: Judg. 6:1-5; 7:12; Isa. 40:22; Jer. 46:20-24, note verse 23; Nah. 3:7-19, note verse 17.

7 He hath laid **my vine** waste, and barked **my fig tree**: he hath made it clean bare, and cast it away; the branches thereof are made white [*land, vine, and fig tree are Israel*]. **8 Lament** like a virgin girded with sackcloth for the husband of her youth. **9** The meat offering and the drink offering is cut off from the house of the LORD; the priests, the LORD'S ministers, mourn. **10** The field is wasted, the land mourneth; for the corn is wasted: the new wine is dried up, the oil languisheth. **11** Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, O ye vinedressers, for the wheat and for the barley; because the harvest of the field is perished. **12** The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, even all the trees of the field, are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men. **13** Gird yourselves, and lament, ye priests: howl, ye ministers of the altar: come, lie all night in sackcloth, ye ministers of my God: for the meat offering and the drink offering is withheld from the house of your God. **14** Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD, **15** Alas for the day! for **the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty** shall it come. **16** Is not the meat cut off before our eyes, yea, joy and gladness from the house of our God? **17** The seed is rotten under their' clods, the garners are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered, **18** How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate. **19** O LORD, to thee will I cry: for the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and the flame hath burned all the trees of the field. **20** The beasts of the field cry also unto thee: for the rivers of waters are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness. [*Dt. 11:13-15, no former and latter rains.*]

In type and shadow, Joel 2.-1-17 takes place in Israel, at the same time as the ministries of Jesus and the early church.²⁰

Joel 2:1-17 Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let **all the inhabitants of the land tremble** [*see verse 10*]: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand; **2** A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

²⁰ AD 26-AD 70; Jn. 1:26; Lk. 19:41-44.

as the morning spread upon the mountains: **a great people and a strong**; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations [*Mt. 24:21, "such"*]. **3** A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: **the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness**; yea, and nothing shall escape them. **4** The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and **as horsemen**, so shall they run. **5 Like the noise of chariots** on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, **as a strong people set in battle array**. **6** Before their face the people shall lie much pained: all faces shall gather blackness. **7** They shall **run like mighty men**; they shall climb the wall **like men of war**; and they shall **march everyone on his ways**, and they shall not break their ranks: **8** Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk everyone in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded. **9** They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief [*verses 2-9 is a description of Roman army like a locust swarm*]. **10** the **earth** shall quake before them; the **heavens** shall tremble: the **sun** and the **moon** shall be dark, and the **stars** shall withdraw their shining [*tremble, see Joel 2.1*]: **11** And the LORD shall **utter his voice before his army**: *for his camp is very great*: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD *is* great and very terrible; and who can abide it [*see Luke 14:19:41-44*]? **12** Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: **13** And rend your heart, and turn unto the LORD our God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil [*the nature of God, Ex. 34:6*]. **14** Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God? **15** Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: **16** Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber; and the bride out of her closet. **17** Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to

reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, **Where is their God?**

Between Joel 2:17 and 18, there is a “time-gap” of **two church eras** (the early and the latter churches, James. 5:7; with Jewish and Gentile believers) **before the restoration of Israel** to the grace of God.²¹ This “time-gap” is almost **2,000 years**, or two prophetic days.²²

In type and shadow, Joel 2:18-32 describes “the last hour” of our present Gentile world, including the battle of Armageddon and the beginning of the 1,000-year reign of Christ.

Joel 2:18-27 Then will the LORD *be jealous* for his land, and pity his people. **19** Yea, the LORD will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen: **20** But I will remove far off from you the northern army, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his stink shall come tip, and his ill savor shall come up, because he hath done great things. **21** Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the LORD will do great things. **22** Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength. **23** Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he **hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month** [*moderately, Acts 2-7; see also note at Joel 1:20*]. **24** And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil [*see Joel 3:18*]. **25** **And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great arm y which I sent among you** [*see Joel 1:4*]. **26** And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and **my people shall never be ashamed**. **27** And ye shall throw that I am in mist of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed [Jn. 8:58; Jesus is I AM; Rev. 21:3; 1 Cor. 15:25; Gen. 2:9]

²¹ Acts 15:14-18, note “after this”; Amos 9:11-12; between Joel 2:17 (AD 70) and 2:18 (Armageddon) = Hos. 5:15-6:3 (Joel 2:23).

²² 2 Pt. 3:8

Joel 2:28-32 And it shall come to pass *afterward*, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: **29** And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit [see verse 32]. **30** And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. **31** The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, *before* the great and the terrible day of the LORD come. **32** And it shall Come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

In type and shadow, Joel 3 takes place in the Gentile world; but, with special emphasis on Israel, just before, during, and shortly after the battle of Armageddon, in our present day.

Joel 3:1-14 For, behold, in those days, and in that time, **when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem,** **2** I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among *the* nations, and parted my land. **3** And they have cast lots for my people; and have given a boy for a harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink [see note below]. **4** Yea, and what have ye to do with me, **O Tyre and, Zidon,** and all the coasts of Philistia? will ye tender me a recompense? And if ye recompense me, swiftly and speedily will I return your recompense upon you; [World Council of Churches and the Roman Catholic Church, *Isa. 23:1, 12; Rev. 17:5*]. **5** because ye have taken my silver and my gold, and have carried into your temples my goodly pleasant things: **6** The children also of **Judah and the children of Jerusalem** have ye sold unto the Greeks, that ye might remove them far from their border. **7** Behold, I will raise them out of the place whither ye have sold them, and will return your recompense upon your own head: **8** And I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the children of Judah, and they shall

sell them to the Sabians, to a people far off: for the LORD hath spoken it. **9 Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles, Prepare war, wake 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 strong** [*reverse of Isa. 2:4, Mic. 4:3*]. **11** Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about; **thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD** [*Rev. 14:17-20; 19:11-20*]. **12** Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about [*Jehoshaphat is "the Lord judge"*]. **13** Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great [*Rev. 14:14-20*]. **14** Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

Joel 3:15 The **sun** and the **moon** shall be darkened, and the **stars** shall withdraw their shining.

The actions of the Catholic church, the United Nations as the dragon, and the World Council of Churches, which are **the sun, moon, and stars** respectively, will be diminished in the final crusade" against Jerusalem. These actions are the immediate cause of the battle of Armageddon!

Joel 3:16-21 The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and **the heavens and the earth shall** shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel [*see verse 15*]. **17** So shall ye know that **I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy**, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more. **18** And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim [*Zec. 14*]. **19** Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness, for the violence against the children of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land. **20** But **Judah** shall dwell forever, and **Jerusalem** from generation to generation, **21** For I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed: **for the LORD dwelleth in Zion.**

Note on Joel 3:3 - “and they have cast lots for my people; and **have given a boy for a harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink.** What does this mean? Although the Gentile nations were raised up by the Lord in the Old Testament as instruments to correct and punish the rebellious nation of Israel, these nations often wrongfully exceeded their authority.

So, the **surface meaning** of Joel 3:3 is the utter contempt the nations had for “the spoils of war” with Israel—a Jewish boy and girl. In their view, these were just a means to an end; that is, to enable them to continue with their desolate lives of perpetual whoredom and intoxication.

But **the hidden meaning** (as received from Bro. Sowders’ ministry) is much more serious. Israel was raised up by God to be “the firstborn” among the nations to serve God.²³ As such, this nation was intended to serve as “a light to the Gentiles.”²⁴ Even though God gave Israel “the law” through Moses, eternal life was not possible until Jesus Christ came.²⁵ So, if the nations had been seriously interested in anything meaningful besides the killing and looting instincts of Nimrod's rebellious God-hating “spirit,”²⁶ they would have made diligent inquiry. Thus, they would have determined that “**Christ is the end of the law [of Moses]** for righteousness to everyone that believeth.”²⁷ But in reality, they were **not** looking for eternal life, but rather to forcefully wield their destructive spirit on others for as long as their natural lives permitted. Thus, “they gave up a boy for an harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink.” “The boy” was representative of Jesus Christ and the spiritual kingdom of God, which they “sold” for the harlot system of religious Babylon; and “the girl” was representative of the true spiritual church which they “sold” for “the wine of [Babylon's] fornication,”²⁸ the perverse doctrine of this harlot system.

²³ Ex. 4:22

²⁴ Isa. 49:6

²⁵ Jn. 1:17; Heb. 7:19

²⁶ Gen. 11:1-9

²⁷ Rom. 10:4

²⁸ Rev. 17:1-5

Therefore, the Lord has “a controversy **with the nations**” (Jer. 25:31); and he will “gather **all nations**, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will he sit to judge **all the heathen** round about” (Joel 3:2,12).

