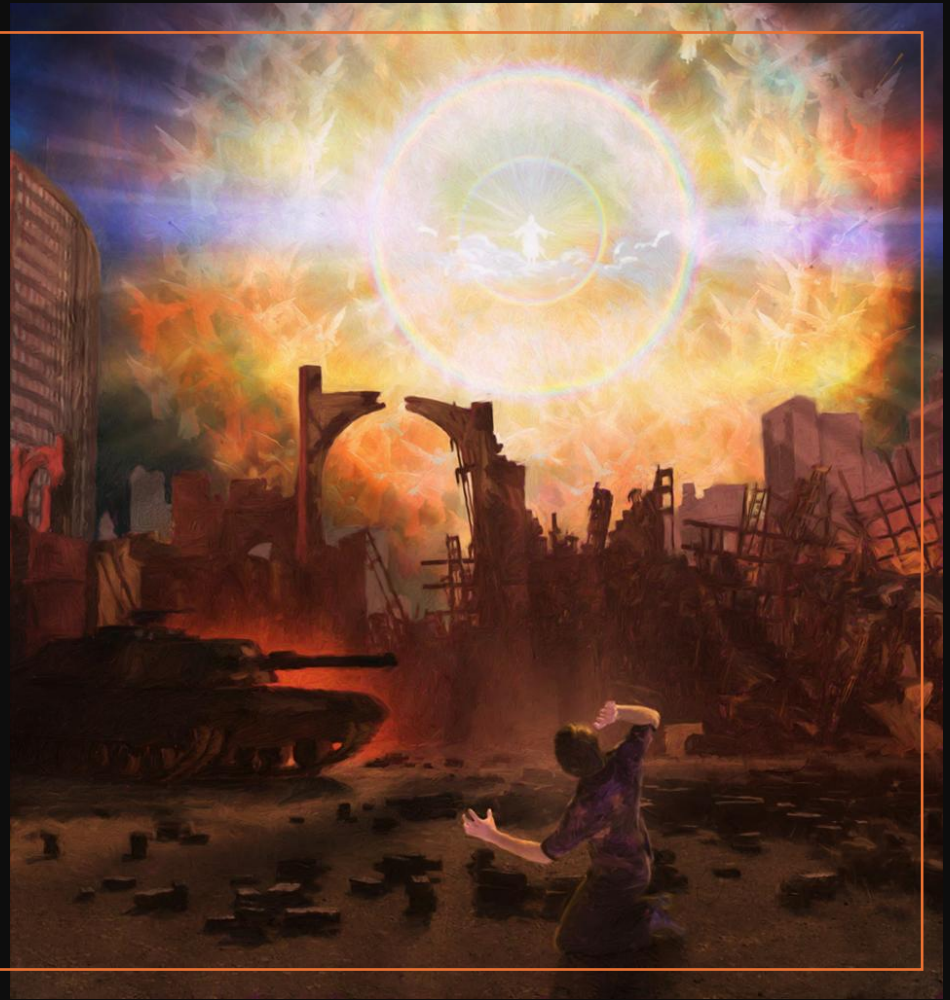


The Contemporary Day of the Lord

Joel 1:1-20



The Call to the Prophet

- We must pay attention to what God is saying to us through contemporary circumstances.
- We know nothing about Joel, except what we learn about him in his book.
- Joel was perhaps the earliest of the Old Testament's writing prophets.
- Joel probably did not give us many details about himself in order to keep his reader's attention focused on his message and not on himself.

The Severity of the Devastation

- Joel began his prophesizing by addressing the elders first.
- The elders could affirm that the nation faced a catastrophe of monumental proportions.
- Joel described four different kinds of locusts.
- The devastation caused by the locusts was extremely severe; everything was gone.

Locusts



The Sorrow of the Devastation

- Joel did not minimize the severity of the devastation.
- Wanting the people to understand the full severity of the devastation, Joel called on various groups in the land to mourn with him.
- The locusts had killed everything that would have enabled the nation to bring their worship offerings to the Lord.
- Joel wanted the people to understand what God was saying to them through that natural disaster.

The Call to the Ministers

- Joel focused on reaching the ministers to get them to recognize the need of the people to repent.
- The reason for repentance was because the worship of God was affected by the disaster.
- Joel issued a call to ministers to lead in repentance.
- The people in Joel's day experienced a contemporary day of the Lord.
- Joel himself was not outside of the Lord's judgment and salvation.

Conclusion

- We must turn to God in total dependence upon Him.
- When we question tragedies like the locust plague, 9/11, an accident, a cancer diagnosis, etc., we are asking the wrong question.
- We should be asking, “Why have these disasters not fallen on us?”
- Our problem is that we so easily forget how sinful we are.