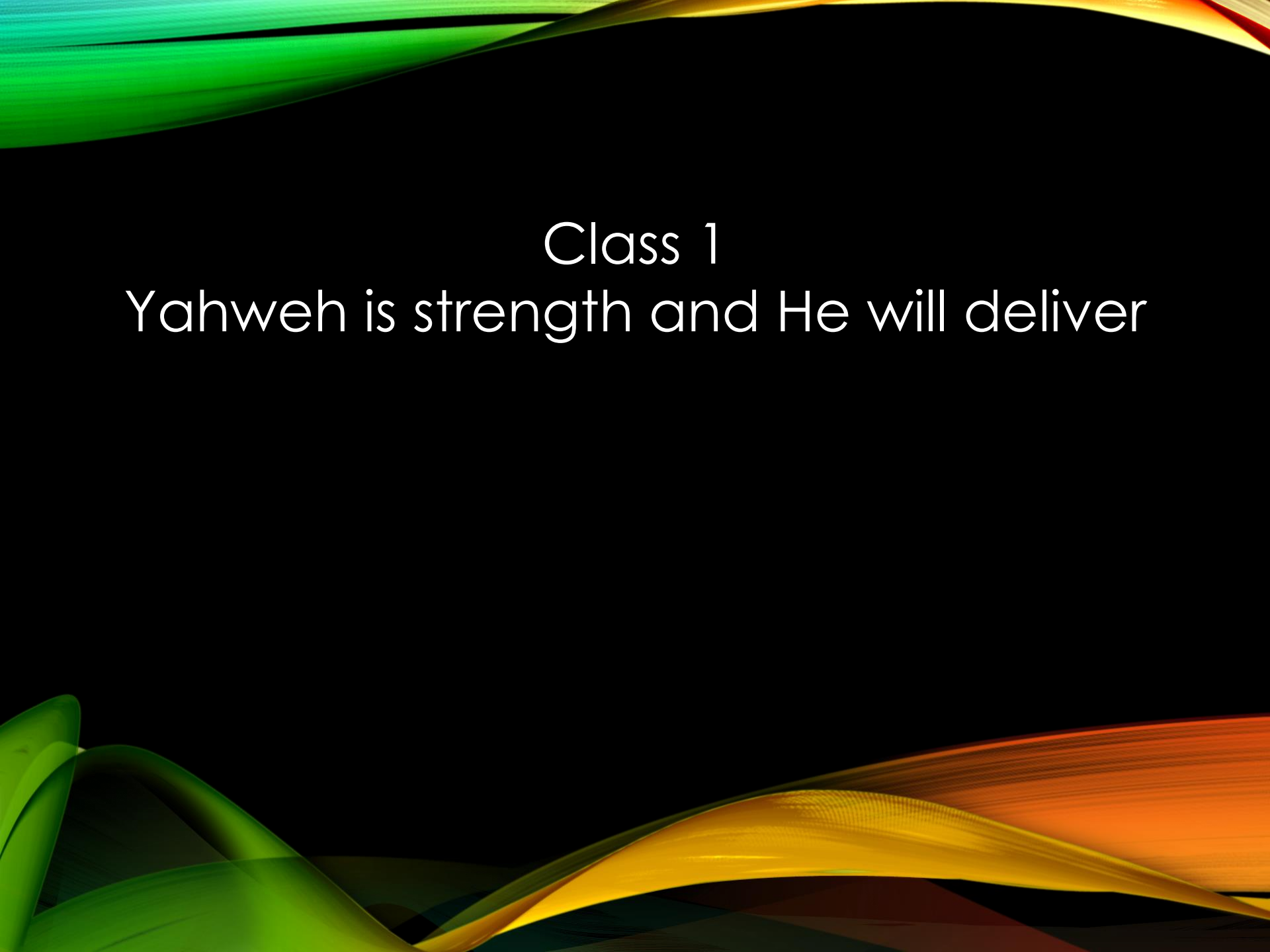




Class 1

Yahweh is strength and He will deliver

GOAL OF WEEKEND

Key Verses - Joel 2:12-13

“Yet even now,” says the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil. (RSV)

Goal:

To make a genuine commitment to turn to God now and to rend our hearts – making real changes in our lives – so that we will be prepared to meet Christ with joy and not with fear.

OUTLINE OF WEEKEND

Outline

Exhortation

Spiritual Condition

Class 1

- Goal
- Purpose of prophecy
- Joel background

Watch and pray

Class 2 (ch.1) - *Present*

- Spiritual struggles
- Impending judgment

Reform is needed
at all levels

Individual	National	Global

Class 3 (ch.2) - *Opportunity*

- Appeal to repent
- Individual vs national

Now is time for
personal change

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Class 4 (ch.3) - *Future*

- Nationally reconciled
- Cleansing of earth

Future for those in
Christ

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Exhort - *Future*

- Vision of kingdom

CLASS 1 OUTLINE

Questions to Answer

- 1) What is the purpose of prophecy?
- 2) Why did God send prophets?
- 3) What is the background of Joel's prophecy?
- 4) What is the relevance of Joel to our day?
- 5) What is the message of Joel's prophecy?

PURPOSE OF PROPHECY

Mark 13:33-37

“Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, watch.”

Purpose of prophecy is:

→ Watch and pray so not found sleeping – Christ says to “all”

PURPOSE OF PROPHECY(2)

In ages past, God has had among the nations a people of His own. These are wise in the wisdom of God, and venerate His word above all things. He has condescended to inform them what He intends to do before it comes to pass: “the Lord God will surely do nothing, but He revealeth his secret unto His servants the prophets.” This revelation is made so that His people’s faith may be confirmed and enlarged, and that in every generation they may know the times and seasons to which they stand related.

Knowing the signs, they are enabled to discern the times; and while consternation and dismay cause men’s hearts to fail, they are courageous, and rejoice in perceiving the approach of the Kingdom of God. [Elpis Israel, 1942 edition, p323]

Watching and praying → ~~fear/dismay~~ courageous rejoicing

WHY GOD SENT PROPHETS

2 Chron 36:14-17

Situation

v.14 Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which He had hallowed in Jerusalem.

God's Response

v.15 And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because He had compassion on His people, and on His dwelling place:

Peoples Response

v.16 But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised His words, and misused His prophets,

Result

until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, till there was no remedy... and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man... ”

God sent prophets to save His people, but they didn't listen!

WHY GOD SENT PROPHETS (2)

Jer 25:4-7

(v.4) And the LORD hath sent unto you all His servants the prophets, rising early and sending them; but ye have not hearkened, nor inclined your ear to hear.

(v.5) They said, 'turn ye again now every one from his evil way, and from the evil of your doings, and dwell in the land that the LORD hath given unto you and to your fathers forever and ever.'

(v.6) and go not after other gods to serve them, and provoke Me not to anger with the works of your hands; and I will do you no hurt.

(v.7) Yet ye have not hearkened unto me, saith the LORD, that ye might provoke Me to anger with the work of your hands to your own hurt.

People lost kingdom b/c didn't take action on prophecy!

BACKGROUND OF JOEL

WHO FROM/TO?

Joel – the Prophet

- Practically no personal information given
- Joel = Yahweh is strength
- Pethuel = God delivers

“Yahweh is strength and He delivers!”

Who spoken to? – Judah

- “Zion” (7x), “Jerusalem” (6x), “Judah” (6x)
- “House of Yahweh” = Temple (3x)
- “Valley of Jehoshaphat” (2x)
- No mention of Northern Kingdom

Joel signifies Yahweh's strength to deliver His people Judah

BACKGROUND OF JOEL

WHAT DID HE SAY?

Judgment Coming!

- “Day of Yahweh” imminent (8x)
- Land sick/barren (~30 examples)
- Due to spiritual sickness of people (Deut 28:15,38-40)

People and land to be cleansed by God!

BUT... salvation available if

- “hear” (1:2), “wake up” (1:5), “howl” (1:11), “gird” (1:13)
 - National appeal to repent (1:14)
- Turn to Yahweh “now”, repent, take action (2:12-16)
 - Individual appeal: offer available to anyone (2:32)

Judgment was coming quickly, but individual opportunity!

BACKGROUND OF JOEL

WHAT DID HE SAY? - OUTLINE

Despite present condition, individual appeal

- 1:1-13 → Warning of impending judgment
- 1:14-20 → Call to repentance
- 2:1-11 → Warning of impending judgment
- 2:12-17 → Call to repentance

Future hope, coming deliverance

- 2:18-32 → Overview: Yahweh's deliverance
- 3:1-8 → Trial: Nations appear in court
- 3:9-17 → Sentencing: Armageddon
- 3:18-21 → Result: Final deliverance of Judah

People needed cleansing → ultimately God will deliver

BACKGROUND OF JOEL

WHAT DID HE SAY? – nothing new

Deuteronomy 28	Joel
v.36 – a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known	1:2 – has anything like this happened in your days or in the days of your fathers?
v.38 – you shall carry much seed out to the field and gather but little in	1:17 – the seed shrivels under the clods... the grain has withered
v.38,39,42 – locusts will consume everything	1:4 – 4 waves of locusts destroy the nation
v.47 – because you did not serve Yahweh your God with joy	1:12 – joy has withered away from the sons of men
v.48 – you shall serve your enemies	3:3,6 – sold into slavery
v.48 – in hunger	1:16 – food cut off before our eyes
v.48 – in thirst	1:20 – rivers of waters are dried up

Joel a reminder of what God already said - Not new!

BACKGROUND OF JOEL

WHEN DID HE SAY IT?

Prophesied in Judah, possibly during end of Josiah's reign

- No mention of Northern Kingdom
 - May indicate it had already gone into captivity
- Temple was still standing but in decline
 - 1:9,13,14,16; 2:17; Jer 7:1-11
- Land was suffering from famine and drought
 - 1:17,20; Jer 14:1-12
- Northern invader (Babylonian) would come
 - 1:6; 2:7,9,20; Jer 1:14; 6:1,22-23
- The day of Yahweh was at hand, captivity was impending
 - 1:15; 2:1,2; 3:14
- Parallels with Zephaniah and Jeremiah's early chapters
 - Both began during reign of Josiah
- Allusion to reformation of Josiah
 - compare 2:13 to 2 Chron 34:19

BACKGROUND OF JOEL

WHY DID HE SAY IT?

Service of people was incomplete and insincere

Reformation of Josiah: 2 Chron 34:1-33

- Josiah a good king w/ sincere heart (vv.1-2)
- Began reformation of land @ age 16 (vv.3-7)
- Repairs temple, finds law @ age 26 (vv.8-28)
 - Tears his own garments in grief (v.19)
 - Enquires of God regarding nation (vv.21-28)
- Calls together people to make covenant (vv.29-33)
 - “caused all” (v.32), “made all” (v.33)

Josiah's heart was right, but people “forced” to repent

Appearance of godliness, but not wholehearted (Jer 3:10)

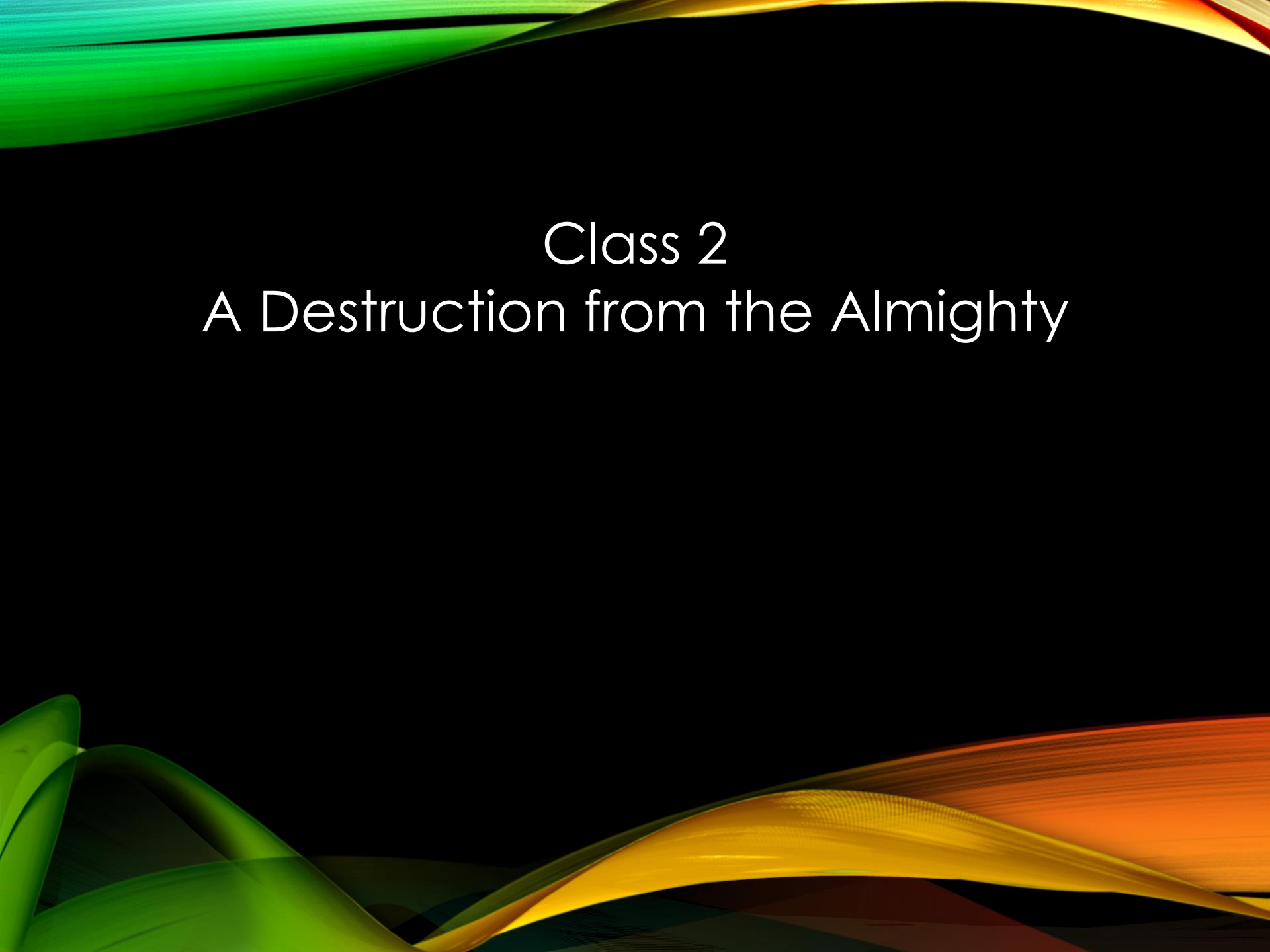
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Goal:

To make a genuine commitment to turn to God now and to rend our hearts – making real changes in our lives – so that we will be prepared to meet Christ with joy and not with fear.



Class 2

A Destruction from the Almighty

OUTLINE OF WEEKEND

Outline

Exhortation

Spiritual Condition

Class 1

- Goal
- Purpose of prophecy
- Joel background

Watch and pray

Class 2 (ch.1) - *Present*

- Spiritual struggles
- Impending judgment

Reform is needed
at all levels

Individual	National	Global

Class 3 (ch.2) - *Opportunity*

- Appeal to repent
- Individual vs national

Now is time for
personal change

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Class 4 (ch.3) - *Future*

- Nationally reconciled
- Cleansing of earth

Future for those in
Christ

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Exhort - *Future*

- Vision of kingdom

CLASS 2 OUTLINE

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 1) Structure of Joel's appeal in ch. 1
 - Individual assessment (4 groups)
 - Ecclesial
 - 2) Specific analysis of each group
 - 3) Application to our day
 - 4) The great tragedy of Joel's prophecy
- } 1:1-14
- } 1:15-20

STRUCTURE OF APPEAL

INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENT – 4 GROUPS

Group	Old men (v.2)	Drunkards (v.5)	Farmers (v.11)	Priests (v.13)
Response	Hear	Awake, weep, howl	Be ashamed, howl	Gird, lament, howl
Why this response?	• Never before • 4 repeated plagues	• New wine cut off • Strong nation • Vine wasted • Meat/drink offering removed	• All fruit of ground perish • Joy wither away	• They will starve!
Action Needed	Tell next 3 generations	Lament like virgin widowed		Sanctify fast, solemn assembly
Meaning	Old men used to telling, now must hear!	Drunkards in ecclesia must wake up and get involved!	Farmers must focus on God, not wealth!	Priests need to lead repentance

STRUCTURE OF APPEAL

ECCLESIAL MESSAGE - Problem

4 groups can be seen in Ecclesia

- 1) “Old men”
 - Elders (wise leaders) not listening to God’s word
- 2) “Drunkards”
 - Pursuit of pleasure and oblivious to ecclesial needs
- 3) “Husbandmen”
 - Pursuit of riches/prosperity in this life
- 4) “Priests”
 - Teachers who water down principles → idolatry

Leadership not listen and water down truth → **corrupt principles**

Membership neglect ecclesia for pleasure/prosperity → **corrupt practice**

CLASS 2 OUTLINE

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

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- 1:1-14
- 1:15-20

OLD MEN: LOCUST PLAGUE

Greater intensity than Egypt (3 vs. 4 generations)

- Ex 10:2 → “Tell it in the ears of thy son... thy son’s son”
- Joel 1:3 → “Tell your children... their children... another generation”

Locusts of Egypt (Exodus 10)

- eat every herb of the land (v.12)
- East wind brought the locusts (v.13)
- Went up over all land of Egypt, very grievous (v.14)
- Covered face of whole earth, land darkened (v.15)
- Eat every herb... all fruit... remained not anything in all land (v.15)
- Pharaoh said... Take away this death (v.17)

Locust plague Egypt disastrous, judgment on Judah will be worse!

LOCUST FACTS

Facts regarding Locusts

- Use wind to travel
- When overcrowded eat more, breed quicker
- Largest swarms recorded
 - cover 100s of square miles
 - 12.5 trillion locusts → 27.5 million tons
- Eat equivalent of body weight each day



Modern-day plague: Madagascar

- Last year ate 40-70% of crop, 100% in some places
- UN spent \$41.5 million to try to eliminate
 - Still ate 630,000 tons of rice affecting 13 million people

Exponential growth, insatiable hunger, unstoppable destruction

LOCUSTS OF JOEL

Four types identified

- Palmerworm = *Gazam* “lopper or shearer”
- Locust = *Arbeh* “multiplier or swarmer”
- Cankerworm = *Yelek* “licker or lapper”
- Caterpillar = *Chasil* “finisher or devourer”

“Shearer’s remnant, swarmer eats, swarmer’s remnant, lapper eats, lapper’s remnant, devourer eats.”

Joel 1:4 (Century Bible)

Progression of destruction brought on Judah

LOCUSTS OF JOEL

Locust Wave	Verses <i>2 Kings</i>	Date	Event/Significance
Palmerworm <i>Lopper/shearer</i>	24:1	605	Lopped off head of Judah when he made Jehoiakim a vassal
Locust <i>Multiplier/swarmer</i>	24:2-3	602	Swarms of enemies multiplied : - Chaldees, Syrians, Moabites, Ammon - to “destroy” Judah according to word of prophets
Cankerworm <i>Licker/lapper</i>	24:10-17	598	Lapped up: - treasures from temple (v.13) - choice/mighty people (v.14-16)
Caterpillar <i>Finisher/devourer</i>	25:1-28	589	Finished destruction of city (v.4): - burned temple/houses (v.9) - broke down wall (v.10) - broke brass pillars (v.13)

Wave after wave of Babylonian invasions – just as Joel said

DRUNKARDS

Message to Drunkards focuses on

- 1) Identity of destroyer
- 2) Judah's state of fellowship with God
- 3) Impact to the land

Identity of destroyer

- Nation strong, without number
- Teeth of a lion
- Cheek teeth of great (mature) lion
 - Jer 4:6-7, 50:17



Babylon was going to come from the North

DRUNKARDS: IMPACT TO LAND

Impact to Land

- Vine, fig tree barked, totally stripped (v.7)
- Corn, wine, oil taken away (v.10)
 - National blessing for obedience (Deut 11:13-14)

“And it shall come to pass, **if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments** which I command you this day, to **love the LORD your God, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul**, that **I will give you** the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy **corn**, and thy **wine**, and thine **oil**.”
Deut 11:13-14

No fellowship with God = removal of Divine blessing

CLASS 2 OUTLINE

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 1) Structure of Joel's appeal in ch. 1
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 - Ecclesial
 - 2) Specific analysis of each group
 - 3) Application to our day
 - 4) The great tragedy of Joel's prophecy
- 1:1-14
- 1:15-20

STRUCTURE OF APPEAL

ECCLESIAL MESSAGE - Solution

Combining the 4 groups

- 1) “Old men” → Listen!
- 2) “Drunkards” → Wake up!
- 3) “Husbandmen” → Be ashamed!
- 4) “Priests” → Gird thyself and get to work

Wake up and listen, be ashamed of your actions, repent and get to work for God! This is the same for us today!

First message of Joel:

Reform needed at all levels! Take action in returning to Yahweh!

THE GREAT TRAGEDY OF JOEL

“Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.” (1:15)

Day of the LORD

- Supposed to be for deliverance, not destruction
 - But due to wickedness of people...

“Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! To what end is it for you? The day of the LORD is darkness, and not light.” (Amos 5:18)

Almighty

- “Shaddai” is a nourishing Father in Israel’s infancy
 - Gen 17:1; 28:3; 43:14; 49:25; Psa 68:14

The nourishing Father would destroy His own children!



Class 3

Rend your heart and not your garments

OUTLINE OF WEEKEND

Outline

Class 1

- Goal
- Purpose of prophecy
- Joel background

Class 2 (ch.1) - *Present*

- Spiritual struggles
- Impending judgment

Exhortation

Watch and pray

Reform is needed
at all levels

Spiritual Condition

Individual	National	Global

Class 3 (ch.2) - *Opportunity*

- Appeal to repent
- Individual vs national

Now is time for
personal change

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Class 4 (ch.3) - *Future*

- Nationally reconciled
- Cleansing of earth

Future for those in
Christ

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Exhort - *Future*

- Vision of kingdom

CLASS 3 OUTLINE

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 1) Urgency and scope of destruction
 - Babylonian coming now!
 - Destruction will be complete/relentless
- 2) Appeal for individual repentance
 - Wholehearted and genuine
- 3) A time of future deliverance
 - Babylonian destroyed
 - God's people reconciled

2:1-11

2:12-17

2:18-32

DAY OF DARKNESS

v.2

“day of darkness...”

- Ex. 10:15 – “for they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened;”



“a great people and a strong;”

Imagery of vast nation invading and darkening land

COMPLETE DESTRUCTION

v.3

“fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth”

- Jer 52:12-13 – “Nebuzaradan... burned the house of the LORD, and the king’s house; and all the houses of Jerusalem... burned he with fire”
- “The sound of their feeding, when in swarms, is as the rushing of flames driven by the wind” (E. Newman, History of Insects, 1841)



v.5 – “like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble.”

Destruction will be complete with fire consuming them

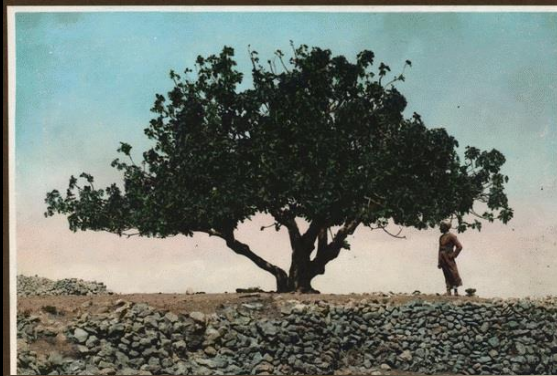
COMPLETE DESTRUCTION (2)

v.3

“land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness.”

Pictures from Israel locust plague of 1915

Before



After



APPEARANCE OF ENEMY

v.4

“The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses.”

- “People cometh from the north... they ride upon horses” (Jer 6:22-23)
- Same imagery in Rev 9:7-10
 - “locusts like horses” v.7
 - “teeth as teeth of lions” v.8
 - “sound of wings as sound of chariots of many horses” v.9

V.6

“Before their face the people shall be much pained.”

Appearance will be a powerful and fearful sight



Horse-Headed Locust
Milwaukee Sentinel, Aug. 1933

INESCAPABLE

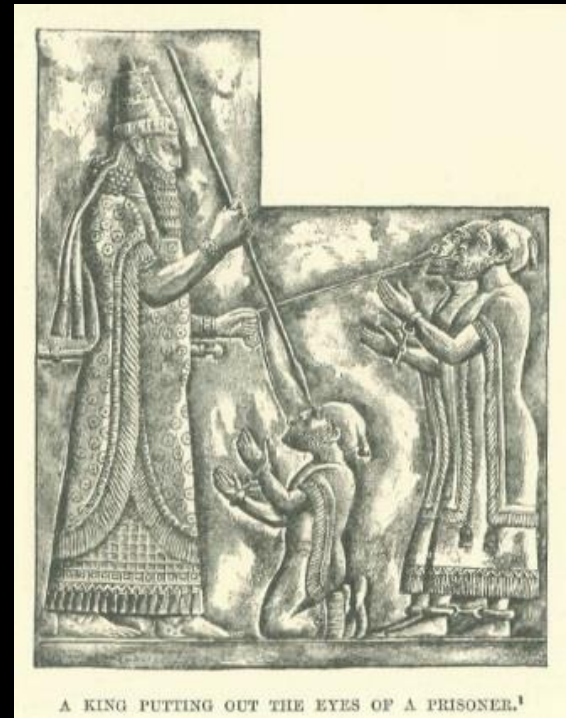
v.9

“they shall enter in at the windows like a thief.”



v.10

“the sun and moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.” (cp. Jer 52:10-11)



1915 ISRAEL LOCUST INVASION

Excerpts from NY Times (Nov 21, 1915)

As the morning spread upon the mountain (2:2)

He says that the oncoming of the locusts was properly to be termed an invasion. As far as the eye could reach the fields were covered by the locusts, and even the street in front of the American Consulate had the appearance, in the movement of the green and black mass, of a flowing river.

A great people and a strong (2:2)

Under the direction of this commission an order was issued requiring every male residing in the cities from the ages of 15 to 60 years to collect 20 kilos, (44 pounds,) of locusts or to pay an exemption fee of one Turkish pound, (\$4.40).

fall on the sword... shall not be wounded (2:8)
Harvest of the field is perished (1:11)

In spite of all this fighting of the larvae instances were rare where the results were satisfactory. Few crops or orchards escaped devastation. This was especially true on the Plain of Sharon, where the Jewish and German colonies, with their beautiful orange gardens, vineyards, and orchards, suffered most severely. The only ex-

...new wine dried up, oil languisheth (1:10)

In the mountain district, notably about Jerusalem and Hebron, the heaviest loss from the onslaught of the locusts has been in connection with the

This was 1 wave of locusts, Joel speaks of 4! live oil

SCOPE OF DESTRUCTION

Joel paints a vivid picture of Babylonian invader

- Imminent (2:1)
- Sudden (“they shall run” 2:4, 7, 9)
- Complete (2:3, 5, 9)
- Unstoppable (2:2, 7, 8)

Babylonians were being sent by Yahweh!

- “His army” (2:11)
- “My great army which I sent” (2:25)
- “Nebuchadnezzar... my servant” (Jer 27:6-7)

Day of Yahweh is coming with complete destruction... BUT

CLASS 3 OUTLINE

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

1) Urgency and scope of destruction

- Babylonian coming now!
- Destruction will be complete/relentless

2:1-11

2) Appeal for individual repentance

- Wholehearted and genuine

2:12-17

3) A time of future deliverance

- Babylonian destroyed
- God's people reconciled

2:18-32

APPEAL TO REPENT

Key Verses - Joel 2:12-13

“Yet even now,” says the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil. (RSV)

APPEAL TO REPENT

Joel appeals to individuals to repent – 3 elements

- Immediate → “Now”
- Complete → “all your heart”
- Sincere → “rend your heart, not your garments”

This repentance must lead to ACTION

- “turn to Me” (v.12), “turn unto Yahweh” (v.13)
- “Blow trumpet, sanctify a fast, call solemn assembly”
- “Gather people, sanctify, assemble, gather...”

Real repentance → real action

ROOT OF THE ISSUE

“all your heart”

- Problem was a divided allegiance!
 - Jeremiah 7:8-10
- Still serving God... but serving self also

“Rend your heart and not your garments”

- Challenge: Can't just be outward (Jer 3:10)
 - Reference to Josiah's reform?
 - Rent garment (2 Chron 34:19)
 - Problem: “caused/made” people (34:32,33)
- Solution: Hate the evil **and** love the good (Amos 5:15)

Must eliminate divided allegiance!

CHARACTER OF GOD

Incentive to repent is God's character (Ex 34:6-7)

- Gracious
 - Bestowal of favor at all times
- Merciful
 - Compassion in wrongdoing/forgiveness
- Slow to anger
 - Longsuffering/patient
- Great kindness
 - Lovingkindness – love is God's motivation
- Repenteth Him of evil
 - Forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin

God does not just want to forgive, it is His character to do so!

CLASS 3 OUTLINE

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2:1-11

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2:18-32

RESTORATION

Yahweh's people will be restored to Him

Aspect	Significance	Verses
Ye/the Inhabitants of the land	No ownership – just people living in the land	1:2,14; 2:1
The people		2:6,16,17
Thy people	Prophet assigns ownership and appeals to God	2:17
Thine heritage		2:17
His people		2:18
My people	God claims ownership, declares as His inheritance	2:26,27; 3:3
My heritage		3:2

Repentance → restoration of Yahweh's people

RESTORATION(2)

Restoration of people → restoration of all things

Aspect	Significance	Removed	Restored
"Meal/drink offering"	Fellowship with God	1:9	2:14
"Corn, wine, oil"	Divine blessing	1:10	2:19
"Joy of people"	Blessing of service/life	1:12,16	2:21
"Fig tree & vine"	Peace & Divine provision	1:12	2:22
"Rain"	God's blessing of life	1:18-20	2:23; 3:18
"Not ashamed"	God's protection	1:11	2:26
"Joy of land"	Health of nation	1:10	2:21

Fellowship with God → Divine provision, protection, blessing

SUMMARY

- God has preserved prophecy to help us watch/pray
- People were destroyed b/c failed to heed prophecy
- Judgment coming on this earth – swift, severe, complete
- Everyone has need for improvement – no one excluded!
- God has given us an opportunity to turn to Him
 - Must do it **now**, with **whole heart**, and right attitude
- We need to search out areas of divided allegiance
- Repentance → Action → Fellowship with God

**Change is needed, but God has given us an opportunity!
Seize the opportunity and return to Him!**

OUTLINE OF WEEKEND

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Class 2 (ch.1) - *Present*

- Spiritual struggles
- Impending judgment

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- Appeal to repent
- Individual vs national

Class 4 (ch.3) - *Future*

- Nationally reconciled
- Cleansing of earth

Exhort - *Future*

- Vision of kingdom

Exhortation

Watch and pray

Reform is needed
at all levels

Now is time for
personal change

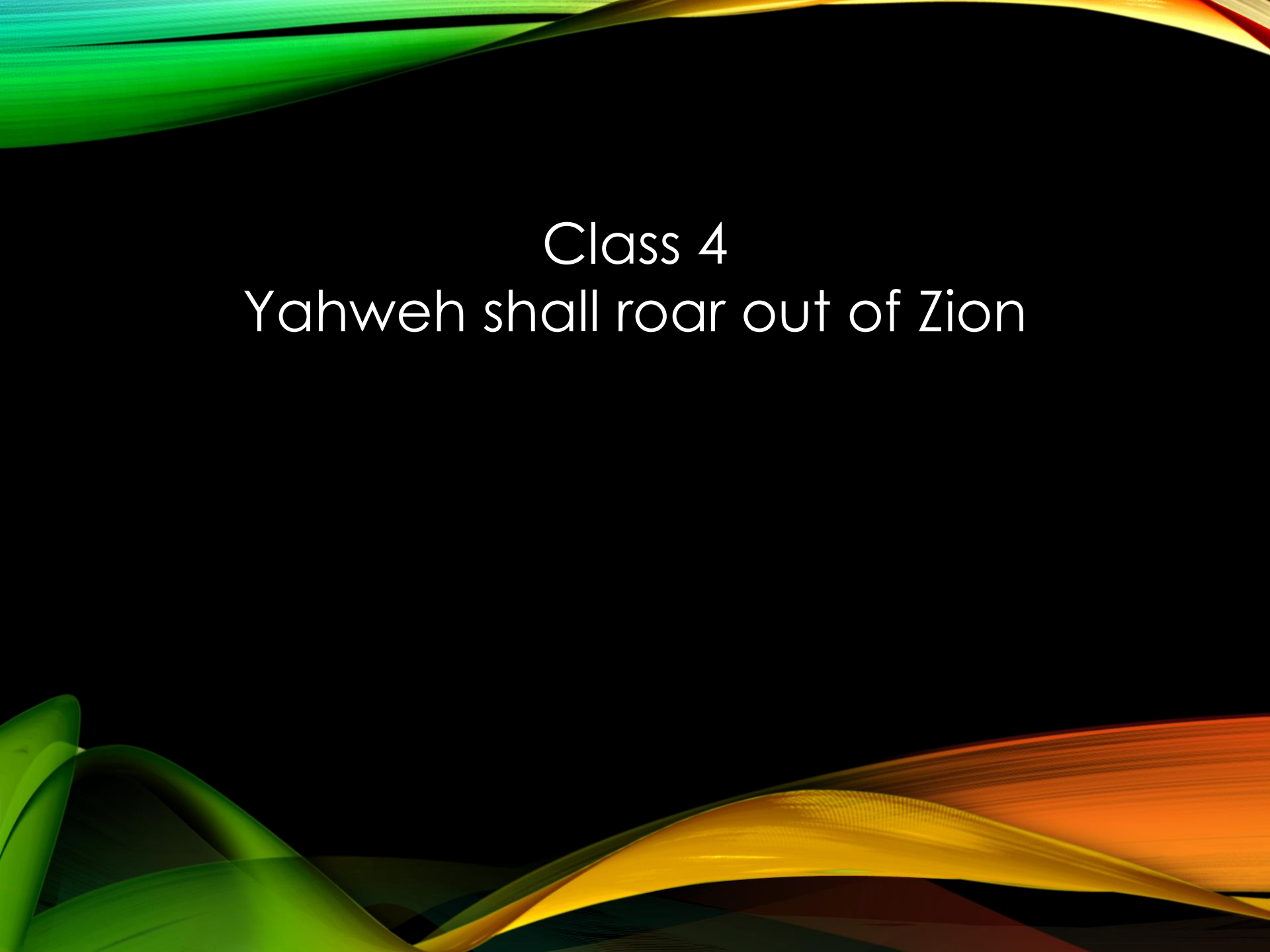
Future for those in
Christ

Spiritual Condition

Individual	National	Global

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Class 4

Yahweh shall roar out of Zion

OUTLINE OF WEEKEND

Outline

Class 1

- Goal
- Purpose of prophecy
- Joel background

Class 2 (ch.1) - *Present*

- Spiritual struggles
- Impending judgment

Class 3 (ch.2) - *Opportunity*

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- Individual vs national

Class 4 (ch.3) - *Future*

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Exhort - *Future*

- Vision of kingdom

Exhortation

Watch and pray

Reform is needed
at all levels

Now is time for
personal change

Future for those in
Christ

Spiritual Condition

Individual	National	Global

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CLASS 4 OUTLINE

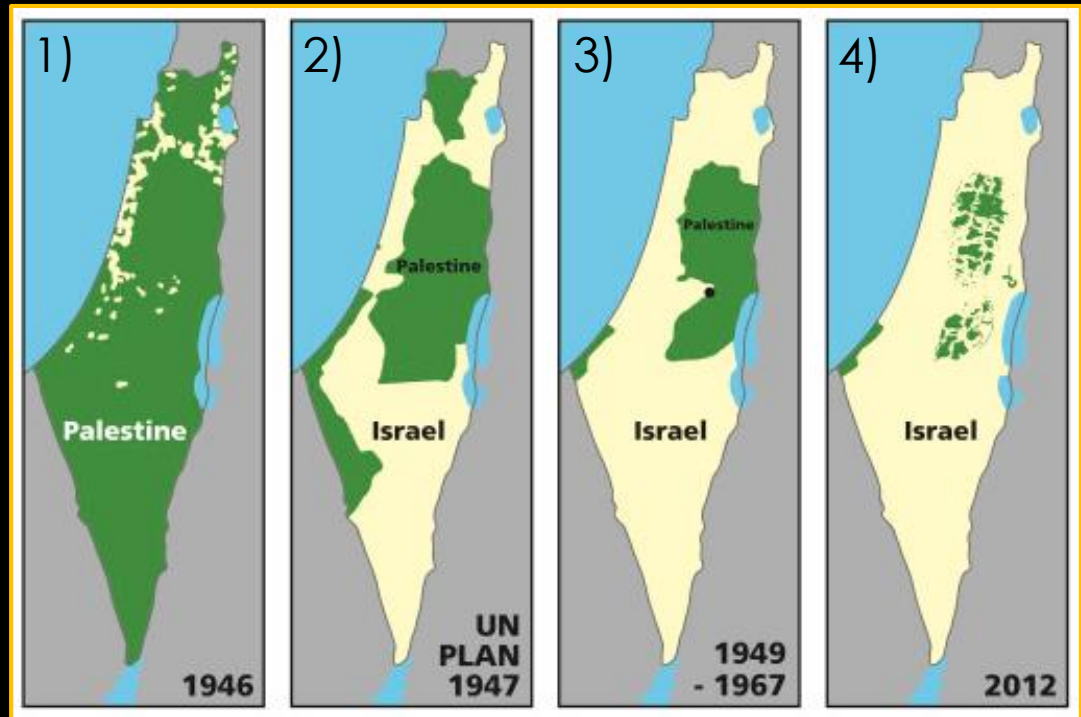
ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 1) Court scene: Trial of the nations
 - Charges & Verdict (vv. 1-6)
 - Sentencing (vv. 7-8)
- 2) Carrying out of sentence (vv. 9-16)
- 3) Alignment of the nations
- 4) Conclusion: Salvation of Earth (vv. 17-21)

CAPTIVITY OF JUDAH

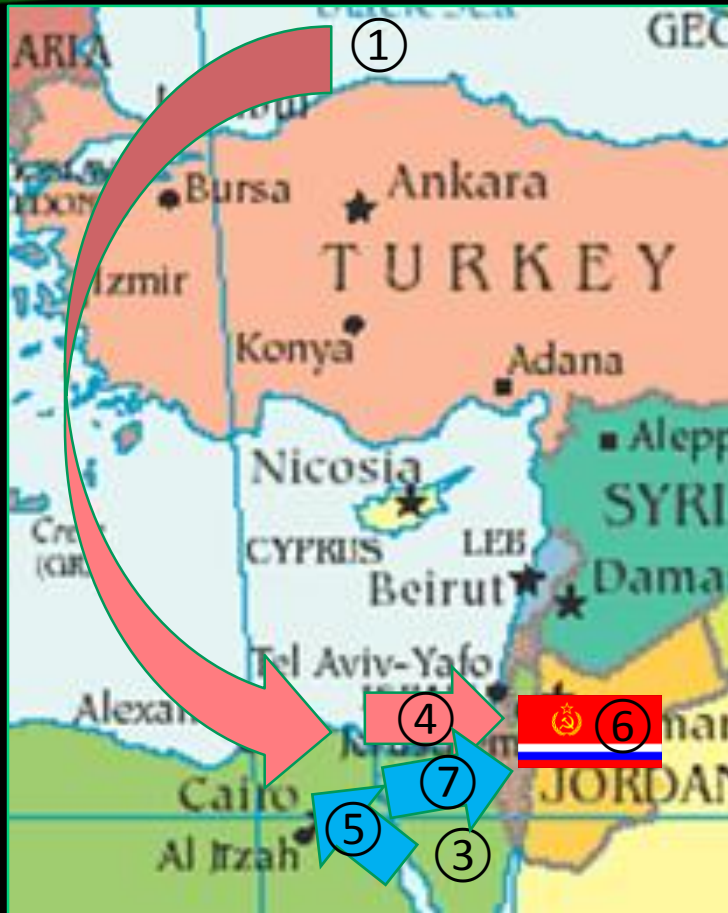
“In those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem” (3:1)

- 1) Pre-1948:
 - No Nation!
- 2) 1948: Captivity of Judah
 - Israel born
- 3) 1967: Captivity of Jerusalem
 - Jerusalem regained
- 4) Present:
 - “In those days, and in that time”



Fulfillment of

CONTEXT OF JOEL 3



Key Indicators

- Jerusalem destroyed
- Christ/saints together

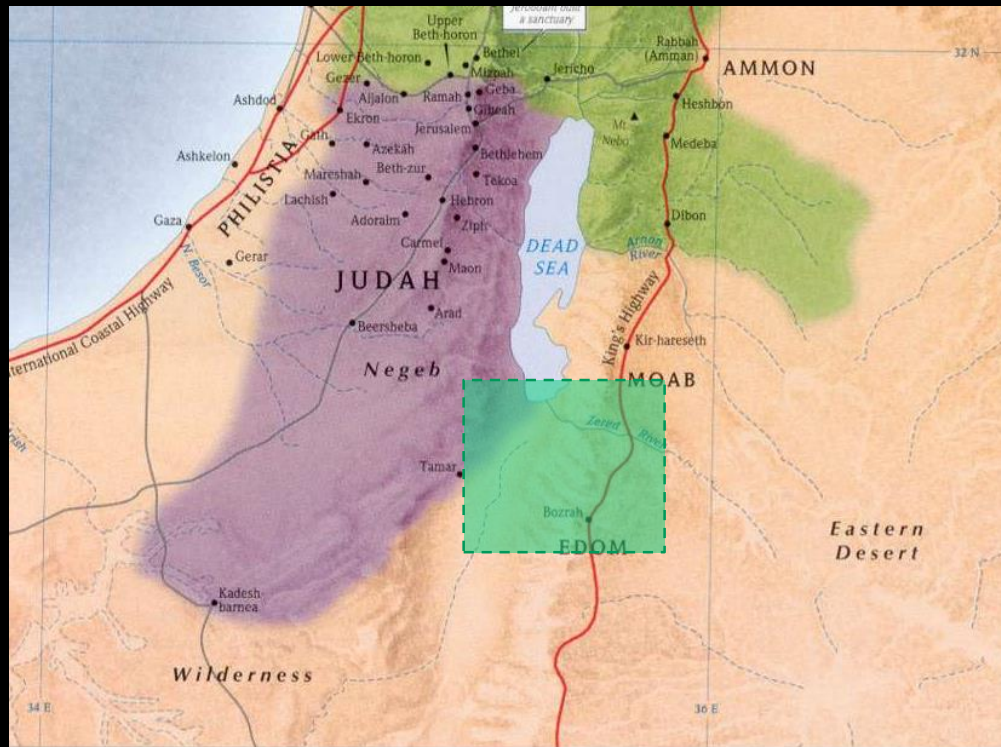
Joel 3 after Zech 14:2

- ① Russia → south to destroy Egypt
 - Isa 19:1-17; Dan 11:40-43
- ② Western powers (“young lions”) surprised/ weak support in Jerusalem
 - Ezek 38:13
- ③ Christ/saints in Sinai preparing
 - Deut 33:2-3; Psa 68; Hab 3:3-4
- ④ News from NE trouble Gog → Jerusalem
 - Dan 11:44
- ⑤ Christ/saints heal & convert Egypt
 - Isa 19:18-25; 21:13-15; 60:6-7
- ⑥ Gog destroy Jerusalem, city captive
 - Zech 14:1-2; Dan 11:45a
- ⑦ Christ/saints → Jerusalem, great earthquake, overthrow Gog
 - Joel 3; Ezek 38:18-23; Zech 14:3-15; Dan 11:45b

VALLEY OF JEHOShAPHAT

“The Great Rift Valley south of the Dead Sea (Arabah), where God provided water in ‘a barren and desolate land’ (Joel 2:20) and gave Israel and Judah a great typical victory over Moab, which Elisha said was due entirely to the presence of Jehoshaphat (2 Kings 3:14), is an area sufficiently large to contain hundreds of thousands of modern troops with weapons and transport. The lands east and west of the Arabah are some of the most desolate on earth.”

R.S. Thomson, Testimony, 1998, p.53,97,133



Prophecies linking to region

- “Sacrifice in Bozrah and slaughter in Edom”
 - Isa 34:6
- “Cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah...trodden the winepress”
 - Isa 63:1-3
- “God came from Teman...”
 - Hab 3:3

CHARGES AGAINST NATIONS

4 primary charges against the nations relating to:

- 1) God's Land (v.2) – scattered Israel and parted land
 - 1947: United Nations divide Israel
 - Present: Continued direction of peace talks
- 2) God's People (v.3) – mistreatment of Israel
 - Assyrians (Nah 3:10), Edomites (Obad 11)
 - Titus took 140,000 Jews selling all < 17 into slavery
 - Germany forced millions into slavery in WWII

CHARGES AGAINST NATIONS

An interruption in the proceedings (v.4)!

1) Tyre

- Rejoice in Jerusalem's destruction (Ezek 26:2)
- Covetous (Zech 9:3)
- Slave dealer and covenant breaker (Amos 1:9)

2) Zidon

- Home to Jezebel – apostate system (1 Kings 16:31)

3) Palestine (Philistia)

- Anti-semitic, enemies of God's people (Psa 83:7)

Each of these hateful attributes seen in Gog!

1) Tyre: *Desire to gain from destruction of God's people*

2) Zidon: *foundation of apostasy*

3) Palestine: *fierce opposition to God's people*

God will not accept rebellion against Him!

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 - Titus took 140,000 Jews selling all < 17 into slavery
 - Germany forced millions into slavery in WWII
- 3) God's Riches (v.5) – stealing by nations
 - Babylon (2 Chron 36:7,10), Tyre (Amos 1:9)
- 4) God's Nation (v.6) – attempt to destroy identity

“He that touches Judah, touches the apple of God's eye”
(Zech 2:8)

Wronging Israel = Wronging God. He will take action!

CLASS 4 OUTLINE

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YAHWEH CALLS FOR WAR

All compelled to come, even if not prepared

- 1) “Wake up the mighty men” (v.9)
- 2) “Beat plowshares into swords, pruninghooks into spears” (v.10)
- 3) “Let weak say, ‘I am strong’” (v.10)
- 4) “Assemble” = Hasten (v.11)
- 5) “Let the heathen be wakened” (v.12)
- 6) “Come, get you down” (v.13)

Urgent appeal, drawing all to Armageddon

ARMAGEDDON IS READY

Imagery of Joel 3:13 does not bode well for Gog...



Christ/Saints

We see this →
Joel sees this →



Forces of this world do not stand a chance against Christ

THREAD OF JOEL

Character of God is woven throughout Joel

→ Basis for appeal in entire prophecy

Joel 2:13-14

“And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, unto the third and fourth generation.”

Ex 34:6-7

Joel 1:3

Joel 3:21

All key elements of God’s character included

THREAD OF JOEL

Joel calls to mind goodness and severity of God

<u>Verse</u>	<u>Aspect of God's character</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	
Joel 1:3-4	Iniquity to 3 rd /4 th generation	Jews	Severity
Joel 2:13-14	gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil	Whosoever	Goodness
Joel 3:21	I will avenge their blood and not clear the guilty (RSV)	Gentiles	Severity

“Behold therefore the **goodness** and **severity** of God: on them which fell, **severity**; but toward thee, **goodness**, if thou continue in His **goodness**: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.” Rom 11:22

The choice is ours, which will you choose?

OUTLINE OF WEEKEND

Outline

Class 1

- Goal
- Purpose of prophecy
- Joel background

Class 2 (ch.1) - *Present*

- Spiritual struggles
- Impending judgment

Class 3 (ch.2) - *Opportunity*

- Appeal to repent
- Individual vs national

Class 4 (ch.3) - *Future*

- Nationally reconciled
- Cleansing of earth

Exhort - *Future*

- Vision of kingdom

Exhortation

Watch and pray

Reform is needed
at all levels

Now is time for
personal change

Future for those in
Christ

Spiritual Condition

Individual	National	Global

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