

Chapter-by-Chapter Bible Studies

Joel

“When Disaster Strikes”



Bible Studies
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Joel

“When Disaster Strikes”

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“When Disaster Strikes”
A Verse-by-Verse Study of the Book of Joel

Joel
“When Disaster Strikes”
Introduction

I’m writing this in 2012. In just the last few years, we’ve all seen disaster strike so many times:

- In 2005, Hurricane Katrina took over 1,800 lives, did \$84 billion in damages and affected Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky and Ohio.
- In 2006, the Sago Mine disaster in West Virginia took 13 lives in a coal mine.
- In 2007, the mass murder of 33 at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia
- Also in 2007, the Mississippi River bridge collapse in Minneapolis, Minnesota, taking the lives of 13 people, and injuring 111+.
- In 2008, the Super Tuesday tornado outbreak killed 59, and swept across Tennessee, Arkansas, Kentucky, Alabama, and Illinois.
- In 2009, the deadliest subway train accident in US history killed 9 in the Washington Metro subway train collision.
- Also in 2009, the mass murder of 13 in Fort Hood, Texas.
- In 2010, the Deepwater Horizon explosion and subsequent oil spill southeast of the Louisiana coast, is regarded as the worst environmental disaster in US history, 11 dead.

- In 2011, the mass murder of 6 in Tucson, Arizona, in an attempted assassination of U.S. representative Gabrielle Giffords.
- In 2011, a horrifying Tsunami after the Tohoku earthquake. Several nuclear power disasters resulted.
- Also in 2011, Hurricane Irene hit the east coast of the United States and Eastern Canada. 47 died in the United States, with 10 additional fatalities elsewhere.
- Also in 2011, an outbreak of tornadoes killed 43, and affected Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Missouri, Louisiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania
- Also in 2011, a tour bus accident in the Bronx, New York, killed 15
- Also in 2011, at least 70 people were injured and 11 died in the third-deadliest airshow disaster in U.S. history, at the Reno Air Races.
- Also in 2011, 358 tornadoes swept through the Midwestern U.S., Southern U.S., Eastern U.S. and Southern Ontario. 349 died, with \$11 billion in damages.

And then just this year, 2012, alone:

- **A mass murder**, killing 7, at Oikos University in Oakland, California
- March 2–3, 2012, a **deadly tornado outbreak** occurred over a large section of the Southern United States into the Ohio Valley region. The storms resulted in 40 tornado-related fatalities, 22 of which occurred in Kentucky Tornado-related deaths also occurred in Alabama, Indiana, and Ohio
- **Another major tornado outbreak** in April, 6 fatalities
- The 2012 **Colorado wildfires** are an ongoing unusually devastating series of Colorado wildfires and include several separate fires in June and July 2012. At least 34,500 residents were evacuated in June.
- The 2012 **North American Drought** includes most of the US, parts of Mexico, and central and Eastern Canada. It is affecting a similarly large areas as droughts in the 1930s and 1950s but it is not yet been in place as long. The drought has inflicted, and is expected to

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continue to inflict, catastrophic economic ramifications for the affected states.

- The **summer 2012 North American heat wave** is a heat wave which has led to more than 82 heat-related deaths across the United States and Canada
- A **mass murder in a movie theatre in Aurora Colorado**

How are we supposed to react to all these life-altering disasters? I think Joel is going to help us figure that out.

The prophet Joel, long before the birth of Jesus Christ into our world, sees a massive locust plague and realizes it is a small example of an even worse disaster which will come from God Himself someday.

So Joel shouts out to his peers that they have something they must do: Tell the next generation...and the next. This terrible plague of locusts has destroyed their lives, yes, but they will recover. But the Lord's disaster – the Day of the Lord – will be something no one will recover from unless they have a faith relationship with God.

The LORD has a message for Israel in Joel which could only get through to them by means of a natural disaster like they had never seen before.

And likewise, the LORD of Israel, Jesus Christ, has a message for us, too, which maybe will only get through to us as we live through disaster after disaster like we have never seen before.

Joel's prophecy begins with a natural disaster...the plague of locusts. It ends with triumph. When you think about it...that is the story of the Bible.

An Army of Locusts
Joel Chapter 1 – Questions

1. (:1) Who wrote this book?
2. (:2) Who is the book written to?
3. (:3) What are the receivers of this message supposed to do with it?
4. (:4) What great natural disaster has just occurred?
5. What are the different ways people react to natural disasters?
6. (:5-14) What are some of things the locusts did?
7. (:6) What are the locusts compared to?
8. (:5, 11, 13) What different types of people are being singled out?
9. (:5, :8, :11, :13, :14) What are the people told to do?
10. (:12) What does Joel say in verse 12 which pretty well wraps up how he feels about this great natural disaster?
- 11 (:15) Now we find out how God wants His people to view this natural disaster. What comparison does He want them to make?
12. (:16-20) What phrase do you see in these verses which gives the readers hope that there is a future?
13. What natural disasters will be occurring in the end times?
14. What does the book of Joel teach us about how to react to natural disasters?

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An Army of Locusts

Joel Chapter 1 – Discussion Notes

1. (:1) Who wrote this book?

Verse 1 says that Joel wrote the book. His father’s name was Pethuel. That’s all we know about him. In the book of Acts in the New Testament (Acts 2:16) he is quoted, bringing the Old and New Testaments together with the same acceptance of Joel as a prophet of God, even though he is an unknown.

Joel sees a massive locust plague as an illustration of the coming Day of the Lord – and speaks graphic phrases about the devastation which has come upon Israel with the locusts...and the devastation that is inevitably coming someday.

2. (:2) Who is the book written to?

To the people who live in Israel, and to all their leaders. He begins by asking them if anything like this locust plague has ever happened to them before. Do they have anything in their experience to help them understand what has just happened and know what to do about it? They didn’t.

3. (:3) What are the receivers of this message supposed to do with it?

Tell the next generation...and the next. This terrible plague has destroyed their lives. The LORD has a message for Israel which could only get through to them by means of a natural disaster like they had never seen before. He is about to teach them something about Himself. Once they learn it, the most loving thing they can do for their children is to tell them.

4. (:4) What great natural disaster has just occurred?
A plague of locusts. The locusts have destroyed every crop, every tree, every plant, every edible thing in sight.

5. What are the different ways people react to natural disasters?
Suggested answers: Fear, Anger, Action, Depression,

6. (:5-14) What are some of things the locusts did?
Invaded the land
Ruined vines and fig trees
Stripped off bark
Ruined fields
Dried up the ground
Destroyed future crops
No harvest
Stolen away people's joy
Eliminated offerings for the Lord

7. (:6) What are the locusts compared to?
A powerful army of a powerful nation
A lion's teeth

8. (:5, 11, 13) What different types of people are being singled out?
Drunkards...those living only for pleasure
Farmers...who make their living from the land
Priests...who explain God to the people

9. (:5, :8, :11, :13, :14) What are the people told to do?
Wake up, weep & wail
Mourn like a young bride who will never see her husband
Despair like a person whose livelihood is gone
Mourn like those who can no longer help anyone
Fast, and call a meeting of the leaders
Cry out to God

10. (:12) What does Joel say in verse 12 which pretty well wraps up how he feels about this great natural disaster?
Joy is gone from life.

12 (:15) Now we find out how God wants His people to view this natural disaster. What comparison does He want them to make?

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He wants them to see that this horrible event is similar to a day which is coming in the future...a day He Himself will bring on the world because of their lack of belief in Him.

12. (:16-20) What phrase do you see in these verses which gives the readers hope that there is a future?
“To You, O Lord, I call...” Simply calling on the LORD is the beginning of seeing His hand calm the disasters in our lives.

13. What natural disasters will be occurring in the end times? Revelation 6 and 8&9 and 16. Make a list.

14. What does the book of Joel teach us about how to react to natural disasters?

Admit the mighty power of God. Admit that we deserve nothing. Admit the huge implications of sin. Call on the LORD for help. Desire HIM above all else...above comfort and security...above food and drink...above love and friends and family. Learn to desire Him.

Why? Is God being self-centered and mean? Goodness, no. He has created us to center our lives and our very being around Him. He knows there is no future for us or no lasting happiness for us until we do that. He has created us for His own purposes. We will never know joy until we are more concerned with His purposes than our own.

When the LORD teaches us, even through disaster, to desire Him above all else, we are the winners.

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7. (:28-32) These last verses in Chapter 2 refer specifically to the Lord’s response someday in the future when the Day of the Lord has come, and people call on His name...specifically the people of Israel. What will happen in that time?

8. What does God’s future response to Israel tell us about God?

9. (:1) This verse says to “blow the trumpet”. In what way are we to “blow the trumpet” once we know the LORD God and begin to realize what He has in mind?

The Day of the Lord

Joel Chapter 2 – Discussion Notes

1. (:1&2) Verse 1 and 2 describe a future “Day of the Lord”.
What will it be like?

Frightening. Dark and gloomy. It will start out like the dawn...just a little at first, and then – Pow! – be totally upon them. There has never in history been anything like it.

What is the Day of the LORD?

It’s a phrase used often in both the Old and New Testaments, and can cause confusion because...

- sometimes it seems to refer to the very day (24-hour period) the LORD returns on His white horse (at the end of the 7 years).
- And then sometimes we talk about the “rapture” event as the Day of the LORD.
- And sometimes we talk about the whole last 7 year period as the Day of the LORD.
- And then sometimes the last 7 years **and** the 1,000 years which follow are collectively referred to as the Day of the LORD
- And sometimes the Day of the Lord is referred to as beginning with the coming of Jesus the first time (30 A.D.) and ending with the coming of Jesus the 2nd time.
- And also, some people talk about the Day of the Lord as specifically that time, contained within the last 7 years, when the Lord pours out His wrath upon the world. Whew!

Here are some other places in scripture where the term is used. You can see many different nuances of the term in each of these passages:

1. Malachi 4:5 (Elijah comes first before the Day, and there is repentance)
2. I Corinthians 5:5 (End of time)
3. II Corinthians 1:14 (A time when good things happen)
4. I Thessalonians 5:2 (people are saying ‘Peace & safety’, and then destruction comes)

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5. II Peter 3:10-13 (A time of destruction by fire
– judgment)

Here’s what I do: as I read scripture, I assume that when the phrase “the Day of the Lord” is used, it means the whole 7-year period before Jesus’ actual return on the white horse....unless the passage itself makes it very clear there is some other time period in mind. For instance, the Malachi 4:5 passage, listed above, refers to the Day of the Lord as a time preceded by a time of national repentance by the nation of Israel. Since we know (from other passages of scripture) that Israel’s time of national repentance doesn’t come until just before the bowls of God’s judgment are poured out on the earth – at the very end of the 7 years – then we know that Malachi 4:5 is referring to a very specific time within the last 7 years – the very last 30 days of the larger “Day of the Lord”.

How should we understand Joel’s “Day of the Lord” here in Joel 2?

It’s interesting to note that Joel, too, in Chapter 2, mentions a time of repentance before the Day of the Lord (:12). That might make us think that this Day of the Lord, then, is the same time period Malachi was talking about in Malachi 4:5 – the last 30 days of the last 7 years.

But, verse 28 says that after this time of repentance spoken of by Joel there will be a time when God’s Spirit is poured out on all people, not just Jews...and that same verse is quoted in Acts 2:17, when Peter is describing what is happening on the Day of Pentecost...at the start of the church.

That leads us to conclude that the Day of the Lord Joel is talking about begins with the first coming of Jesus – when a small group of Jews truly did repent of their sins, and believe in Jesus, and then the Holy Spirit was poured out on all nations as the church began.

The invasion of locusts...and then an invasion of an enemy army...both of these horrible disasters were, in Joel’s eyes, God’s way of getting the attention of the Jewish people so that their hearts would return to their Lord, and they would be ready for their Savior to come.

The very dark, frightening time, when God actually pours out great wrath upon the world, is the very last few days of this “Day of the Lord” envisioned by Joel.

2. (:3-10) Verses 3 through 10 begin, again, to describe the locusts of Chapter 1. And then you realize these verses are also describing something else...an actual enemy invasion. Joel is mixing metaphors...locusts and the invading Assyrian army. How does he describe them both?

Locusts	Assyrian Army
(:3) Like a fire	
(:3) They turn a garden into a desert waste	
(:3) Nothing is untouched by them	
(:4) They seem to be like horses in an army	(:4) Horses
(:5) Loud noise	(:5) Noise
(:5) They skip over mountains	(:5) A mighty army
(:6) Fear	(:6) Fear
	(:7-8) They charge, scale walls, march in line
	(:9) They move fast and enter everywhere
	(:10) Even the earth and the heavens react to them in horror

3. (:11) And then Joel moves swiftly into a description of the "Day of the LORD". How does he describe that?

The Lord Himself is at the head of an army. He has great might, and powerful leaders serve under Him. His forces are too numerous to count. When the Lord decides to move in this way, there is none who can endure it.

In verses 3-11, the Lord seems to be giving Joel a picture of something which transitions from one image to another: First he sees the disaster of the locusts (:3-6), then they become an invading enemy army (:7-9), and then they become the actual army of the Lord (:10, 11).

4. In your opinion, why does Joel seem to use the locusts and the Assyrian invasion as an introduction to the Day of the Lord?

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Because the first 2 are meant to bring the people to a place where they take their eyes off of themselves, and realize Who is the One, Great, power of the whole universe. He is getting their attention.

5. (:12-17) What should the people’s reaction be to either locusts, the Assyrian invasion, or the Day of the Lord?

Repentance. An about-face. An event of mourning their stupidity and disobedience and pride, and falling face-down before Almighty God asking to be changed. Fasting. Blowing the trumpet. Sounding the alarm. Gathering the people to collective repentance before God.

6. (:18-27) What will the Lord’s response be when His people call on Him?

Amazing blessings. Forgiveness. A complete turn-around of their fortunes. The years which were destroyed because of the locusts will be as if they had never happened.

Verse 25 through 26 are the most amazing promise to those who come to know Jesus late in their lives. Do you know someone who is nearing the end of life, and still has never acknowledged Jesus as Savior and Lord? Do you often wonder...“what about all the years wasted in this life? Why didn’t they come to know about the Lord when they were young? Couldn’t they have done so many great things?”

Ken and I have a friend who is near our age, and came to true faith in Christ only a couple of years ago. He mourned so greatly when he first came to Christ, realizing that his children, now grown and away from home, never heard the message of Jesus...and he set about to tell them what had happened to him...and they laughed at him, telling him they wanted nothing to do with this new “religion” of his. I know he asked the Lord..“Why? Why not bring me to this point of faith much earlier in my life? Why wait until my children are no longer willing to listen to me?”

I don’t have all the answers – but I can rejoice with our friend that the Lord gave Joel these sweet words to utter in Joel 2:25 &26. The years wasted by the locusts will someday be erased. They have never happened. The fruit which those years should have, could have produced, will be miraculously present.

7. (:28-32) These last verses in Chapter 2 refer specifically to the Lord's response someday in the future when the Day of the Lord has come, and people call on His name...specifically the people of Israel. What will happen in that time?
- ❖ Verses 28 – 30 describe what happened at the Day of Pentecost... (33 A.D.)
 - ❖ verse 31 says what is yet to come some day when God's wrath can wait no longer. (end of the last 7 years)
 - ❖ Verse 32 declares God's far-reaching grace, across all time, available to anyone who calls on the name of the Lord.
8. What does God's future response to Israel tell us about God?

He wants to get our attention. He is full of mercy...and He waits for us to respond to Jesus. He will act in anger some day. (II Peter 3:9,10). But He is waiting...giving us time to see and respond.

9. (:1) This verse says to "blow the trumpet". In what way are we to "blow the trumpet" once we know the LORD God and begin to realize what He has in mind?

We will each find our own way. Our own particular way to communicate God to those around us. God wired us each up differently. So your way may not be my way. But our message is the same:

God wants to get our attention.
He is full of mercy...and He is waiting for us to respond to Jesus
Don't wait too long.

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The Valley of Decision
Joel Chapter 3 – Questions

1. (:1) This verse sets the stage for Chapter 3. At what time in history will this be happening?
2. (:2) Who will be gathering at the Valley of Jehoshaphat?
3. (:2&3) Why will they be the nations chosen to gather there?
4. (:4 - 6) The LORD is asking those nations who rejected Him why they have done such horrible things to His chosen people, the Jews. Had God done anything to them which would have justified their actions?
5. If God has not done anything bad to deserve it, why do people reject Him?
6. (:7-12) What will happen to all those nations gathered together at the Valley of Jehoshaphat?
7. (:13) What imagery does Joel use in this verse to show what will happen to these nations? (see also Revelation 14:14-20)
8. (:14) Why do you think this valley is called the “Valley of Decision”?
9. (:15) Where else in Joel have we seen this description of the heavenly bodies being darkened?
10. (:16) Even as the LORD delivers His justice to the nations gathered in this valley, what is He doing for His people?

11. (:17-21) What will happen after this event in the Valley?
12. (:21) Why do you think this book ends with this phrase:
"The LORD dwells in Zion!"?

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The Valley of Decision
Joel Chapter 3 – Discussion Notes

1. (:1) This verse sets the stage for Chapter 3. At what time in history will this be happening?

The verse says that this will be at the “time I (God) restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem.” That helps us pinpoint the exact time – it will be at the very end of the Last 7 years. Right before the LORD Jesus returns to earth. When the people of Israel come to collective belief in their Messiah, then the LORD is able, once again, to pour out His blessings on them.

Here’s the scenario as described by many of the Old Testament prophets and the book of Revelation:

- As the Last 7 years begins, there are many Jews in the world, some who believe in their Messiah already, but most who do not. Throughout the Last 7 years, as the 7 seals on the scroll are being opened, the Jewish people remain in their sinful, rebellious, blind opposition to believing in Jesus.
- After the Anti-Christ reveals who he really is (at the 3 ½-year mark), the Jewish people begin to wonder what is going on, especially as they see completely innocent and loving Christians being killed by this man. But they still are blind to Jesus.
- Then, after the church is removed by the LORD Jesus, and the 7 trumpets are being blown from the heavens...and the earth appears to be literally falling apart, and the 144,000 witnesses are spreading the news of Jesus throughout the earth, and the 2 witnesses in Jerusalem continue to preach the message of Jesus, the Jewish people begin to wonder...“could this really be true? Could we actually have spent all these years denying our true Messiah?”
- And finally, just before the 7th trumpet is blown, the Jewish people...the ones who have survived...come to a full-blown, amazing, time of faith in their Messiah, Jesus.

This, then, is the window we, and Joel, are peering into in chapter 3

2. (:2) Who will be gathering at the Valley of Jehoshaphat? All the nations of the world. As the world has gone through these last 7 years many individual people have come to faith in Jesus Christ. At

this moment in time, those people have either lost their lives, or been raptured away when the church leaves this earth. Almost everyone left has steadfastly refused to accept the fact that Almighty God Himself is about to judge the world. They refuse to bow the knee to Jesus...choosing instead to bow the knee to anti-christ. When the nation of Israel comes to faith in Christ, there is a wide-spread revival throughout the world...many people begin to be willing to die, even, in order to place their faith in Jesus. But the "nations" of the world...in other words, the majority of the people in every nation of the entire world...make the decision to fight against Israel...and in so choosing, they are deciding to fight against God.

3. (:2&3) Why will they be the nations chosen to gather there? They gather there because they have chosen to...but even more than that...God has chosen them. He has chosen them to gather in this valley because they have rejected Him. They think they are going to fight and defeat God...they don't realize they are coming for their own judgment and punishment.

And the evidence of their rejection of God has been, for thousands of years, their horrible treatment of the Jewish people. Pharaoh tried to kill them (Exodus 14 & 15), Balaam tried to curse them (Numbers 22 - 24), the Assyrians & Babylonians removed them from their land (Kings and Chronicles), wicked Haman tried to exterminate them (Esther), The Spaniards expelled them, Hitler tried to wipe them out, Russia chased them away from their homes.... All of these things, and many more, have been done to the Jews because people were rejecting the God of the Jews. And now the God of the Jews is saying: "It's Pay-Back Time!"

4. (:4 - 6) The LORD is asking those nations who rejected Him why they have done such horrible things to His chosen people, the Jews. Had God done anything to them which would have justified their actions?

Not at all. He had consistently sent messages of Who He was, and how much He loved people. And people had consistently rejected those messages.

5. If God has not done anything bad to deserve it, why do people reject Him?

This is really the crux of the matter, isn't it? Why do people reject God? He's powerful. He's loving. He has much patience. He has made it clear there is no way to live into eternity if a person rejects Him. And yet....people reject Him. Why?

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Jesus explained it when He spoke in the middle of the night to a Jewish man named Nicodemus. “...light has come into the world, and men loved darkness better than light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.”

Pretty simple, huh? People reject God because they refuse to admit they are sinners. They hate the thought that God could possibly be right, and they wrong. They hate it so much they reject God, and continue to live in their evil ways...all the way to eternal punishment.

6. (:7-12) What will happen to all those nations gathered together at the Valley of Jehoshaphat?

I think God is saying, “Put up your dukes!” Let the battle begin. Take every resource you can find...your farm equipment, your grocery stores, your brain power, your computers...everything...and turn it into weapons of defense...because I am going to fight you now.

Look at Psalms 2:1-3 and Zechariah chapters 12-14, and you will see other descriptions of this battle which ensues.

7. (:13) What imagery does Joel use in this verse to show what will happen to these nations? (see also Revelation 14:14-20)

It is like a harvest of grapes. You gather them (the nations are called). Then you place them in a large vat (the valley of Jehosophat). Then you squish them and the juice flows. (blood and destruction)

8. (:14) Why do you think this valley is called the “Valley of Decision”?

This is really about two decisions:

1. God’s decision to judge those who have rejected Him.
2. People’s decision to reject Him.

But...does everyone there in that valley truly realize they are rejecting God? I mean, couldn’t there be some there who simply have obeyed their nation’s call-to-arms, but have not realized this battle is actually in direct opposition to the God of all?

The answer to that is found in the book of Revelation, chapter 14, verses 9 thru 11. In chapter 14, people on earth have seen the horrors of anti-christ. They have realized that he demands worship.

And they are being given an ultimatum: either take the "mark" of the anti-christ, on your hand or on your forehead, or die. And then, in

14:9-11, they are given a warning from heaven. An angel somehow conveys the message to the whole world"

"...if anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name."

Every person on that battlefield has made a decision. They all wear the mark of the anti-christ. They knew what they were deciding when they took that mark. The lines have been drawn. They are hoping anti-christ is stronger than God. They will find out.

9. (:15) Where else in Joel have we seen this description of the heavenly bodies being darkened?

This is found also in chapter 2, verse 31: "The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the great and dreadful day of the Lord."

But the verse in chapter 2 is not referring to the same time of "darkness" as 3:15. Chapter 2 is talking about the darkness of Revelation 6:12 (when the 6th seal is broken, and there is a huge earthquake). The darkness of 3:15 is referring to when the 5th bowl of God's wrath is poured out on the world as it gathers to the Valley of Decision (Revelation 16:10&11).

10. (:16) Even as the LORD delivers His justice to the nations gathered in this valley, what is He doing for His people?

Now this is cool. He is able to not only dole out punishment to those who are rejecting Him, but also shelter those who are trusting Him...even though they are in extremely close geographical proximity to the battle.

Look at Isaiah 16:20-21 and see what another prophet said as he realized the protection of God would someday cover his people: "Go,

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my people, enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until His wrath has passed by.”

And then look at Revelation 19:11-21 to see the description of the event itself. As the LORD descends from heaven on that white horse, with all the armies of heaven behind Him...as He simply speaks the word and His enemies are destroyed (Rev. 19:21)...a little band of believing Jews waits and trusts nearby in the burned-out city of Jerusalem...knowing that their Savior will protect their lives even as He is taking others. (Zechariah 14:1-5)

11. (:17-21) What will happen after this event in the Valley? One thousand years of Jesus reigning on the earth...and then eternity. (Revelation 20 – 22)

Warren Wiersbe, in his book “Be Amazed”, says this passage tells us that as the thousand years begins, there will be:

A Holy City (Jerusalem) (:17)

A Restored Land (Israel and the whole world) (:18)

A Cleansed People (Israel and all who believed in the end) (:20)

A Glorious King (Jesus) (:21)

12. (:21) Why do you think this book ends with this phrase: “The LORD dwells in Zion!”?

It’s the happy ending to the long, long story. God is back with us again.

Joel’s book of prophecy begins with a disaster...the plague of locusts. It ends with triumph. When you think about it...that is the story of the Bible.