

7-FOLD RESPONSE IN THE COMING GLOBAL CRISIS (JOEL 2:12-17)

- We are at the very *heart* of the Book of Joel
- The real *Theme of Book*: God's desire, in the midst of this unfolding drama, that has the positive dimensions of great, historic visitation of the Holy Spirit and the negative dimensions of Him shaking everything that can shake, Satan raging against human race & humans exercising their free will to enter into a dimension of sin to furthest degree that is possible (Rev 14:18), is for His people to *turn and cry out to HIM!*
- 7 Responses God wants from us in the context of national/global crisis (not personal crisis). This will be the experience of every nation in the earth. God is giving us hope & instruction so that entering into HIS HOPE become a reality.
- The context of Joel 2:12-17 is the earlier part of Joel (Joel 2:1-9). He is describing a military invasion that would decimate Israel in 586 B.C. This invasion by Babylon was Israel's greatest crisis in OT. The Holy Spirit is using that crisis in Israel's OT history as a *picture* of a greater crisis in the generation the Lord returns. This crisis is the result of a global, world-wide, evil empire lead by antichrist that will affect the nation of Israel intensely. God gives answer for Joel's generation (in context of Babylonian invasion)→what they were to do to receive God's mercy & to have deliverance that becomes the historical precedent for what Israel is to do in a COMING military invasion that **is** coming.
- This isn't limited to Israel. It also applies to every nation of the earth that is going to be impacted by this world-wide coalition of evil nations lead by antichrist (man of lawlessness/man of sin). Very Real! *It will happen before the Lord returns.*
- Joel 2:12-17 → Clearest passage of what God wants in crisis. Given so we can act in faith & confidence with certainty in midst of crisis...because despair WILL BE everywhere. (even in the Church).
- This passage is what God requires from His people. He is *removing* the "guess work". On Sep 11, 2001, there was great uncertainty about what we were supposed to do. (believers & unbelievers).
- He wants us to KNOW what is happening (what forces are operating, even overlapping in their influence), so we KNOW exactly what HE wants & what WILL WORK for people of God across the earth.

- VERY IMPORTANT (yet now neglected) passage across Body of Christ. It is going to be a relevant passage *very soon!!*
- He wants everybody hopeless to solve the crisis unless He releases HIS favor & power.
- The bad new is that, in the midst of crisis, even the Church does NOT know what is happening. That is not good. We're supposed to understand the forces at work & then KNOW THE SOLUTION (road-map) to "world peace". There **IS** a road map. It is summarized (as succinct as any place in Word of God), in Joel 2:12-17.
- You **cannot** afford to be ignorant of this passage. Nor be in a ministry that is ignorant of this reality!!! Not just the getting of information, there needs to be an anointing of conviction, an anointing of revelation about Joel 2:12-17.

I. UNDERSTAND GOD'S ROLE IN THE GOMING GLOBAL CRISIS (JOEL 2:10-11)

- One of the problems in crisis of 9/11/01 is that neither the Body of Christ, (nor unbelievers) knew what God's role was (i.e. what was God doing? Was He doing anything?) Yes, God was active & speaking in that crisis. The Church was quick to talk about the devil's role and sinful man's role, but nearly all the Church became **real quiet, real uncertain, & real shy** talking about God's role in it. He wants us to KNOW He has a role in this and He wants us to understand it so we can *relate & respond* to Him properly.
- The *wholeheartedness* of Joel 2:12-17 becomes **reasonable IF**, in fact, **God is the ONE** we need favor from.
- Is 63:10, 11 → God tells Israel: Here is your problem → **I** have become YOUR enemy. Another way to say this: You (Israel) have put yourself in an adversarial relationship with ME and MY goodness. The Scripture says it BOTH ways: 1) You have become MY enemy and 2) I have become Your enemy. Is 63:11 → God says: You have, by your responses toward Me, put yourself in an adversarial role to My covenant, My goodness & to My desire to deliver you.
- THEME of Joel 2:12-17: Found in vs 13 & 14 is God wants to deliver His people in the midst of the crisis. He desires to show compassion & release deliverance. That is His heart. Ez 33:11 → I have no pleasure in the death /destruction of wicked men. Rather I delight in & desire that they return to Me and live.

- God is raising up Forerunners (1 dimension of the prophetic ministry) focused on what is happening globally in terms of the coming revival and the coming crisis **and** they are preparing the people of God for it.

1. Dan 11:33→God will raise up people of understanding in the Last Days. They will be ones who KNOW what is going on (Dan 12:10).
2. Jer 23:20→In Last Days (End-Times) I will have people who **fully** understand My judgments and what I am doing.
3. He will raise up those who have VERY PRECISE understanding of what is happening in the global crisis that **IS** just around the corner.

A. **Four factors** – in the End of the Age shaking of all things (Heb 12:26; global/national).

1. **God's zeal (judgment):** to establish a people of purity (Joel 1:15; Is 63:10). To have a prepared Bride. It was God's zeal for Israel that raised up Nebuchadnezzar (nation of Babylon) to come and discipline Israel. It may be startling, but is **profoundly** Biblical: God's zeal for His Church IS what is moving Him to raise up the antichrist and give Him a world-wide influence. It is the zeal of God to have a prepared people and to reap the harvest. *****God IS NOT responsible for his(antichrist) evil, but for giving him a platform to exercise his evil God is NOT responsible for making him evil (or him being evil) but He is giving an evil man, with a 10-nation confederation, a global platform (a sphere of influence) in order to be part 1 of 4 factors of the shaking which will produce the End-Time harvest and a prepared Bride (purified Church).**
2. **Satan's Rage:** to kill, steal and destroy (John 10:10; Rev 12:7-12). God is allowing Satan to vent/express his rage unprecedented to any other time in natural history.
3. **Man's sin:** dignity of free will→provides legal entry point for angels/demons to earthly realm (Dan 9:23; Dan 10:12) and for suffering and blessing (Deut 28). Human beings acting evil toward on another. The honor of human dignity is a **REAL** free will. It is the real deal...not practice. We can operate free will for good or evil and the issue of life & death is in the result of how we choose. Decisions you make today *honestly* affect life for time and eternity for you and those around you. **It counts forever!!!** This will contribute to the shaking. Our free will

provides entry point for angels/demons. When we are in righteousness, fasting & prayer, we open up legal portals for angelic activity into natural realm. AND when we live individually (but especially collectively) in rebellion and give ourselves willingly to satanic activity, we open up legal entry points for demonic activity to be heightened in natural realm.

4. **Creation's groan:** nature's convulsions- the connectedness of the land to the human race (Rom 8:22-23). Mysterious and glorious. When Adam sinned (Gen 3), the earth had a curse on it. It continues to increase as humans sin. There IS a natural process that God set into motion between the created order and the responses of humans on the earth. POINT? = because of a history of sin for 6,000 years since Adam → earthquakes, storms, volcanoes happen is creation groaning. It IS **literal** groaning in the earth.

Earthquakes will increase because of 1) man's sin will increase (Matt 24:7)...groan of creation; 2) demonic activity increases; 3) God's wrath & judgment increases

****KNOW THIS planet earth: *Your biggest problem is MY ZEAL*, not even Satan's wrath, not even sin of human race and not even the groan in created order. Your real problem is that I (GOD) have zeal for humans and I am not going to allow the human race to go unopposed by the greatest opportunity for revival in human history. I AM going to have *the largest number of people, living in the deepest level of love of anytime in history, without violating their free will or without violating MY own justice. GOD WILL NOT BE SILENT!* He will have a harvest and the compromising Church → (her biggest problem is not the devil, but the zeal of God that says: I will NOT have a compromising Church when My Son returns). God says: **YOU CANNOT GET AROUND MY PLAN!**

B. Three responses – to the 4 factors; cultivating partnership with God's heart

1. **Receive** – God's correction by understanding the purpose of His judgments. We receive by humility
2. **Resist** – Satan's activity in faith. We don't receive his rage. How do we know which is which?-->that's part of what God wants to do in Forerunner Ministry (with a prophetic anointing)→to give greater and greater clarity as to what's going on.

3. **Repent** – of sin with *wholeheartedness*

- a. Personal and corporate sin
- b. Present and past sin (sins of the fathers)

II. TURN TO GOD WITH WHOLEHEARTEDNESS (JOEL 2:12-13B; JOEL 1:13) AND RECEIVING THE FAVOR OF GOD

- He's after *long-term, wholeheartedness*. That is the **ONLY** place of immunity. The only place of safety in the earth is in companies of people who have this!
- (Mike believes this so desperately that he changed everything in his life to go after it)→Use this testimony and be provoked yourself. *The crisis IS coming!!!* And there really **IS** a place of safety. But it must be acted on in the present tense.
- Many have “ostrich Christianity” = put head in ground thinking if they don't look at reality, reality will pass them by. **NOT TRUE!** *The crisis IS coming whether you are interested in it or not; whether you believe it or not; whether you like it or not. **IT IS STILL COMING*** because the Zeal of God is set upon the planet. He wants a prepared bride for His Worthy Son.
- Increased burden by the fact that vast majority of Body of Christ do not think a crisis is coming...nor are they thinking there **IS** a solution to the coming crisis. They must assume: It is going on like this forever....and **IT IS NOT**. Scripture tells us **what** to do.

A. Turn to Me with all your heart – (Joel 2:12b, 13b; Jer 29:10-14).

1. Turn to Me with all your love (Matt 22:37) = 1st Commandment
2. The fact God wants our heart and love, reveals what kind of heart He has. Other kings want your \$\$, land, and your service. He really wants your heart. This is His number 1 requirement.
3. I will cause deliverance under 1 condition: respond to My love with love.
4. This evil world leader **DOES NOT** care about the love of the human race. He wants their land, \$\$, service or relationship.

5. The real source of the conflict: **God is after love with a vengeance and He will have it.**

B. **Turn to Me with fasting, weeping and mourning** – (Joel 2:12c) Some of the dimensions of wholehearted turning. Giving divine insight into turning with a whole heart. This definition of *wholeheartedness* IS very rare in the Church today. It IS God's definition, it IS real and IT IS important.

1. **Fasting** – voluntary weakness that tenderizes the heart (2 Chron 34:27). Fasting enlarges the capacity and speeds up the processes of the heart in God's grace. A critical part of *wholeheartedness* and one of the most important things we need to cultivate in Body of Christ. It does not earn God's favor, but positions you to receive a greater capacity for love → faster! To be *wholehearted* Christianity → must include fasting. Christianity without fasting as part of the *lifestyle* is not Biblical Christianity. It is not a *wholeheartedness* found in OT & NT. Regarding fasting → ask God for help. This is place where the heart is tenderized at the deepest level at the greatest speed.

2 Chron 34:27 Josiah had tender heart and cried out. God delayed the Babylonian invasion until just after his death; then it came. Because of his tenderness and humility (he did Joel 2), God delayed the invasion.

2. **Weeping and mourning** (wail, lament, be ashamed – Joel 1:13, Joel 1:11, Joel 1:8; Joel 2:17) POINT? = God does not want prayer by rote memorization. When weeping and mourning break in → evidence that the thing has really touched the heart.
 - a. Body of Christ will understand that their sin is part of cause of the coming judgment. It yields Godly remorse. It connects that we resisted eternal love in its full demonstration
 - b. Because the terror round the corner IS REAL

C. **Rend (tear) your heart** – (Joel 2:13b), deal radically with the heart (Matt 5:29-10). Come and lie all night in sackcloth (Joel 1:13).

1. Traditionally they tore a garment as a ritual to say: "God this is how sorry we are". God says → "don't rip your shirt, Rip your heart!" Means deal radically with issues of the heart.
2. Matt 5:29-30 Jesus speaking radically here. He means to do the

radical rearranging of your life to where that issue is dealt with. Until it (that particular issue) has become your enemy. He wants them to take action.

3. Joel 1:12-14 is parallel passage to Joel 2:17. Come and lie all night in sackcloth. Don't just get a bunch of preachers together and talk about it!! NO!!! Do something about it → that's extreme. Some are trying to pursue *wholeheartedness* with God in such a casual way. They want it to be so gentle, subtle, tame that they don't know they did it; yet now, (somehow magically), they are *wholehearted*. God says: "I want a *wholeheartedness* that you know there's been a change when it is being expressed.
4. Sackcloth: in some monasteries they thought the point was discomfort. It is NOT. Point is humility. The priests (professional clergy) in that day, had ecclesiastical robes which depicted their rank, superior status, etc. (Ex 28). They strutted with their "uniforms" on depicting their status over people. Prophet is saying: take off position of status, lay your "badges" down, uniform, titles.... **The emergency is for the human race!!!!** (in this case for Israel).

III. CALL SACRED ASSEMBLIES –JOEL 2:15

A. **Blow the trumpet** in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly (Joel 1:14; Joel 2:1).

1. Blow the trumpet: wake up and alarm the people of God. We need the kind of preaching (Joel 2:1) that produces *alarm* and *trembling*. When is the last time you heard a message that made you alarmed about our nation? When is the last time your preached one that alarmed someone that crisis IS around the corner?
2. GOD is the Church's biggest problem because He will NOT be silenced or denied a Church without compromise. We can bind the devil; have social reforms; BUT the problem is a GOD of Zeal who won't be silenced... until the people are wholly His. The challenge = The Lovesick God wants an equally yoked lovesick people.
3. Call sacred assemblies. Days are coming where we Will have stadiums with sacred assemblies. They are sacred. They are NOT optional, they are NOT casual, or IF you are in the mood for it or IF your schedule allows.

B. Gather the people...into the House of the Lord (Joel 1:14c)

1. God IS calling people to an understanding of the crisis and a revelation of the solution to where the gatherings are sacred trusts: To appear before Me as the **ONLY ONES (Body of Christ)** with a position to bring the solution. Body of Christ is the **ONLY HOPE**. 2 Chron 7:14: issue of *wholeheartedness* of the believers. If they are *wholehearted*→the visitation comes!!!

IV. GATHER THE ELDERS – JOEL 2:16c, JOEL 2:17

A. Assemble the elders (gather the elders – Joel 1:14c)

1. Now get the *leaders* to show. These **are** the most difficult group to gather because they are:
 - a. Busy
 - b. Have familiarity with things of God (so they are the group most likely to be *unmoved* by the alarm).
 - c. Leaders have ministry agendas and don't want to slow down the machine for the "hassle" of fasting & prayer. It cost lots of \$\$\$ to have leaders fast & pray.
 - d. Some pastors in KC did not want "their" people too involved with IHOP because it interfered with church calendars. Make said: "There IS a crisis on the horizon. We NEED to understand the hour we're living in!!!"
 - e. These are NOT easy things. Every one IS powerful with significant and serious implications. Each one of these are NOT easily done.

B. Let the priests....weep between porch and altar

V. GATHER THE PEOPLE –JOEL 2: 16

A. Sanctify the congregation (all inhabitants of the land – Joel 1:14d)

1. They think your are fanatical. It's unpopular, radical, extreme, and think it's impractical for people with "real" jobs. They tell the leaders→you do it....you're *paid* to do it.
2. God says: **THIS must** become the operational mode in Body of Christ in the generation that I return.

3. This is not *all* we do. But it isn't 10th on the list → *it IS a major part of the agenda of the leadership of the Body of Christ before the Lord returns!*

B. Gather the brides, bridegrooms, children and nursing babes (tell the children Joel 1:3).

1. NONE are exempt from the crying out *because* NONE will be exempt from the coming crisis and judgment.
2. We aren't at this level of alarm YET. We may be a couple of decades out. Don't wait until we're at the edge of global disaster to get together to develop a long history of *wholeheartedness* together. This IS the place where breakthrough, revival, visitation of God and protection are.

VI. EARNEST PRAYER – JOEL 2:17; JOEL 1:14; JOEL 1: 19-20

A. Let the priests...weep between the porch and the altar say:

1. **Prayer # 1:** Spare Your people, oh Lord. His answer is "I do want to! It's My heart to build Cities of Refuge/Pockets of Mercy (Ps 91).
2. **Prayer # 2:** Do not give up Your heritage to reproach. Don't let nations of the earth mock as if God is not real in relationship with people on the earth. Not just embarrassing, but when His name is mocked, it hinders the Great Harvest. The way the Harvest will come in from the nations, is when the unbelievers see that what we have in time and space is a dynamic love relationship with a God who moves on a people who obey and they enjoy one another and there is power in their midst. A bored Church is a statement to the nations that the God they relate to must be boring or He has no power.

B. Cry out to the Lord –Joel 1:14e, Joel 1:19-20

VII. CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S KINDNESS (BRIDAL PARADIGM)- JOEL 2:13c-14

A. Lord is gracious, merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness (zealous 2:18). **Ex 34:6**; Ps 86:15; Ps 103:8; Ps 145:8; Neh 9:17; Jonah 3:9; Jonah 4:2; Micah 6:8; Micah 7:18; Hos 6:6.

B. He relents from doing harm (deals wondrously with His people – (Joel 2:26c)

1. I love to change what is on schedule for your geographic area.
Give Me a Reason to change it. Here's what you have to know:
"I'm a God who wants a passionate relationship with My people.
Give Me a reason to have a loving people in your geographic
area *without sending judgment*. That's what Prayer & Fasting is
all about.

C. Who knows (PERHAPS) if He will turn....and leave a blessing behind
Him. Zeph 2:3; Jonah 2:9; Ez 33:11; Jer 51:8; Hab 3:17; Amos 5:15;
Amos 7:3; 2 Sam 12:22; 2 Sam 24:14; 2 Chron 34:27.

1. 10 examples of how judgment was scheduled and GOD turned
the judgment in a moment (suddenly). The blessing broke in
instead of judgment.
2. URGE you to read these verses.