

## CALAMITIES

- Witnessing so many calamities, wars/rumors of more wars to come, violence almost everywhere, love running cold in people – heartless and random with their actions, sound doctrine has practically been shoved out of churches and lives of believers, earthquakes, floods, fires and the pestilences of diseased bodies due to severe illnesses ---- all are a result of our Father pleading with people to humble themselves, repent & turn from their wicked ways and turn their lives and hearts over to Him in complete surrender.
- As darkness acts are carried out increasingly upon the Earth, it is our job to shine the love and blessings of the Lord Jesus upon others in their time of need and to proclaim His victory and glory revealed.
- For every offering of bad news, we preach the good news of how Jesus is mighty to save to encourage others of hope in a time of need.
- And don't forget to encourage your own soul as well, so you do not become weary in doing good. Sometimes we focus so much on taking care of others, we can get very depleted – so remember to go to the well of refreshing each day by spending time with Jesus for yourself.

Yesterday, while in prayer the Lord gave me something in my heart – He whispered back in calm to me...

“I will be zealous for my land and pity my people.” This brought such a washing of peace over me and of course I had to find the scripture to get the full story. Guess what? Its in Joel 2, which He showed me is unfolding, once again – history always repeats itself and our Lord shows up every single time a battle needs won.

### JOEL 2

Blow the <sup>[a]</sup>trumpet in Zion,  
And sound an alarm in My holy mountain!  
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble;  
For the day of the LORD is coming,  
For it is at hand:  
<sup>2</sup> A day of darkness and gloominess,  
A day of clouds and thick darkness,  
Like the morning *clouds* spread over the mountains.  
A people *come*, great and strong,  
The like of whom has never been;  
Nor will there ever be any *such* after them,  
Even for many successive generations.  
  
<sup>3</sup> A fire devours before them,  
And behind them a flame burns;  
The land *is* like the Garden of Eden before them,  
And behind them a desolate wilderness;  
Surely nothing shall escape them.  
<sup>4</sup> Their appearance is like the appearance of horses;  
And like <sup>[b]</sup>swift steeds, so they run.  
<sup>5</sup> With a noise like chariots  
Over mountaintops they leap,  
Like the noise of a flaming fire that devours the stubble,  
Like a strong people set in battle array.  
  
<sup>6</sup> Before them the people writhe in pain;  
All faces <sup>[c]</sup>are drained of color.  
<sup>7</sup> They run like mighty men,  
They climb the wall like men of war;  
Every one marches in formation,

And they do not break ranks.

<sup>8</sup>They do not push one another;

Every one marches in his own <sup>[a]</sup>column.

Though they lunge between the weapons,

They are not <sup>[a]</sup>cut down.

<sup>9</sup>They run to and fro in the city,

They run on the wall;

They climb into the houses,

They enter at the windows like a thief.

<sup>10</sup>The earth quakes before them,

The heavens tremble;

The sun and moon grow dark,

And the stars diminish their brightness.

<sup>11</sup>The LORD gives voice before His army,

For His camp is very great;

For strong *is the One* who executes His word.

For the day of the LORD *is* great and very terrible;

Who can endure it?

### **A Call to Repentance**

<sup>12</sup>“Now, therefore,” says the LORD,

“Turn to Me with all your heart,

With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.”

<sup>13</sup>So rend your heart, and not your garments;

Return to the LORD your God,

For He *is* gracious and merciful,

Slow to anger, and of great kindness;

And He relents from doing harm.

<sup>14</sup>Who knows *if* He will turn and relent,

And leave a blessing behind Him—

A grain offering and a drink offering

For the LORD your God?

<sup>15</sup>Blow the <sup>[a]</sup>trumpet in Zion,

Consecrate a fast,

Call a sacred assembly;

<sup>16</sup>Gather the people,

Sanctify the congregation,

Assemble the elders,

Gather the children and nursing babes;

Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber,

And the bride from her dressing room.

<sup>17</sup>Let the priests, who minister to the LORD,

Weep between the porch and the altar;

Let them say, “Spare Your people, O LORD,

And do not give Your heritage to reproach,

That the nations should <sup>[a]</sup>rule over them.

Why should they say among the peoples,

‘Where *is* their God?’ ”

## The Land Refreshed

**18 Then the LORD will be zealous for His land,  
And pity His people.**

**19** The LORD will answer and say to His people,  
"Behold, I will send you grain and new wine and oil,  
And you will be satisfied by them;  
I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations.

**20** "But I will remove far from you the northern *army*,  
And will drive him away into a barren and desolate land,  
With his face toward the eastern sea  
And his back toward the western sea;  
His stench will come up,  
And his foul odor will rise,  
Because he has done <sup>□</sup>monstrous things."

**21** Fear not, O land;  
Be glad and rejoice,  
For the LORD has done <sup>□</sup>marvelous things!  
**22** Do not be afraid, you beasts of the field;  
For the open pastures are springing up,  
And the tree bears its fruit;  
The fig tree and the vine yield their strength.

**23** Be glad then, you children of Zion,  
And rejoice in the LORD your God;  
For He has given you the <sup>□</sup>former rain faithfully,  
And He will cause the rain to come down for you—  
The former rain,  
And the latter rain in the first *month*.

**24** The threshing floors shall be full of wheat,  
And the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil.

**25** "So I will restore to you the years that the swarming <sup>□</sup>locust has eaten,  
The crawling locust,  
The consuming locust,  
And the chewing locust,  
My great army which I sent among you.

**26** You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,  
And praise the name of the LORD your God,  
Who has dealt wondrously with you;  
And My people shall never be put to shame.

**27** Then you shall know that I *am* in the midst of Israel:  
I *am* the LORD your God  
And there is no other.  
My people shall never be put to shame.

## God's Spirit Poured Out

**28 "And it shall come to pass afterward**

That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;  
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
Your old men shall dream dreams,  
Your young men shall see visions.

**29** And also on *My* menservants and on *My* maidservants  
I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

<sup>30</sup> "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth:

Blood and fire and pillars of smoke.

<sup>31</sup> The sun shall be turned into darkness,

And the moon into blood,

Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

<sup>32</sup> And it shall come to pass

*That* whoever calls on the name of the LORD

Shall be <sup>U</sup>saved.

For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be <sup>U</sup>deliverance,

As the LORD has said,

Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.

Thank you Lord for Your word to feed us spiritually, to bring clarity and truth into our minds insure we remain vigilant and sober.

Do we see the storm clouds of darkness surrounding us and attempting to roll over us, of course, that goes without saying... it should be a given, not our focus though. We are created to declare the wonderous works of our Lord within the storm, not focus on the storm itself. This is His Spirit pouring out on flesh, this is Him abiding within us as we prophesy and declare how His hand is moving and His will is being done on Earth as it is in Heaven, dispelling the darkness, not doing it. In our dream He is victorious in our visions He is victorious, always He wins the battle – and yet so many are leaving that part off... We just read how He will show wonders in the Heavens and the Earth with blood, fire and pillars of smoke as the moon turns into blood before He arrives to save in His awesomeness – for many it is only on that day they will see how mighty to save He actually is. They have to experience the calamities to be a witness and call upon His Name and be saved – but that should not be any of us... we are the chosen ones who are to join with Him before to announce His arrival on the scene of calamity, professing His arrival, even to the point of going before Him as a voice that cries out from the wilderness – have no fear, Jesus is here, the one who was and is and is to come.

This is a part of being the bride to the bridegroom – in oneness with Him... In Revelation it says and the Sprit and the Bride say come... Why do both say come? Because they are one – saying the same thing at the same time.

What flows out of our mouths reflects what is in the heart. Blessings or cursing's? If we leave off the part of His victory, while only speaking curses – we get caught up in the curse itself, needing more time for a testimony of how mighty He is to save. And if we are not careful, we will come into agreement with the curse itself, only to witness it. But if we tell the whole story... including the blessing part, then our souls are alive and well, filled with peace that surpasses all understanding and we stand victorious in the midst of the storm and are blessed.

Does it look terrible at times? Absolutely... the enemy has a way about him to make us shutter with threats to wear us out, even the saints... But on the flip side, our God is sovereign and all things are purposed for the saving of souls, even calamities and tragedies are turned for our good. We are blessed to believe in advance of seeing and we know and trust Him personally, no matter the obstacles set before us.

It may look bleak at the moment... but remember God shall restore all things. And why is all of this happening? Even the heartbreak we deal with quite often, why? So that we, all of us... Return to Him with our whole hearts. Not just a part, but our whole hearts to worship Him in spirit and in truth – He doesn't just want a part of us, He wants us all for Himself. Thank You Lord.

Psalm 30:5 says – For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for a lifetime; weeping may last for the night, But a shout of joy comes in the morning.

Just think about how many trials our lives on Earth have contained. We've cried many tears and yet... during it all His favor was upon us, we cried and cried – so much heartache and loss and yet... He never left us or has He forsaken us, not ever – when all the dust settled, joy came because He came to us in our time of need and calling out to Him. And we are still here aren't we? In all the battles we faced that we convinced ourselves were going to overtake us like waves to drown us to death... we are here, we survived them all, we became victorious because our lives are not our own but His.

So why would this time be any different? Why would He all of a sudden just turn a blind eye to us in our time of need? He hasn't before and He will not in the future. He changes not, He is the same yesterday, today and in all of our tomorrows and we know He is not a God that would lie, He is the way, the truth and the life.

People, even in the brethren get agitated when you speak this way... it is like they want you to join with them in agreement to their cursing's of fear. So be very careful what you are speaking over yourself right now. Pull a David and encourage your own soul, speaking life and victory, not death and despair.

So let's pray...

*Lord we continue to turn our hearts towards You, asking You to shine your face upon us with gratitude for Your constant favor and protection. As a guiding light continue to lead us and fill us, in that we may do the same for others who are struggling and surrounded by fearful things attempting to overtake them day and night. Please guard our lips and feet in that we do not become a prey to seducing spirits and lift us up when we seek You so that we may not fall away from the faith and join with those who are promoting fear by dethroning Your sovereignty upon the Earth and in the Heavens. We without a doubt believe Your perfect will is being done every moment of every day and we surrender to Your will with our whole hearts, minds, souls and spirit. Be with us Lord and guide us into all truth, in that we endure sound doctrine the whole way through and not embrace any lies. Thank You Jesus for walking this journey called life with us. We surrender our wills and ways to You, we do believe in You even without seeing we know Your voice is the only voice of truth that leads and guides us continually. Amen.*

You know something? I know nothing really... and I know how irritating I am to so many people and it makes me feel really bad because the last thing I want to do is offend or harm someone in anyway. But there is something inside me greater than myself, like something in my heart and soul that will not allow me to join along with anyone that might try to minimize a good outcome or any outcome for that matter that the Lord is overseeing. No matter how big the problem is, or how small... I know in my heart and soul it will all be fine when all is said and done and that fear thing that tries to shake us, is just fear because when we keep our lives in His hands, His will is done even if we suffer a little or a lot in the process, its going to go according to His perfect plan. My plans seem to not be a very good idea at all and even if they appear to work out okay initially, something falls apart by the end and I wonder what was I even thinking.

Maybe some of you all can relate? I just know that all these calamities are somewhat exciting for us because like birthpains they increase, cause pain and are getting stronger and closer together but guess what? It means sooner than later we will be with Jesus without the veil of this flesh body and nothing is more encouraging than that to many of us. Right?

So before I go... lets land in Titus 2, where the Lord blessed me with His wonderful word and I pray it encourages you as much as it has me as together we wait for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ to redeem us and purify us for Himself.

## TITUS 2

But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: <sup>2</sup> that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; <sup>3</sup> the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things— <sup>4</sup> that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, <sup>5</sup> to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

<sup>6</sup> Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, <sup>7</sup> in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>8</sup> sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of <sup>[b]</sup>you.

<sup>9</sup> Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, <sup>10</sup> not <sup>[c]</sup>pilfering, but showing all good <sup>[d]</sup>fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

### Trained by Saving Grace

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, <sup>12</sup> teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, <sup>13</sup> looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

<sup>15</sup> Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

So with all that going on right now... we must keep our own salvation in tact daily, working on it continuously as we seek His face and for me anyway, the only way truly I know to do this with any success at all is to have One example I use to imitate and follow and that is Jesus. He is the perfect example given to us, so if He hasn't said it or He didn't do it, then neither should we to the best of our ability, of course. Not to say any of us are perfect at this, because we fall short daily, but we try, we are growing in our spiritual walk and it is through looking to Jesus that we decrease and He increases within us – by surrendering our lives, self-will, dreams, thoughts, actions – everything giving our all to Him, having nothing within for darkness to cling to when it comes knocking on the doors of our hearts. As a reminder, let us not get so focused on His coming the clouds – which most certainly is something exciting to look forward to no doubt – that we minimize or forget that every single day He is coming to us by way of the heart – to seal us, redeem and purify us to the point, anything good that is within us is Him because He is the source of all that good, lovely and pure.

I realize we are surrounded by many who we deeply love, but right now, in this season of the end, for a moment we need to fall into Jesus, our first love, making Him the object of our desire above all else. We cannot work out another's salvation, that is something they too will need to learn along their journey with Him. We may want to force or perfect or mold someone but we need to give them to Him and pray and love and encourage them when they ask – in brotherly love, be an overseer of those we love when they reach out and are willing.

These teachable moments now are coming to a close, as we let go and let God have His perfect way in the lives of those we love or at least that is where He has me right now. Laying down all convincing in that all may choose for themselves to be for Him or against Him – which ensures their choice is genuine and of the heart.

No more convincing... sounds like a divine opportunity for a fast... fasting from convincing others of thinking like us, worshipping like us, conforming to us in anyway or pressuring them to have a heart change or seek Jesus or lay their lives down for Him. To truly practice letting others go and letting God be their Savior, not us.

At this point, considering all that is going on... it is time to let go and let God be God. Amen. We are crossing over that threshold in which, He no longer calls us servants, but friends, thank You Lord and He is a friend that sticks closer to us than a brother and I believe that is something we each need right now... a friend Named Jesus Who sticks with us through thick or thin, on the messy moments and in the ones we rejoice in, who sees us at our worst and in our best and loves us the same. He is One Who knows our thoughts and embraces us nonetheless. He knows our hearts aren't whole and yet He completes us willingly. Our Jesus tends to the wounds with His healing hands, as He binds them up, repairing and mending void of scrutiny. There truly is no one like Him, time to start treating Him just as He is, our everything, while all else takes proper position in our lives behind Him.

There is just something unique to being a beloved bride – you have fallen in love with Him. So you long for Him, you miss Him, you can never get enough of Him, you thirst no more for things outside of Him and I am not sure if you have noticed this about yourself, but something rises up inside you to protect Him too – you become bold with those who mock or scoff Him... just like a real Bride would be with her husband. I find that totally amazing.

Next time we do really need to discuss woes and offenses... because you are witnessing right now how the offended respond only to end up in a woe of war for not handling affliction and pain from a surrendered life and heart. These woes upon people and nations at the moment are a result of offense and unfortunately or not, as God is pleading with His people, like birthpains they too shall increase. So we are going to talk about it!