

God's Justice and Faithfulness (Joel 2:28-32)

Lesson 9

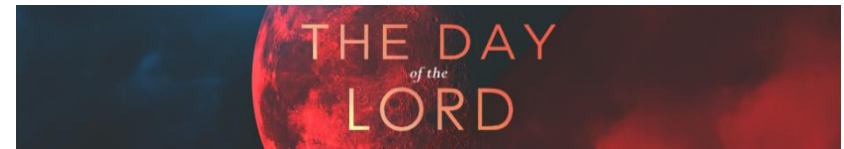
Israel and Judah wrestled with the question that many of us wrestle with at times: is it really worth it to follow God when wicked people seem to be getting away with it? The Bible has a very thorough answer to that question, and in this lesson we will see at least one important part of that answer: they won't get away with it forever!

God's Just Judgment on Judah's Enemies (3:1-16)

Joel begins this chapter both why God is bringing judgment, and also what specific judgment he is planning on bringing.

A. The _____ for God's anger at Judah's enemies.

1. **The surrounding nations sent Judah into _____.**
Although Babylon and Assyria are most notorious for this, sending another country into captivity was a common war tactic.
2. **The surrounding nations _____ up the holy land.**
God was very possessive of his land, and didn't like the callous way that other nations portioned it out amongst themselves.
3. **The surrounding nations _____ the children of Judah.**
Joel describes how these other nations callously sold children for carnal pleasures like wine and immorality.
4. **The surrounding nations _____ the country.**
Finally, they took treasure, treasure that God viewed as being his treasure. Essentially, God tells these nations "you took my stuff!"



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B. God's _____ to the surrounding nations.

- 1. God will bring their _____ deeds back to haunt them.**
We see here repeated a theme that we have seen elsewhere: what goes around comes around again. What these nations have done to other nations, God will do to them.
- 2. God will _____ the nations to battle.**
God challenges these nations to come up against God and do their worst.
- 3. God will _____ them for their evil.**
The main theme of this section is how God will gather the nations, defeat them, and then judge them for the way they have taken advantage of his people.

God's Faithful Blessings on the Nation of Israel (3:16-21)

The book of Joel ends, not by discussing God's punishment on Israel's enemies, but ultimately by pointing to the hope for Judah's future.

- A. God will provide _____ for Judah**
No longer will foreigners harass Judah in her own country. Instead, her historic enemies will be defeated and she will be protected.
- B. God will provide _____ for Judah**
As promised earlier, God reiterates the future hope of a land flowing with divine blessings.
- C. God will provide his own _____ for Judah**
Ultimately, the peace and prosperity of the land comes from a relationship with God. It is because he dwells in Jerusalem that all of these good things come to the nation, and that any and every blessing comes to us.

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