

FOR YOUR PROPHET

THE BOOK OF JOEL

THE REAL AND PRESENT DANGER OF INDIFFERENCE

These are all warning markers--DANGER!--in our history books, written down so that we don't repeat their mistakes. 1 Corinthians 10:11 - Message



➤ TWO REASONS THAT GOD RECORDED THE "MINOR PROPHETS" FOR US:

1. God gave them to _____ me to live _____.

You see, everything written in the days of old was recorded to give us instructions for living. We find encouragement through the Scriptures and a call to perseverance ... **Romans 15:4** (VOICE)

2. God gave them to _____ me about living _____.

These things happened for a reason: to sound a warning. They were written down and passed down to us to teach us. They were meant especially for us¹² So let even the most confident believers remember their examples and be very careful not to fall as some of them did. **1 Corinthians 10:11-12** (VOICE)

➤ JOEL WARNS GOD'S CHILDREN ABOUT THE DANGER OF INDIFFERENCE.

- A COUPLE OF PROBLEMS WITH INDIFFERENCE

- First, God feels _____ by indifference.

*"I know you inside and out.... You're not cold, you're not hot—far better to be either cold or hot! You're stale. You're stagnant. You make me want to vomit... **Revelation 3:16a** (MP)*

*"Love the Lord your God with every passion of your heart, with all the energy of your being (soul), and with every thought that is within you (mind)."³⁸ This is the greatest and supreme commandment. **Matthew 22:37-38** (TPT)*

- Second, humans feel _____ about indifference.

*You brag, 'I'm rich, I've got it made, I need nothing from anyone,' oblivious that in fact you're a pitiful, blind beggar, threadbare and homeless. **Revelation 3:16b** (MP)*

*Sound the alarm in Jerusalem! Let the blast of the warning trumpet be heard upon my holy mountain! Let everyone tremble in fear, for the day of the Lord's judgment approaches. **Joel 2:1** (TLB)*

➤ JOEL'S PROVIDES GOD BATTLE PLAN TO HELP ME DEFEAT INDIFFERENCE.

1. GOD'S PLAN _____ TO _____ TO SPIRITUAL REALITY.

*The LORD gave this message to Joel...² Hear this, you leaders of the people. Listen, all who live in the land. In all your history, has anything like this happened before?³ Tell your children about it in the years to come, and let your children tell their children. Pass the story down from generation to generation...^{2:2} *It is a day of darkness and gloom, a day of thick clouds and deep blackness. Suddenly, like dawn spreading across the mountains, a great and mighty army appears...³ Fire burns in front of them, and flames**

follow after them. Ahead of them the land lies beautiful as the Garden of Eden. Behind them is nothing but desolation; not one thing escapes. **Joel 1:1-20, 2:2-11** (NLT)

Dear child, don't shrug off God's discipline, but don't be crushed by it either. ⁶ It's the child He loves that He disciplines; the child He embraces, He also corrects. ⁷ He's treating you as dear children. This trouble...it's training. **Hebrews 12:5-7** (MP)

2. GOD'S PLAN CALLS ME TO _____.

Sound the trumpet in Jerusalem!^a! Raise the alarm on my holy mountain! Let everyone tremble in fear because the day of the Lord is upon us. **Joel 2:1** (NLT)

For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death. ¹¹ Just see what this godly sorrow produced in you! Such ...such alarm. **2 Corinthians 7:10-11** (NLT)

- Scriptural repentance is an in-sequential cause-and-effect concept:

Tear your hearts, not just your clothes... **Joel 2:13** (CEB)

- THE CAUSE: a change of _____.

"Even now," says the LORD, "return to me with all your heart." **Joel 2:12a** (NIV)

- THE EFFECT: a change of _____.

"...return to me with.... with fasting and weeping and mourning." **Joel 2:12** (NIV)

The Lord thunders at the head of his army .. and mighty are those who obey his command. The day of the Lord is great; it is dreadful. Who can endure it? **Joel 2:11** (NIV)

3. GOD'S PLAN PROMISES ME _____.

Change your life, not just your clothes. Come back to GOD, your God. And here's why: God is kind and merciful. He takes a deep breath, puts up with a lot, This most patient God, extravagant in love...ready to cancel catastrophe. Who knows? Maybe he'll do it now, maybe he'll turn around and show pity. Maybe, when all's said and done, there'll be blessings full and robust for your GOD! **Joel 2:13** (MP)

Then the LORD will show concern for his land. He will take pity on his people. ¹⁹ He will reply, "I will send you grain, olive oil and fresh wine. It will be enough to satisfy you completely. ²⁷ You will know that I am with you in Israel. I am the LORD your God. There is no other God. So my people will never be put to shame again. ²⁸ "And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. **Joel 2:19-28** (NIV)

4. GOD'S PLAN REMINDS ME OF HIS _____.

"Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side. ¹³ Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow-- so great is their wickedness!" ¹⁴ Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. ¹⁶ The LORD will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the heavens will tremble. But the LORD will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel. **Joel 3:12-16** (NIV)

NOTE: I have no reason to fear the _____ "day of the Lord"
if I respond correctly to the _____ day of the lord.