

The End Times
According to the Prophet

Joel



The Day of the Lord is at Hand

Summer Session
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Joel's Message For the End Times

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Amos 3:7

Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.

I. Check out the Minor (Shorter) Prophets

A. Theme of the Twelve = **2nd Exodus**

God supplants the miracle of the Egyptian Exodus, with the greater miracle of the world-wide Exodus in the end times - Jer. 16:14-16

*¹⁴ The days are coming, declares the LORD, when it will **no longer be said**,
 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,'
¹⁵ but it will be said, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of
 the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.'
 For I will restore them to the land I gave their ancestors.*

17 Books of Prophecy

5 Books Major Prophets	12 Books Minor Prophets	%	Prophecies of the 2 nd Exodus
1 Isaiah	1 Hosea	56%	Hosea 2:14-23; 14:4-7
2 Jeremiah	2 Joel	68%	Joel 3:18-21
3 Lamentations	3 Amos	58%	Amos 9:11-15
4 Ezekiel	4 Obadiah	81%	Obad. 17, 21
5 Daniel	5 Jonah	10%	(Nineveh)
	6 Micah	70%	Micah 4:1-3, 6-8; 5:3; 7:14-20
	7 Nahum	74%	(Destruction of Nineveh)
	8 Habakkuk	47%	(Babylonian Invasion)
	9 Zephaniah	89%	Zeph. 3:14-20
	10 Haggai	39%	Hag. 2:20-23
	11 Zechariah	69%	Zech. 10:6-10; 12:2-3
	12 Malachi	56%	Mal. 4:1-3

B. Within the Twelve

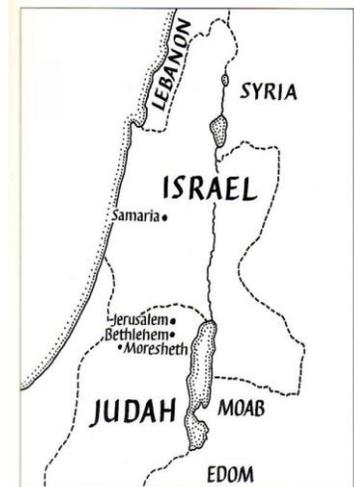
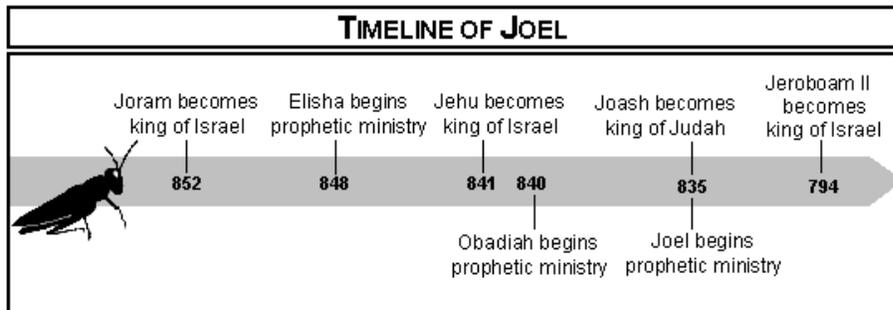
1. You will not find the church in the Old Testament - Eph. 3:5
2. **Near Prophecies** - Inside these books are prophecies concerning the prophet's contemporary situation, and prophecies about the near future like the Assyrian and Babylonian deportations and the Messiah's First Coming.
3. **End Time Prophecies** - In addition, there are future prophecies concerning the end times that discuss Israel's return, the Tribulation Period, the Battle of Armageddon, Israel's conversion, Christ's Return and the Millennial Kingdom.

II. The Date and Message of Joel (“Jo-el” - “Jehovah is God”)

(Joel 1:1) - *The word of the Lord that came to Joel the son of Pethuel.*

A. No mention of a king suggests the days of Queen Athaliah - 2 Kgs 11; 2 Chron. 22

Athaliah (“whom Yahweh has afflicted”), daughter of Jezebel, killed off the Davidic line then usurped the throne in Judah and established the Temple of Baal (2 Kgs. 11:17-21). Her rebellious acts most likely triggered God’s wrath of the locust plague in Judah.

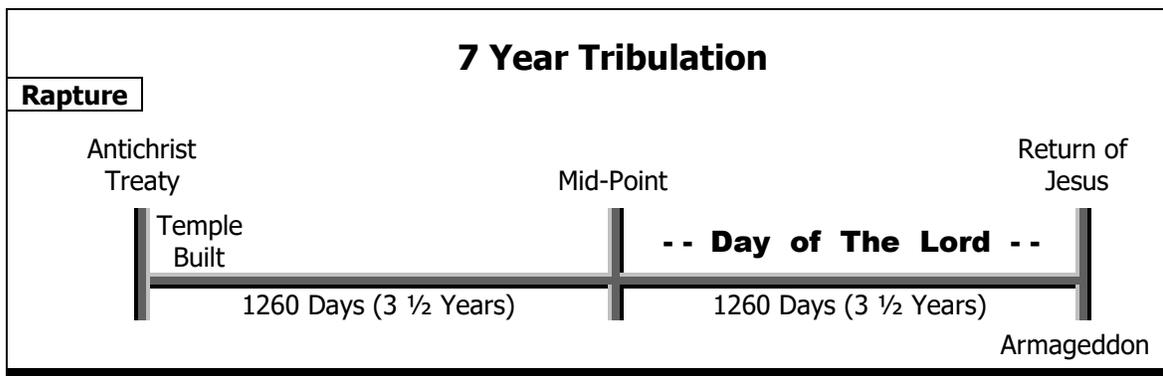


B. Joel prophesied to the Southern Kingdom of Judah

835 BC - 100 years after Solomon and the split kingdom

C. Theme: The Day of the Lord - (5 Times) Joel 1:15; 2:1,11,31; 3:14

For the Day of the Lord is at hand. It shall come as destruction from the Almighty (1:15). Blow the trumpet in Zion... the Day of the Lord is coming (2:1). For the Day of the Lord is great and terrible; who can endure it? (2:11) The coming of the great and awesome Day of the Lord (2:31). For the Day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. (3:14)



First Half of Tribulation

- ✓ Israel at Peace
- ✓ World: Severe Judgments

Second Half of Tribulation

- ✓ Israel under siege (2/3 killed)
- ✓ World: Complete Devastation

Day of the Lord

Twenty Mentions of the “Day of the Lord” in the Old Testament

1. Obad. 15	6. Joel 3:14	11. Isa. 13:6	16. Zeph. 1:15
2. Joel 1:15	7. Amos 5:18	12. Isa. 13:9	17. Ezek. 13:5
3. Joel 2:1	8. Amos 5:18	13. Isa. 34:8	18. Ezek. 30:3
4. Joel 2:11	9. Amos 5:20	14. Zeph. 1:7	19. Zech. 14:1
5. Joel 2:31	10. Isa. 2:12	15. Zeph. 1:14	20. Mal. 4:5

Four Mentions of the “Day of the Lord” in the New Testament

1. 1 Thess. 5:2	2. 2 Thess. 2:2	3. 2 Pet. 3:10	4. Rev. 6:17
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1. The Day of the Lord most often applies to the 2nd Half of the Tribulation (3 ½ years)
 - a. Not a 24-Hour Day!
 - b. Sub-titles include “that day” or “the great day” or “the day of wrath”
 - c. “The Day of the Lord” and its sub-titles appear some 100 times
 - d. 10 different prophets spanning 9 centuries talk about The Day of the Lord
2. The Day of the Lord is a significant timing indicator in understanding the 1260 day structures of Daniel (7:25, 9:27, 12:11-12) and Revelation (11:3; 12:14)
 - a. Day of the Lord = 1260 days - Also called “The Great Tribulation” (Mt. 24:21)
 - b. Begins: Siege of Jerusalem, Temple captured - Abomination of Desolation
 - c. Ends: Second Coming and the Battle of Armageddon
3. The Day of the Lord (Yahweh) is “His Day” because God interrupts the normal rhythms of nature and life (Just as He did in Egypt) and displays His sovereign will in an unprecedented time of world-wide calamity

“LORD” = Yahweh/Jehovah/The Lord Jesus Christ

¹⁴ And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM (Jehovah/Yahweh) has sent me to you.’ God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.” Exodus 3:14-15

Chapter 1**A. Joel's Vision of the Locust Plague - 1:1-12**

1. God sends a locust plague to judge Israel
2. Locusts - "Scorched earth" policy

Locust plagues weren't just Biblical pandemics; countries all over the world can attest to the utter severity of this black horde. They seem to have a "*scorched earth policy*" as the fields they leave behind look like a fire just ravaged the land.

3. Moses' warning to Pharaoh - Ex. 10:4-6

⁴ I will bring locusts into your country. ⁵ They will cover the face of the earth so that no one will be able to see the earth... They will devour every tree. ⁶ They will fill your houses and those of all your officials and all the Egyptians—something neither your parents nor your ancestors have seen since they settled in this land.

4. Joel's warning to Israel - 1:4

*What the devouring locust has left, the swarming locust has eaten;
what the swarming locust has left, the young locust has eaten;
and what the young locust has left, the destroying locust has eaten.*

5. Everything in Israel is effected - 1:5-20

- v. 5 All pleasure has been "*cut off*"
- v. 9, 16 All means of worship has been "*cut off*"
- v. 10 Crops, fields, vines, "*wasted & ruined*"
- v. 11 All means of livelihood has "*perished*"
- v. 18-19 Animals cry out, their habitation is "*devoured*"
- v. 12, 19 Trees destroyed, rivers are "*dried up*"
- v. 12, 16 Joy and gladness have been "*cut off*"

**B. God's Purpose for the Locust Plague - Israel... Wake-up!**

1. Israel needs to repent and return to the Lord - 1:13-14

- v. 13 Priests repent - Wear sackcloth
- v. 13 Stop offering sacrifices
- v. 14 Proclaim a national, public fast
- v. 14 Pray at the temple and petition the Lord



2. The Lord chastens His children - Heb. 12:6

For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and disciplines all His children.

Four Rules for Interpreting OT Prophecy

Rule #1 = Exclusive Role of the Prophets

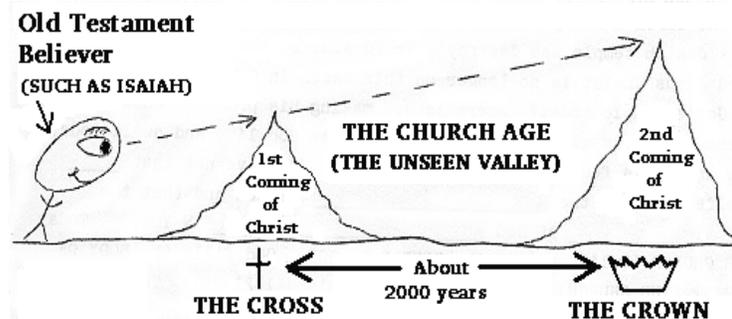
God first reveals all His plans through the prophets - Amos 3:7

The LORD does nothing without first revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.

Rule #2 = Focus on Israel

The prophets focus on God's covenant people Israel. The prophet's clearly saw Messiah's First Coming. However, because the church was not revealed in the OT (Eph. 3:5), it was impossible for them to see the Church-Age or the 2000+ year gap between the first and second coming. Neither the church nor the Rapture was revealed in the OT.

Therefore, most OT prophecies focus on end time events effecting Israel such as the Tribulation Period, the Battle of Armageddon, the Second Coming and the Millennial Kingdom.



Rule #3 = “Repeat and Expand”

The book of Joel, along with Daniel, Zechariah, Revelation and others follows the principle of repeat and expand. This means they cycle back to prophecies that were briefly introduced in earlier chapters and enlarge upon them with a new, expanded level of description.

When used, this building-block approach brings greater clarity to the prophecies and emphasizes their certainty. **THE 3 CHAPTERS OF JOEL FOLLOW THIS PATTERN.**

Rule #4 = “Near and Far”

Prophet's often use a current historical event to prophecy the future. The prophet begins describing something in the “here and now” (“near”), then seamlessly moves into details about events in the (“far”) future.



Example = Joel describes the effects of a locust plague then uses it to describe the horrific effects of Antichrist's military invasion against Israel in the Day of the Lord.

Chapter 2

A. The Locust Plague Illustrates the Day of the Lord - 2:1-11



1. Ecological Disasters wipe out earth's resources

3 rd Seal	1 st Trumpet	2 nd Trumpet	3 rd Trumpet	4 th Trumpet
World-wide Famine	Grass and Trees burned up	Sea and sea life destroyed	Fresh water and fish destroyed	Sun, Moon, Stars dimmed

2. Tribulation events unfold fast - Like Noah's flood - Mt. 24:37-39

B. Locusts picture Antichrist's Invading, Islamic Army

1. **Largest** Army ever assembled (Joel 1:6) - "without number"
2. A Turkish led army from the "**North**" - Joel 2:20 (Ezek. 38:6, 15; 39:2)
I will drive the northern horde far from you
3. **Fiercest** army ever assembled - Joel 2:2b
4. Wipes out everything (Joel 2:3) - Same description given by Daniel 7:23:
devours the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing everything.

C. Armageddon - Israel's Last Stand - 2:1-11

1. The land becomes a war zone
 - v. 1-2a Darkness and gloominess
 - v. 2b Massive army invades
 - v. 3 The military invasion destroys everything
 - v. 4-5 Joel describes modern military weapons
 - v. 6 Israel frightened, turns pale
 - v. 7-9 Jerusalem will be overrun
 - v. 10 The earth grows dark, sun, moon, stars dull

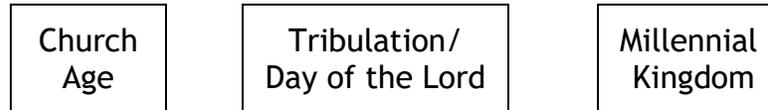


2. Mighty weapons of Jesus

- a. **Sword** out of His Mouth - 2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 19:14
- b. **Lightening** in His Hands: Habakkuk 3:3-4; Deut. 33:2; Psalm 18:14; Job 36:32

D. Signs of the Second Coming - Joel 2:28-32; 3:15-16

When do these signs occur? Three Options:

**1. Know the Context**

- a. The primary context is the Day of the Lord
- b. The signs are bookended by 2nd Coming (vs. 27) and Israel's conversion (vs. 32)
- c. The signs occur near the end of the Tribulation - Announcing the 2nd Coming

2. 7 Signs of the Second Coming (Not the Rapture!)

1. The Holy Spirit will be poured out 2:28a - 29; Acts 2:16-21
2. Israel's Sons and Daughters will prophecy - 2:28b
3. Heavenly Wonders of Blood, Fire and Smoke - 2:30
4. The Sun goes dark - 2:31a; 3:15
5. The Moon turns blood-red then darkens - 2:31b; 3:15
6. The Stars dim and fall - 3:15
7. The Heavens and Earth shake at the presence of the Lord - 3:16

3. 3 Reasons why Blood Moons DON'T announce the Rapture

- a. The Context points to events at the end of the Tribulation
- b. These signs occur simultaneously (All at the same time) Joel 2:31

³¹ *The sun will be turned to darkness **and** the moon to blood...*
- c. The signs broadcast the Second Coming, not the Rapture - Joel 3:15-16

The Church-Age and the Rapture are not in the OT

Events of the Final Days

I. Israel will Return to their Land - Joel 3:1

In those days... when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem

A. 2nd Exodus - Regathering from Worldwide Dispersion - Isaiah 11:11-12, 16

Then it will happen on that day that the Lord will recover his people the second time. He will raise a signal for the nations and assemble the banished of Israel from the four corners of the earth. There will be a highway back to Israel like coming out of Egypt.

B. Israel's Return is a "signal" (Sign) to the nations

C. Aliyah Stats: 2017 = 27,000 (520/Wk.) 3,600/USA

II. The Promised Land belongs to Israel not the Palestinians - Joel 1:6, 2:18, 3:2

A. Israel/Palestinian Land Controversy

1. Whose Land Is It? (Joel 1:6-7) "A nation has invaded My Land"

2. God is Jealous for His Land - Joel 2:18

Then the LORD will be jealous for His Land and pity his people.

3. The nations can't change Israel's Borders - Joel 3:2

they scattered my people and divided up my land

B. Clarifying Israel's Borders - Gen. 15:18

"From the River of Egypt to the River Euphrates"

1. God lays out Israel's borders **15 times** in scripture

2. The Land was a permanent gift to Abraham in an oath ceremony - Gen. 15

3. Israel will realize new borders in the Millennial Kingdom - Ezek. 47:13-20

III. Dividing Israel leads to Armageddon - 3:2

I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will put them on trial because they... divided up My Land.

A. Joel confirms, the West Bank as part of Israel - 3:1

I restore the fortunes of Judah (West Bank) and Jerusalem

1. God Toured Abraham through the West Bank land - Gen. 13:14-15

The Lord said to Abram, look to the north, south, east and west. All the land that you see is yours forever.

2. Abraham purchased The Cave Of Machpelah in Hebron (Gen. 23)

3. Jesus returns to the West Bank/Mt of Olives at His 2nd Coming - Zech. 14:4

Satan loves the “Two-State Solution” - Divide and Conquer!

B. America on thin-ice when promoting the “Two-State” Plan

Eye for Eye - Facing the Consequences of Dividing Israel

- 9 of the 10 costliest insurance events in U.S. history
- 6 of the 7 costliest hurricanes in U.S. History
- 3 of the 4 largest tornado outbreaks in U.S. history
- 9 of the top 10 natural disasters in U.S. history ranked by FEMA relief costs
- The two largest terrorism events in U.S. history

All these major catastrophes occurred on the same day or within 24 hours of U.S. presidents Bush, Clinton and Bush putting pressure on Israel to trade “land for peace” or when calling to divide Israel’s land for a Palestinian state.

C. Trump’s Peace Plan - Ideas put forth

1. Defund UNRWA
2. Plan for Palestinians: Jordan
3. Plan for Capitol: Abu Dis



God's Test: How did you treat Israel?

IV. Six Reasons Why God Judges the Nations - Joel 3:2

I will put them on trial for what they did to my inheritance, my people Israel

Some of these atrocities were committed against Israel over the centuries. All of these atrocities will be committed against Israel in the Day of the Lord.

1. For scattering the Jewish people among the nations - Joel 3:2

they scattered my people among the nations

Three Options Jews face

- A. Escape to safety - Follow Jesus' instructions - Mt. 24:16-20
- B. 2/3 will be tortured and killed (Zech. 13:8-9)
- C. Those captured are scattered to the Caliphate nations as slaves - Joel 3:3

2. For dividing up the land of Israel (Joel 3:2) "*they divided My land*"

Six Lies - Promoted by the (United) Nations

- ✓ The Jewish people are no longer God's special people
- ✓ The Land should be called "Palestine"
- ✓ The Arabs/Palestinians were there first
- ✓ Israel's "Occupation" is the real problem
- ✓ The West Bank Jews are illegal "Settlers" on Palestinian land
- ✓ Peace in the Middle East is possible

3. For selling the Jewish people into slavery - Joel 3:3, 6-7

They cast lots for my people

- A. Imagine 10's of thousands of Jews being bussed into the surrounding nations
- B. God will bring them back at the beginning of the Millennium - Jer. 12:14-15

4. For Engaging in Sex Trafficking - Joel 3:3

and traded boys for prostitutes; they sold girls for wine to drink

A. Definition: “The billion dollar trade of human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sexual act.”

Descriptions of Sex Trafficking

1. Traded a boy for a harlot
2. Sold girls for wine
3. Rape of Jewish women - Zech. 14:2

the houses ransacked, and the women raped



B. Allah permits rape, sex trafficking and sex slaves - Quran 4:3

A man may have up to four wives but is forbidden to have sex with married women except those whom his right hand possesses (Captured sex slaves).

5. For Stealing the Temple Treasures, and Confiscating Jewish Property - Joel 3:5

⁵ You took my silver and gold and carried off my finest treasures to your temples (mosques)

Jerusalem's spoil will be leisurely divided - Zech. 14:1

The day of the LORD is coming for Jerusalem, when your possessions will be plundered and divided up in your walls.



6. For Murdering Jews and Shedding Innocent Jewish Blood - Joel 3:19, 21

¹⁹ they shed innocent blood. ²¹ Shall I leave their innocent blood unavenged? No!

A. Hamas, Hezbollah, Palestinians possess the spirit of the Amalekites and Edomites

B. Palestinian Authority (PLO) - 2018 "Pay for Slay" budget - \$350m - Killing Jews

C. Trump urges Congress to finally pull funding from Palestinian 'pay-to-slay'

The Palestinian Authority (PLO) incites violence through state media, schools & textbooks, TV shows, public speeches, the glorification of "martyrs" and terrorism against Israel.

V. Harvesting the Earth and Trampling the Winepress - Joel 3:13

¹³ Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow. Their wickedness is great!

- A. The Harvest is Ripe and the Vat is Overflowing - Revelation 14:15
- B. The Surrounding Islamic Nations are Gathered for Punishment - Joel 3:9-12
- C. The Four-fold Location for the Slaughter of Armageddon

The Battle of Armageddon is not limited to the Valley of Megiddo in the north. It will encompass the entire length and breadth of Israel's land.

1. Some drown in the Dead and the Med. Seas - Joel 2:20

²⁰ I will drive the northern horde (Turkey) far from you, its eastern ranks will drown in the Dead Sea and its western ranks in the Mediterranean Sea.

2. Many slaughtered in the Valley of Jehoshaphat/Megiddo - Joel 3:12

¹² Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations.

- a. Gathered to the earthly court room - "Valley of Jehoshaphat" - Joel 3:14

*¹⁴ Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision!
For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.*

- b. Megiddo blood pools - "high as the horses bridal" - Rev. 14:20

3. Hordes scattered across the mountains of Israel - Ezekiel 39:3-4**4. The remaining die in the "Valley of Escape" near Jerusalem - Zech. 14:3-4f**

- D. Jesus Returns and "Roars" from Zion - Joel 3:16

¹⁶ The LORD will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the heavens will shake. The LORD will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for Israel.

- E. The Remnant Saved and Rescued by Jesus - Joel 2:32

³² Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, even among the remnant whom the LORD calls.

VI. Restoration in the Millennial Kingdom - Joel 2:21-27; 3:18-21

The Millennial reign of Jesus Christ is the most published and anticipated event in scripture! Dozens of chapters and hundreds of verses attest this day as the pinnacle of God's plans for man. The day when God Himself will "tabernacle" among us and Jesus will be King of Kings.

A. Only the Saved will Enter - Joel 3:17

never again will foreigners (strangers) invade her.

B. Israel will enjoy 1000 years of uninterrupted material blessing - Joel 3:18a

¹⁸ *mountains will drip new wine, hills will flow with milk and Judah will run with water*

1. The mountains of Israel will drip with sweet wine
2. The cattle will flourish with milk
3. The land of Judah will always flow with springs of water

C. Living Waters will Flow from the Millennial Temple - Joel 3:18b

A fountain will flow out of the LORD's house and will water the valley of acacias.

1. A River will flow out of the Millennial Temple and split in two - Zech. 14:8

⁸ *On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half of it east to the Dead Sea and half of it west to the Mediterranean Sea*

2. Fruit Trees for Healing along the banks of the river - Ezek. 47:12

Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the Temple flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.

D. Israel will be restored and inhabited forever - Joel 3:20

²⁰ *Judah will be inhabited forever and Jerusalem through all generations.*

E. The Lord Jesus Rules from Zion (Joel 3:21) ²¹ The LORD dwells in Zion!

⁹ *The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name. (Zech. 14:9)*

Conclusion: The Hebrew Prophet Joel gives us a great hope!

After the Day of the Lord, God restores everything for His glorious reign!

Facing The Consequences of Dividing Israel

While the heavenly warnings are clearer to some than others, a quick look at the timeline of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and the natural disasters timeline makes claims of coincidence lose their credibility.

October 30, 1991: US President George Bush, Sr. opened the Madrid Conference with an expectation that Israel would trade "Land for Peace". As the conference progressed, what was later called the "Perfect Storm" develops in the North Atlantic, creating the largest waves ever recorded in that region. The storm traveled 1,000 miles from east to west, defying the more natural west to east pattern. One day later, on October 31, the storm struck the New England coast with 35 foot waves crashing into the Walker's Point home of President Bush in Kennebunkport, South Maine. His home was extensively damaged.

August 23, 1992: The Madrid Conference moved to Washington DC and the peace talks resumed. One day later, Hurricane Andrew, the worst natural disaster recorded in American history, hit Florida, causing an estimated \$30 billion in damage and leaving 180,000 homeless across the state.

January 21, 1998: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with US President Bill Clinton at the White House and was greeted in an unwelcoming manner. Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright refused to have lunch with him. It was later that same day that the Monica Lewinsky scandal broke out.

January 16, 1994: President Clinton met with Syria's President Hafez el-Assad in Geneva. They discussed a peace agreement with Israel that included giving up the Golan Heights. Within 24 hours, the powerful Northridge earthquake, which registered a 6.9 on the Richter scale, hit Southern California. The earthquake caused an estimated \$20 billion in damage, leaving 57 people killed and over 5,000 injured. The earthquake became the second most destructive natural disaster to hit the United States.

September 28, 1998: US Secretary of State Madeline Albright gave a press briefing describing the final details of an American brokered agreement between PLO Head Yasser Arafat and Netanyahu. According to the deal, Israel would have been required to give up 13 percent of Judea and Samaria. The same day, Georges, a category 4 hurricane, hit the United States Gulf Coast with winds of 110 mph and gusts of up to 175 mph. In terms of damage, it was the costliest hurricane since Hurricane Andrew, causing \$10 billion of damage and killing 604 people.

October 15-22, 1998: Arafat and Netanyahu met at the Wye River Plantation in Maryland for five days of intensive talks as part of a continuation of Albright's plan that would force Israel to give up major areas of Judea and Samaria . On October 17, Hurricane Madeline boiled over. Though it never made landfall, the resulting rains and tornados that hit southern Texas caused over \$750 million in damage and killed 31 people, affecting a quarter of the state. The storm dissipated as the meeting ended in Maryland. On October 21, Clinton declared the hard-hit areas of Texas a major disaster area.

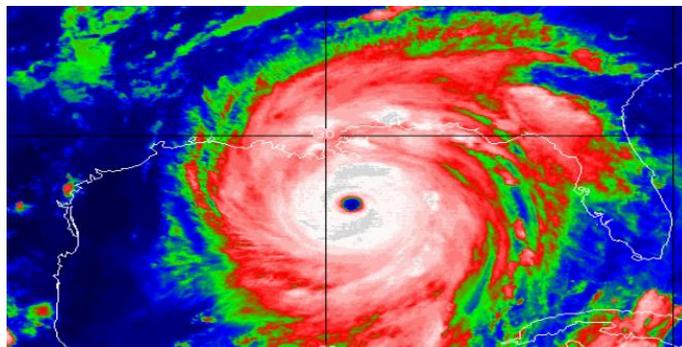
November 30, 1998: Arafat arrived in Washington again to meet with Clinton. He proposed a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as the capital and began efforts to raise money. A total of 42 nations agreed to give Arafat \$3 billion, with Clinton pledging \$400 million and European nations pledging \$1.7 billion. On the same day, the Dow Jones average plunged 216 points, and on December 1, the European Market had its worst day in history. Hundreds of billions of dollars of market capitalization were wiped out in the US and Europe.

December 12, 1998: The day Clinton landed in the Palestinian-controlled section of Israel to discuss the "land for peace" process, the House of Representatives votes four articles of impeachment against him.

May 3, 1999: Arafat was scheduled to declare an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. For two days, tornadoes ravaged the center of America, concentrated in Oklahoma and Kansas. 152 tornadoes touched down, causing \$1.4 billion in damage, killing 50 and injuring almost 900 people. Arafat's declaration was postponed to December 1999 at the request of Clinton.

October 11, 1999: Jewish settlers in 15 West Bank settlements are evicted from their homes. The Dow Jones financial averages lose 5.7 percent, in the worst week since October 1989. On October 15, the Dow lost 266 points. A hurricane hits North Carolina. The next morning, October 16, a magnitude 7.1 earthquake rocks the southwest US in the fifth most powerful earthquake in the 20th century. The earthquake was centered in the California desert and did little damage but was felt in three states.

August 13, 2005: The day before the 9th of Av, commemorating the day on which both Jewish Temples in Jerusalem were destroyed, over 10,000 Jews were evicted from their homes in Gush Katif (Gaza Strip) as part of the Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's "Disengagement" plan from Gaza. This disengagement was due under intense US pressure. Less than two weeks later, Hurricane Katrina destroyed New Orleans and other parts of Louisiana, leaving thousands of Americans homeless and killing at least 1,833. Damage was estimated at over \$108 billion. Just a few months later, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was struck down by a stroke where he lapsed into a coma and never recovered.



Hurricane Katrina making landfall in the southern US region, 8/2005
(Photo: SSEC/CIMSS, University of Wisconsin-Madison)

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Focus on the End Times

