

*Joel 3 – Decision Valley*  
*Sunday Evening – 6 January 2019*  
*Sermon Outline*

**Introduction / Review**

- Joel is a covenant \_\_\_\_\_
- First – to the people of the LORD (Judah) – judgment
  - o \_\_\_\_\_ Army . . . devastating material and spiritual consequences
  - o WHY? They triggered the \_\_\_\_\_ sanctions (Mount Sinai)
  - o Joel calls them to \_\_\_\_\_ and believe
  - o WHY? *Because the LORD is gracious and \_\_\_\_\_, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love – relents over disaster (2:13)*
    - PROMISE – New Covenant / Preview of Pentecost
- Second – Joel serves as a covenant attorney to the \_\_\_\_\_ (tonight's passage)

**The Valley of Jehoshaphat (Joel 3:1-3) ~**

Here is judgment against the \_\_\_\_\_

- *I will gather \_\_\_\_\_ the nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat (3:2)*
- Jehoshaphat means: Yahweh has \_\_\_\_\_

There can be no ultimate rescue of God's people without a day of \_\_\_\_\_ for his and their enemies, who have so contributed to profaning his name and causing their suffering

- Answer to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the saints throughout the ages
- Vengeance is \_\_\_\_\_, I will repay, says the LORD (we are to love, wait, hope, pray)

On what charges will the nations be judged? (Psalm 2)

- Crimes Against \_\_\_\_\_; War Crimes; and Crimes Against His Holy \_\_\_\_\_
- Lack of \_\_\_\_\_ for God / neighbors

The LORD will \_\_\_\_\_ allow sin, wickedness, and evil to go on forever – or to go \_\_\_\_\_

## **The Valley of Decision (Joel 3:4-16A) ~**

The LORD speaks first (3:4-8)

- Trial by Ordeal – Battle of \_\_\_\_\_ - Interrogation before the LORD

Summary of charges – failure to fulfill the calling of humanity – the covenant of creation: Love the LORD (1<sup>st</sup> four commandments) and Love your \_\_\_\_\_ (2<sup>nd</sup> six commandments)

*The LORD has spoken* (3:9)

- In other words: \_\_\_\_\_ rendered

Now – the prophet of the LORD – Joel speaks on behalf of the LORD to the nations (3:9-16A)

- Consecrate for \_\_\_\_\_
- Called to the Valley of \_\_\_\_\_
- The rightness and \_\_\_\_\_ of the harvest of evil is in view (13)
  - o . . . *the vats overflow – for their evil is* \_\_\_\_\_
- Multitudes and Multitudes called to the Valley of Decision (14)
  - o \_\_\_\_\_ and Cataclysmic end (unmistakable / unrepeatably)
- The LORD is pronouncing \_\_\_\_\_ decision / judgment

## **The Mountain of Zion (3:16b-21) ~**

*BUT – the LORD is a* \_\_\_\_\_ *to his people, a stronghold to the people of Israel (16b)*

- You shall \_\_\_\_\_ that I am the LORD your God (promise fulfilled)
- Who dwells in \_\_\_\_\_ - My Holy Mountain
- Jerusalem shall be \_\_\_\_\_ (new covenant reality – gift) . . . and strangers shall \_\_\_\_\_ again pass through it (17)

Images of Abundance . . . celebration . . . splendor . . . satisfaction

Images of Peace – enemies removed / justice established / safety and security

Images of the Return of Jesus (Matthew 25; Rev 14:14-20; 19:5; and 21:1-4)

## **Questions for Family Worship / Follow-Up ~**

Would you want to worship a God who was indifferent to evil? Why or why not?

What kind of things does the LORD identify as evil?

How does God address the problem of evil and sin, allowing us to have peace with him forever and ever?