

SOUND THE ALARM

Text: Joel 2:1-11

Key Word: Alarm

Key Thought: God Wants Those in Strategic Positions to Sound the Alarm!

Our society is being infiltrated with messages that we need to purchase an alarm system for our protection and safety. We can now purchase tracking alarms that link up with satellite technology of global positioning to trace a vehicle within less than a metre of its location. I don't know of any new cars that are sold without anti theft alarm systems. A stolen car is 200 times more likely to be involved in an accident.

Home security has grown because of the need to notify home owners and businesses of intruders which can often lead to injury, murder, rape and fire. The auto industry is keeping up with our craze for alarm systems by now featuring options to keep us from backing into someone or something or getting out of our driving lane.

These all have their place in protecting us against increasing problems. Yet there is a much more dangerous enemy on the horizon that is about to pounce on unsuspecting churches across our nation and the nations of the world. In 1985 God placed upon the heart of David Wilkerson a message that was so intense that he found it extremely difficult to put it into a printed form. He knew that this prophetic word would cause him to face great opposition.

“To the natural mind it is insanity to come against a prosperous, powerful nation and cry out, *‘It’s all over! Judgement is at the door! Our days are numbered!’* The church is asleep, the congregations are at ease, and the shepherds slumber. How they will scoff at this message. Theologians will reject it because they can't fit it into their doctrine. **The pillow prophets of peace and prosperity will publicly denounce it.**”

David Wilkerson
“*Set the Trumpet to Thy Mouth*”
World Challenge Inc. p. 2

Is There a Peril on the Horizon That Needs to Be Clearly Addressed?

- I. WHAT ARE WE TO DO? - Blow the Trumpet/Sound the Alarm (Joel 2:1a)**
- II. WHERE ARE WE TO DO IT? - On My Holy Hill [Mountain] (Joel 2:1b)**
- III. WHY ARE WE TO DO IT? - For the Day of the Lord is Coming/Close at Hand (Joel 2:1c)**

I. WHAT ARE WE TO DO? - Blow the Trumpet/Sound the Alarm (Joel 2:1a)

“The trumpet is mentioned several times in the Bible. This instrument was used by the priests during services of sacrifice, especially to signal the DAY OF ATONEMENT “*Then you shall cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month*” (Leviticus 25:9). The trumpet was also used to rally troops on the battlefield (Joshua 6:4)

One distinctive type of trumpet or horn used by the Hebrew people was the ram’s horn, also known by its Hebrew name, the shophar (Hosea 5:8). The shophar was the greatest of the Jewish ritual instruments. Eventually the horn of a mountain goat was used for this instrument, rather than the horn of a ram. The shophar was basically a signalling instrument, used to assemble the army (Judges 3:27; 1 Samuel 13:3), to sound an attack (Job 39:24–25), and to sound an alarm (Jeremiah 6:1; Amos 3:6).

The ram’s horn signalled war and peace, the new moon, the beginning of the Sabbath, approaching danger, and the death of a dignitary. Some even believed the shophar had power to drive out evil spirits and to heal by magic. The sound of the shophar could be heard from a great distance (Exodus 19:16, 19).”

Ronald F. Youngblood, general editor
F. F. Bruce and R. K. Harrison, consulting editors,
Nelson’s new illustrated Bible dictionary
electronic edition of the revised edition of Nelson’s illustrated Bible dictionary
Logos Library System, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson) 1997, c1995

The spirits of the O. T. prophets were often aroused by God to blow the trumpet and sound the alarm.

“I appointed a watchman over you and said, ‘Listen to the sound of the trumpet!’ But you said, ‘We will not listen.’”

Jeremiah 6:17

“Set the trumpet to thy mouth. He shall come as an eagle against the house of the LORD, because they have transgressed my covenant and trespassed against my law.”

Hosea 8:1
KJV

I. WHAT ARE WE TO DO? - Blow the Trumpet/Sound the Alarm (Joel 2:1a) (Contd.)

“The word of the LORD came to me:

*2. Son of man, speak to your countrymen and say to them: ‘When I bring the sword against the land, and the people of the land choose one of their men **and make him their watchman.***

*3. And he sees the sword coming against the land **and blows the trumpet to warn the people.***

4. Then if anyone hears the trumpet but does not take warning and the sword comes and takes his life, his blood will be on his own head.”

Ezekiel 33:1–4

Anytime God placed a watchman over His people He also placed a trumpet into his hand. It was never to be falsely blown as an alarm. There were never any alarm practises or fire drills. It was either the real thing or nothing. **A precise sound had to come from the lips of the watchman. Once the warning was given, the responsibility was placed upon the people to respond immediately to its forewarning.** If they did not heed its signal, the result was placed upon their own head.

The word “*watchman*” means “*to lean forward*” or “*to peer into the distance.*” He was to keep constant guard and gaze into the horizon to recognize any sign of trouble. A huge ball of dust would often indicate an approaching army on horseback. A vibration of the earth often accompanied these armies. **He was not to wait until it was too late to sound his trumpet. His foresight often meant the difference between victory and defeat.** His sensitivity to signs of danger along with God’s Spirit instilling him with a dire warning that he could not keep to himself made him (and all of them) the chosen ones for this vital position.

Those who are called upon by God at this time in our history need to blow the trumpet and sound the alarm. **The hoof beats of the enemies of God are rapidly approaching. Their agendas are clearly set. They will usher in a flood of filth and degradation, of violence, of liars and deceivers that will make our nation as a stench before our Holy God if we don’t stop it.** We must stand up for what is right.

Abortions must stop. No nation can call itself civilized that murders its unborn when even the animal kingdom protects its young. We must reach out in true love and see those who are caught in the web of pornography, homosexuality, incest, child abuse etc. and lead them toward a forgiving Saviour.

II. WHERE ARE WE TO DO IT? - On My Holy Hill [Mountain] (Joel 2:1b)

We must begin our message on God's Holy Hill/Mountain. **To the Jewish people who first heard this prophecy they would clearly identify this with Mount Moriah where Solomon's Temple once stood.** This Temple was the abiding place of God's presence. It was here that they sought His face through prayer and fasting to divert the impending judgment. The sound of the trumpet would cause the people of the land to tremble.

"When a trumpet sounds in a city, do not the people tremble? When disaster comes to a city, has not the Lord caused it?"

Amos 3:6

God never sounds His trumpet to the nations of the world before warning His people. Why would he waste his time preparing those who seldom listen? If His own people will not listen to Him why would those who are not born again by His Spirit respond?

"For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?"

18. And, 'If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?'"

I Peter 4:17,18

God sends persecutions and troubles to His church to purify the church. Usually when He brings the same to the world, it is **to judge the world for its rebellion.** It is very difficult to distinguish between what is the judgement of God and what is not. People will argue about it until as the old expression says "hell freezes over."

******* When I was a student at Mt. Zion, one of our neighbours, by the name of Mr. Buccannan was meeting another truck as he drove down the highway. A pipe fell off the truck and buried itself into his heart. One second he was alive and happy . . . the next second he was dead and in hell. Was that a coincidence? ... or was it judgment? *******

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I do believe that we all know when we are in a right relationship with God and when we are not. The Holy Spirit is faithful in letting us know when we are drifting away. We don't need someone to tell us. **God repeatedly tries to draw us back to His nail scared hands.**

II. WHERE ARE WE TO DO IT? - On My Holy Hill [Mountain] (Joel 2:1b) (Contd.)

I AM THINE O LORD

DRAW ME NEARER, NEARER, NEARER BLESSED LORD
TO THE CROSS WHERE THOU HAST DIED
DRAW ME NEARER, NEARER, NEARER BLESSED LORD
TO THY PRECIOUS BLEEDING SIDE

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There is an alarm summoning the inhabitants of Zion back to the heart of the Father. Those who dwell on the Holy Hill need to live Holy lives. We need to realize that it cost Jesus His life for us to draw near to Him.

Zion needs to once again be recognized as the high and lofty place of the Almighty God. We have been trying to reach the world with worldly ways that it is quickly being exposed as what is from God and what is from the world. There is no longer a desire to “come out from among them and be separate.” The true Church is clearly being identified and separated by God at the same time evil leaders are isolating them from the public voice and falsely accusing them of the very things they are doing so they can persecute them.

It's time to blow the trumpet in Zion! **THE PLACE WHERE GOD'S PRESENCE IS.**

III. WHY ARE WE TO DO IT? - For the Day of the Lord is Coming/Close at Hand (Joel 2:1c)

The phrase “*the day of the LORD*” is used five times in the book of Joel (1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14). Although it had reference to the local judgement that God was about to bring upon Judah, it also had further implications. There was going to be another judgement in the future upon the whole world.

*“The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon
to blood **before** the coming of the great and
dreadful day of the LORD.”*

Joel 2:31

People need to be given an opportunity to make a decision either to accept or reject the Word of the LORD. It is our duty to tell them. It is their responsibility to make the right choice. We must be very careful in the words we choose and the motivation of our heart.

III. WHY ARE WE TO DO IT? - For the Day of the Lord is Coming/Close at Hand (Joel 2:1c) (Contd.)

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

Joel 3:14

Few people realize that this day is quickly approaching. It will not be a pleasant time. Joel describes it as . . .

*“a day of darkness and gloom and day of clouds
and blackness.”*

Joel 2:2

After the rapture takes place, the Day of Jehovah (LORD) will begin. It will be a time of great tribulation upon the whole earth. It is described as the 70th week of Daniel (Daniel 9:27) among other names.

*“Woe to you who long for **the day of the LORD!**
Why do you long for **the day of the LORD?** That
day will be darkness not light.”*

Amos 5:18

*“Gather together, gather together, O shameful
nation,
2. **Before** the appointed time arrives and that day
sweeps on like chaff, **before** the fierce anger of the
LORD comes upon you, **before the day of the
LORD’s wrath comes on you.**
3. Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you
who do what he commands. Seek righteousness,
seek humility; **perhaps** you will be **sheltered on the
day of the LORD’s anger.**”*

Zephaniah 2:1-3

*“**The LORD Almighty has a day in store** for all the
proud and lofty, for all that is exalted (**and they will
be humbled**).*

Isaiah 2:12

Isaiah describes it as a day of great fear when men try to hide themselves from the face of God when He rises to shake the earth.

III. WHY ARE WE TO DO IT? - For the Day of the Lord is Coming/Close at Hand (Joel 2:1c) (Contd.)

As the **Day of the LORD** comes to a close, it will usher in the **Day of God**. During this time the elements of our universe will melt with a fervent heat and a new heaven and a new earth will replace it (Revelation 21:1; II Peter 3:7).

Is There a Peril on the Horizon That Needs to Be Clearly Addressed?

I believe that the signs of the times clearly indicate that we are about to witness a great day of peril upon this earth such as we've never seen before. **God is first of all sending out an alarm to His people to be prepared. As we make ourselves ready for the Day of the Lord, we need to be the preachers of this message to the unconverted that will listen and not mock us.**

Even Hollywood has attempted to make millions on the fact that people are recognizing all kinds of problems are about to take place. Years ago the theatres were filled with people watching such blockbusters as **Twister, Armageddon, Deep Impact, Dante's Peak, Hard Rain, Volcano** and **The Perfect Storm** being produced to capitalise on the frenzy. The next movie coming out in Oct 2022 is called "**Metaverse of Madness**" and the face of madness will return with "**Texas Chainsaw Massacre.**" On Feb 18, 2021 a movie was released titled "**Uncharted**" with a caption that said it was 500 years in the making. **Mother Android** was made to instill fear of robots taking over.

I for one do not want the world to warp the message that Jesus is sending. We will not escape this disaster through our wisdom or military strength or scientific expertise. There is no time to waste. **Are you ready to meet the Lord?** Are you willing to share the truth with others?

As we bow our heads, let us all allow the Holy Spirit to search our hearts and tell us what He sees in our lives. Be open and honest with Him. He cannot be fooled. **Today is the Day of Salvation.**

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Date: Feb 13/22

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30Am

Song: Blow the Trumpet - Dm

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II. WHERE ARE WE TO DO IT? - On My Holy Hill [Mountain] (Joel 2:1b) - *Amos 3:6; I Peter 4:17,18*

III. WHY ARE WE TO DO IT? - For the Day of the Lord is Coming/Close at Hand (Joel 2:1c) - *Joel 1:15; 2:1,11,31; 3:14; Joel 2:31; Joel 3:14; Joel 2:2; Amos 5:18; Zephaniah 2:1-3; Isaiah 2:12; Revelation 21:1; II Peter 3:7*