

Structure of Book of Joel

First half: *Doom*

1:1-20 – First Poem of Doom
• locust plague | call to repentance

2:1-17 – Second Poem of Doom
• invading army | call to repentance

Second half: *God's grace*

Immediate relief

2:18-20 – God will defeat the invaders
2:21-26 – God will restore the land
2:27 – God will draw near to his people

Greater salvation – future “Day of the Lord”

2:28-32 – God will pour out his Spirit
3:1-17 – Judgment on nations
3:18-21 – Renewal of all things

Second poem

Invading army

^{2:1} Blow a trumpet in Zion;
sound an alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near,
² a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains
a great and powerful people;
their like has never been before,
nor will be again after them
through the years of all generations.
³ Fire devours before them,
and behind them a flame burns.
The land is like the garden of Eden before them,
but behind them a desolate wilderness,
and nothing escapes them.

⁴ Their appearance is like the appearance of horses,
and like war horses they run.
⁵ As with the rumbling of chariots,
they leap on the tops of the mountains,
like the crackling of a flame of fire
devouring the stubble,
like a powerful army
drawn up for battle.

⁶ Before them peoples are in anguish;
all faces grow pale.
⁷ Like warriors they charge;
like soldiers they scale the wall.
They march each on his way;
they do not swerve from their paths.
⁸ They do not jostle one another;
each marches in his path;
they burst through the weapons
and are not halted.
⁹ They leap upon the city,
they run upon the walls,
they climb up into the houses,
they enter through the windows like a thief.

¹⁰ The earth quakes before them;
the heavens tremble.
The sun and the moon are darkened,
and the stars withdraw their shining.
¹¹ The LORD utters his voice
before his army,
for his camp is exceedingly great;
he who executes his word is powerful.
For the day of the LORD is great and very
awesome;
who can endure it?

Call to repentance

¹² “Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³ and rend your hearts and not your garments.”
Return to the LORD, your God,

for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.
¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the LORD your God?
¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶ gather the people.
Consecrate the congregation;
assemble the elders;
gather the children,
even nursing infants.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her chamber.
¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep
and say, “Spare your people, O LORD,
and make not your heritage a reproach,
a byword among the nations.
Why should they say among the peoples,
“Where is their God?””

God will defeat the invaders

¹⁸ Then the LORD became jealous for his land
and had pity on his people.
¹⁹ The LORD answered and said to his people,
“Behold, I am sending to you
grain, wine, and oil,
and you will be satisfied;
and I will no more make you
a reproach among the nations.
²⁰ “I will remove the northerner far from you,
and drive him into a parched and desolate land,
his vanguard into the eastern sea,
and his rear guard into the western sea;
the stench and foul smell of him will rise,
for he has done great things.

God will restore the land

²¹ “Fear not, O land;
be glad and rejoice,
for the LORD has done great things!
²² Fear not, you beasts of the field,
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit;
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

²³ “Be glad, O children of Zion,
and rejoice in the LORD your God,
for he has given the early rain for your vindication;
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the latter rain, as before.

²⁴ “The threshing floors shall be full of grain;
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

²⁵ I will restore to you the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army, which I sent among you.

²⁶ “You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

God will draw near

²⁷ You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I am the LORD your God
and there is none else.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

A future “Day of the Lord

²⁸ “And it shall come to pass afterward,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.

²⁹ Even on the male and female servants
in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

³⁰ “And I will show wonders in the heavens
and on the earth,
blood and fire and columns of smoke.

³¹ The sun shall be turned to darkness,
and the moon to blood,
before the great and awesome day of the LORD
comes.

Ezekiel 36

²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit
I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of
stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause
you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey
my rules.

2 Peter 3

⁸ With the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and
a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow
to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is
patient toward you, not wishing that any should
perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Revelation 6

¹² When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and
behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun
became black as sackcloth, the full moon became
like blood, ¹³ and the stars of the sky fell to the
earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when
shaken by a gale. ¹⁴ The sky vanished like a scroll
that is being rolled up, and every mountain and
island was removed from its place. ¹⁵ Then the
kings of the earth and the great ones and the
generals and the rich and the powerful, and
everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the
caves and among the rocks of the mountains,
¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us
and hide us from the face of him who is seated on
the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, ¹⁷ for
the great day of their wrath has come, and who can
stand?”

³² And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls
on the name of the LORD shall be saved.
For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem
there shall be those who escape,
as the LORD has said,
and among the survivors shall be those
whom the LORD calls.

Judgment on the nations

^{3:1} For behold, in those days and at that time,
when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem,

² I will gather all the nations
and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat.
And I will enter into judgment with them there,
on behalf of my people and my heritage Israel,
because they have scattered them among the nations
and have divided up my land,

³ and have cast lots for my people,
and have traded a boy for a prostitute,
and have sold a girl for wine
and have drunk it.

⁴ “What are you to me,
O Tyre and Sidon, and all the regions of Philistia?
Are you paying me back for something?
If you are paying me back,
I will return your payment on your own head
swiftly and speedily.

⁵ For you have taken my silver and my gold,
and have carried my rich treasures into your temples.
⁶ You have sold the people of Judah and Jerusalem
to the Greeks
in order to remove them far from their own border.

⁷ Behold, I will stir them up
from the place to which you have sold them,
and I will return your payment on your own head.

⁸ I will sell your sons and your daughters
into the hand of the people of Judah,
and they will sell them to the Sabeans,
to a nation far away,
for the LORD has spoken.”

⁹ Proclaim this among the nations:
Consecrate for war;
 stir up the mighty men.
Let all the men of war draw near;
 let them come up.
¹⁰ Beat your plowshares into swords,
 and your pruning hooks into spears;
 let the weak say, "I am a warrior."

Zephaniah 1

¹⁴ The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. ¹⁵ A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, ¹⁶ a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

¹¹ Hasten and come,
 all you surrounding nations,
 and gather yourselves there.
Bring down your warriors, O LORD.
¹² Let the nations stir themselves up
 and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat;
for there I will sit to judge
 all the surrounding nations.

Revelation 19

¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war.

¹³ Put in the sickle,
 for the harvest is ripe.
Go in, tread,
 for the winepress is full.
The vats overflow,
 for their evil is great.

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

 in the valley of decision.
¹⁵ The sun and the moon are darkened,
 and the stars withdraw their shining.
¹⁶ The LORD roars from Zion,
 and utters his voice from Jerusalem,
 and the heavens and the earth quake.
But the LORD is a refuge to his people,
 a stronghold to the people of Israel.

¹⁷ "So you shall know that I am the LORD your God,
 who dwells in Zion, my holy mountain.
And Jerusalem shall be holy,
 and strangers shall never again pass through it.

Renewal of all things

¹⁸ "And in that day
the mountains shall drip sweet wine,
 and the hills shall flow with milk,
and all the streambeds of Judah
 shall flow with water;
and a fountain shall come forth from the house of
the LORD
 and water the Valley of Shittim.

¹⁹ "Egypt shall become a desolation
 and Edom a desolate wilderness,
for the violence done to the people of Judah,
 because they have shed innocent blood in their land.
²⁰ But Judah shall be inhabited forever,
 and Jerusalem to all generations.
²¹ I will avenge their blood,
 blood I have not avenged,
 for the LORD dwells in Zion."

Isaiah 55

¹² For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Romans 8

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

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3:18-21 – Renewal of all things

Second poem

Invading army

^{2:1} Blow a trumpet in Zion;
sound an alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near,

“Trumpet” sound is associated with the Day of the Lord

- 1 Thess. 4 and 1 Cor. 15 | trumpet signals advance of army

² a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness!

“Day of clouds and thick darkness”

- clouds and darkness are theophanies of God
– in wilderness, “a pillar of cloud and darkness” | on Mt. Sinai
- clouds indicate God's fearful presence drawing near

Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains
a great and powerful people;
their like has never been before,
nor will be again after them
through the years of all generations.

³ Fire devours before them,
and behind them a flame burns.

The land is like the garden of Eden before them,
but behind them a desolate wilderness,
and nothing escapes them.

Comparison to *Garden of Eden* is significant

- Promised Land was Eden restored | people back in Eden
- but invading army destroys Eden and turns into desolate wasteland

⁴ Their appearance is like the appearance of horses,
and like war horses they run.

⁵ As with the rumbling of chariots,
they leap on the tops of the mountains,
like the crackling of a flame of fire
devouring the stubble,
like a powerful army
drawn up for battle.

Joel is poetically describing invading army like locust plague

- they march in formation – disciplined, veteran soldiers

⁶ Before them peoples are in anguish;
all faces grow pale.

⁷ Like warriors they charge;
like soldiers they scale the wall.
They march each on his way;
they do not swerve from their paths.

⁸ They do not jostle one another;
each marches in his path;
they burst through the weapons
and are not halted.

⁹ They leap upon the city,
they run upon the walls,
they climb up into the houses,
they enter through the windows like a thief.

¹⁰ The earth quakes before them;
the heavens tremble.

The sun and the moon are darkened,
and the stars withdraw their shining.

¹¹ The LORD utters his voice
before his army,
for his camp is exceedingly great;
he who executes his word is powerful.

For the day of the LORD is great and very awesome;
who can endure it?

Remember – “Day of the Lord” has already begun

- signs – earthquakes, sun and moon darkened
- signs of judgment and end of world
– world is falling apart | creation is being undone

This happened at Jesus’ crucifixion

- sun is blotted out, 3rd hour to 6th hour | earthquake
- judgment of God is poured out on Jesus

- but final judgment, fuller judgment is still to come
- “Day of the Lord” is past | currently in | and still awaiting

Call to repentance

¹² “Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³ and rend your hearts and not your garments.”

“rend your hearts and not your garments”

- not mere outward show, but genuine, heart-felt repentance

Return to the LORD, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.

¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the LORD your God?

“Who knows whether he will not turn and relent?”

- does not mean it is doubtful or unknowable that God will forgive
- Hebrew expression affirming divine freedom | God is not obligated

- similar statement in Jonah 3:9 – King of Nineveh says in repentance,
- “Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish.”

- but we know God’s character is merciful and full of compassion
- 1 John 1:9 – “if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶ gather the people.

Consecrate the congregation;
assemble the elders;
gather the children,
even nursing infants.

Corporate repentance – not just individuals, but everyone to join in

Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her chamber.

Even most important and momentous event cannot be an excuse

- necessity of repentance is of highest urgency

¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep
and say, “Spare your people, O LORD,
and make not your heritage a reproach,
a byword among the nations.
Why should they say among the peoples,
“Where is their God?””

Why should peoples say, “where is their God”

- basis of God’s forgiveness is not our worthiness
- but unbreakable promise to Abraham and his glory among nations

God will defeat the invaders

¹⁸ Then the LORD became jealous for his land
and had pity on his people.

“Then” signals a shift in attitude

- God’s jealousy is the jealousy of a husband for his wife

¹⁹ The LORD answered and said to his people,
“Behold, I am sending to you
grain, wine, and oil,
and you will be satisfied;
and I will no more make you
a reproach among the nations.

²⁰ “I will remove the northerner far from you,
and drive him into a parched and desolate land,
his vanguard into the eastern sea,
and his rear guard into the western sea;
the stench and foul smell of him will rise,
for he has done great things.

God will overthrow the invaders and provide relief for people

God will restore the land

²¹ “Fear not, O land;
be glad and rejoice,
for the LORD has done great things!

²² Fear not, you beasts of the field,
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit;
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

²³ “Be glad, O children of Zion,
and rejoice in the LORD your God,
for he has given the early rain for your vindication;
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the latter rain, as before.

²⁴ “The threshing floors shall be full of grain;
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

Pastures green; trees bears fruit; abundant rain, overflow harvest

- to an agricultural society – these were words of life and prosperity
- reversal of curse and healing of land

²⁵ I will restore to you the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army, which I sent among you.

“I will restore to you the years lost”

- in end, nothing will be lost | everything will be made up for
- somehow, God’s people will be made whole
- all suffering and evil will be undone | “mourning into joy”

This is a major theme in Bible’s eschatology

- end will not just happy in spite of sadness, but because of sadness
- somehow, sadness and suffering woven into very fabric of joy

<p>2 Corinthians 4:17 For this light momentary affliction is <i>preparing</i> for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.</p>

²⁶ “You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

On the Day of the Lord – God’s people will eat and be satisfied

When Jesus feeds 5,000, it evoked eschatological expectations

- this is why people wanted to make him king
 - expecting – defeat of northern invaders (Romans), restoration of land
 - this is why the cross was so crushing for Jesus’ followers
-

God will draw near

²⁷ You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I am the LORD your God
and there is none else.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

This is greatest blessing – that God will draw near to his people

A future “Day of the Lord

²⁸ “And it shall come to pass afterward,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.

²⁹ Even on the male and female servants
in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

³⁰ “And I will show wonders in the heavens
and on the earth,
blood and fire and columns of smoke.

³¹ The sun shall be turned to darkness,
and the moon to blood,
before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.

We looked at this last week – most famous portion of Joel

- this is same theme in Ezekiel and Jeremiah – New Covenant
- Old Covenant failed to produce holiness in people
- New Covenant will put God’s law into our hearts *via Spirit*

Ezekiel 36

²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Day of the Lord will be Spirit-filled

- “sons and daughters”; “young and old”; even on “servants”
- Spirit will come on all God’s people – great and small

This is fulfilled in Acts 2 at Pentecost

- Peter quotes Joel 2:28-32 in its entirety
- but changes first few words – from “it shall come to pass afterward”
- to “and in the last days it shall be”

Meaning, Peter understands that Joel’s Day of the Lord is upon us

- meaning, we are now in the last day of redemptive history
- if already begun, then why the delay? why hasn’t history ended?

2 Peter 3:8-9

⁸ With the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

God’s delay is because he is allowing for repentance of nations

v. 31 – “sun turned to darkness, moon to blood”

- again, this is judgment language

Revelation 6:12-17

¹² When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, ¹³ and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. ¹⁴ The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. ¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, ¹⁷ for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”

³² And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.

For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem
there shall be those who escape,
as the LORD has said,
and among the survivors shall be those
whom the LORD calls.

On Judgment Day, everyone who “calls on Christ” will be saved

- salvation is by grace – no great doings or feats
- but simply to call on name of Christ
- in Acts 2, after Peter quotes, all heard were “cut to heart”

Bible talks about Judgment Day so that we might repent

- purpose is not to scare us or fill us with gory imagery
- but to cut our hearts and wake us up from our sinful slumber

Judgment on the nations

^{3:1} For behold, in those days and at that time,
when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem,

² I will gather all the nations
and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat.

And I will enter into judgment with them there,
on behalf of my people and my heritage Israel,

This is Judgment Day

- “bring down to Valley of Jehoshaphat” | battles were fought in valleys
- Jehoshaphat, not actual geographical name – “Yahweh has judged”

because they have scattered them among the nations
and have divided up my land,

³ and have cast lots for my people,
and have traded a boy for a prostitute,
and have sold a girl for wine
and have drunk it.

⁴ “What are you to me,

O Tyre and Sidon, and all the regions of Philistia?
Are you paying me back for something?

If you are paying me back,

I will return your payment on your own head swiftly and speedily.

“I will return your payment on your own head” | reciprocity

- God’s judgment is not arbitrary but just and fitting
- never disproportionate or excessive, but suitable and right
- in Romans 1, Paul talks about God giving people up to their sins
- picture of judgment – not God imposing a punishment
- but God letting people go forever into their sins and rebellion

⁵ For you have taken my silver and my gold,
and have carried my rich treasures into your temples.

⁶ You have sold the people of Judah and Jerusalem to the Greeks
in order to remove them far from their own border.

⁷ Behold, I will stir them up
from the place to which you have sold them,
and I will return your payment on your own head.

⁸ I will sell your sons and your daughters
into the hand of the people of Judah,
and they will sell them to the Sabeans,
to a nation far away,
for the LORD has spoken.”

“Sell to Sabeans” – poetic justice

- Jews (w/ no love of sea) were sold to distant, sea-faring Greeks
- Tyre, Sidon and Philistines (sea-faring people) sold to Sabeans (Arabs)

⁹ Proclaim this among the nations:

Consecrate for war;

stir up the mighty men.

Let all the men of war draw near;

let them come up.

¹⁰ Beat your plowshares into swords,
and your pruning hooks into spears;
let the weak say, “I am a warrior.”

“Consecrate for war”

- Judgment Day – climatic, final battle b/w unbelieving nations and God
- battle of Armageddon in Revelation 16
- throughout Prophets, “Day of Lord” is a great battle

Zephaniah 1:14-16

The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

Why is Judgment Day a battlefield?

- isn't this mixing metaphors? courtroom scene and battle scene
- Satan and unbelievers are at war against God
- God's judgment – meet forces of evil in battle and defeat them

¹¹ Hasten and come,
all you surrounding nations,
and gather yourselves there.

Bring down your warriors, O LORD.

¹² Let the nations stir themselves up
and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat;
for there I will sit to judge
all the surrounding nations.

Notice again v. 12 – imagery of judgment and battle are intermingled

Revelation 19

¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war.

¹³ Put in the sickle,
for the harvest is ripe.
Go in, tread,
for the winepress is full.
The vats overflow,
for their evil is great.

Evil is reaching its fullness and limit

- “winepress is full” | echoed in Rev 14 – grapes of wrath

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

The decision is not man's but God's

- decision can also be translated “verdict” or “determine”

¹⁵ The sun and the moon are darkened,
and the stars withdraw their shining.

¹⁶ The LORD roars from Zion,
and utters his voice from Jerusalem,
and the heavens and the earth quake.
But the LORD is a refuge to his people,
a stronghold to the people of Israel.

¹⁷ “So you shall know that I am the LORD your God,
who dwells in Zion, my holy mountain.
And Jerusalem shall be holy,
and strangers shall never again pass through it.

We see again judgment and salvation occur on the same day

- they are two sides of the same coin
- judgment against the wicked nations is salvation of God's people
- remember again the Red Sea crossing

Renewal of all things

¹⁸ “And in that day
the mountains shall drip sweet wine,
and the hills shall flow with milk,
and all the streambeds of Judah
shall flow with water;
and a fountain shall come forth from the house of the LORD
and water the Valley of Shittim.

¹⁹ “Egypt shall become a desolation
and Edom a desolate wilderness,
for the violence done to the people of Judah,
because they have shed innocent blood in their land.

²⁰ But Judah shall be inhabited forever,
and Jerusalem to all generations.

²¹ I will avenge their blood,
blood I have not avenged,
for the LORD dwells in Zion.”

The Day of the Lord will be the renewal of all creation

- Scripture speaks of the whole earth being renewed
- Rev. 21:1 – “then I saw a new heaven and a new earth”

Isaiah 55

¹² For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

All of creation will “wake up”

- the world is only a shadow of what it will be
- mountains will sing, trees will clap their hands
- imagine what we will become

Romans 8

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.