

Joel 1:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.

Analysis

"Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come." The exclamation "Alas!" (Hebrew 'ahahh) expresses distress and grief. "The day of the LORD" theme dominates Joel—that appointed time when God intervenes decisively. The phrase "at hand" (qarob) means near, imminent—not theoretical future but approaching reality. The comparison "as a destruction from the Almighty" uses Hebrew shod from Shaddai (Almighty)—a wordplay emphasizing that destruction (shod) comes from the all-powerful God (Shaddai). No one can resist or escape. This teaches that the Day of the LORD has dual nature: deliverance for the faithful, destruction for the rebellious. It's not ethnic identity but spiritual condition that determines experience—Jews and Gentiles alike face judgment or mercy based on faith in Christ (Romans 2:28-29, Galatians 3:28-29).

Historical Context

"Day of the LORD" appears 19 times in the Old Testament, describing God's intervention in judgment or deliverance. Prophets applied it to historical events (Babylonian conquest, return from exile) and eschatological realities (Messiah's coming, final judgment). Jesus referenced it in the Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24), Paul in 1-2 Thessalonians, Peter in 2 Peter 3, John throughout Revelation. Each historical fulfillment points toward ultimate fulfillment when Christ returns.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Does anticipation of Christ's return produce holy living or complacent presumption in your life?
2. How should imminent judgment shape evangelistic urgency?

Interlinear Text

אָלָּה	וְיֹמָה	כִּי	כִּי	קָרְבָּן	וְיֹמָה	הָיָה	אָלָּה
Alas	for the day	H3588	is at hand	for the day	of the LORD		
H162	H3117		H7138	H3117		H3068	
וְכֹשֶׁת	מִשְׁׁמָךְ	וְיָבוֹא:					
and as a destruction	from the Almighty	shall it come					
H7701	H7706	H935					

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 30:7 (Parallel theme): Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

Joel 2:11 (References Lord): And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?

Joel 2:31 (References Lord): The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.

Revelation 6:17 (Parallel theme): For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Psalms 37:13 (References Lord): The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming.

James 5:9 (Parallel theme): Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.

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