

Joel 2:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand;

Analysis

"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion" commands urgent alarm. The Hebrew shophar (ram's horn trumpet) served religious and military purposes. The command to "sound an alarm in my holy mountain" escalates urgency—this is emergency warning. "Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble" uses ragaz (quake/tremble) describing visceral fear before divine majesty. This trembling is proper response to Holy God (Exodus 19:16). The reason: "for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand." The phrase "Day of the LORD" (yom-YHWH) describes God's decisive intervention—sometimes judgment, sometimes deliverance, ultimately final eschatological reckoning. Reformed understanding sees this "Day" as both historical (Babylonian conquest, AD 70) and eschatological (Christ's return), each fulfillment pointing to ultimate judgment.

Historical Context

Zion, Jerusalem's temple hill, represented God's dwelling (Psalm 132:13-14). The shophar signaled nationwide emergency. The "Day of the LORD" concept originated in Israel expecting God to judge enemies and vindicate His people. Prophets shocked listeners by declaring that day would first judge unfaithful Israel (Amos 5:18-20). This theme runs through Isaiah (2:12, 13:6), Zephaniah (1:7,14), Malachi (4:5), into the New Testament (1 Thessalonians 5:2, 2 Peter 3:10).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. Does the modern church sound clear alarms about coming judgment?
2. What does proper "trembling" before God look like in daily life?
3. How should certainty of Christ's return shape your priorities?

Interlinear Text

וּתְקַעוּ	רֹשׁוֹפֵי	וּבְצִיּוֹן	וְהִרְיֵעוּ	רֶהָר	יִקְדָּשׁ יְיָ	
Blow	ye the trumpet	in Zion	and sound an alarm	mountain	in my holy	
H8628	H7782	H6726	H7321	H2022	H6944	
וּתְרַגְזוּ	כָּל	יֹשְׁבֵי	הָאָרֶץ	כִּי	בָּא	יוֹם
tremble	H3605	let all the inhabitants	of the land	H3588	cometh	for the day
H7264		H3427	H776		H935	H3117
יְהוָה	כִּי	קָרוֹב:				
of the LORD	H3588	for it is nigh at hand				
H3068		H7138				

Additional Cross-References

Joel 2:15 (Parallel theme): Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:

Joel 1:15 (References Lord): Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.

1 Peter 4:7 (Parallel theme): But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

Joel 3:17 (Holy): So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.

Isaiah 66:2 (References Lord): For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.

Jeremiah 5:22 (References Lord): Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it?

Malachi 4:1 (References Lord): For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

Zephaniah 3:11 (Holy): In that day shalt thou not be ashamed for all thy doings, wherein thou hast transgressed against me: for then I will take away out of the midst of thee them that rejoice in thy pride, and thou shalt no more be haughty because of my holy mountain.

Zephaniah 1:14 (References Lord): The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly.

Jeremiah 4:5 (Parallel theme): Declare ye in Judah, and publish in Jerusalem; and say, Blow ye the trumpet in the land: cry, gather together, and say, Assemble yourselves, and let us go into the defenced cities.