

Joel 3:1–15

The Day of the LORD's Judgment

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Main idea: The day of judgment is coming, in which the Lord's people—and especially the Lord Himself—will be avenged. You must have Yahweh Himself as your atonement and Yahweh Himself as your righteousness and Yahweh Himself as your power before you leave this life. And that is the Christian confession: all who call upon the name of Yahweh will be saved. All who call upon the name of Jesus will be saved!

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| <p>1 "For behold, in those days and at that time,
When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem,
2 I will also gather all nations,
And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat;
And I will enter into judgment with them there
On account of My people, My heritage Israel,
Whom they have scattered among the nations;
They have also divided up My land.
3 They have cast lots for My people,
Have given a boy as payment for a harlot,
And sold a girl for wine, that they may drink.
4 "Indeed, what have you to do with Me,
O Tyre and Sidon, and all the coasts of Philistia?
Will you retaliate against Me?
But if you retaliate against Me,
Swiftly and speedily I will return your retaliation upon your own head;
5 Because you have taken My silver and My gold,
And have carried into your temples My prized possessions.
6 Also the people of Judah and the people of Jerusalem
You have sold to the Greeks,
That you may remove them far from their borders.
7 "Behold, I will raise them
Out of the place to which you have sold them,
And will return your retaliation upon your own head.
8 I will sell your sons and your daughters
Into the hand of the people of Judah,</p> | <p>And they will sell them to the Sabeans,
To a people far off;
For the LORD has spoken."
9 Proclaim this among the nations:
"Prepare for war!
Wake 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 strong.' "
11 Assemble and come, all you nations,
And gather together all around.
Cause Your mighty ones to go down there, O LORD.
12 "Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat;
For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations.
13 Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe.
Come, go down;
For the winepress is full,
The vats overflow—
For their wickedness 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 moon will grow dark,
And the stars will diminish their brightness.</p> |
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Introduction: A review of the days: locusts, repentance, restoration, darkness, salvation. Now judgment!

1. The arrival of the day, v1–3, 5
 - a. The completion of one gathering (the elect, v1) initiates another gathering (judgment, v2a–b). There's a day coming (v1a), when the gathering-in of the Lord's elect ones is complete (v1b). And that's a gathering-day too (v2a), but not a pleasant one. It's a gathering-in to the valley of Yahweh-Judgement (v2b)! Rom 8:18–25. Rev 6:9–11.
 - b. This judgment will be Jehoshaphat, Yahweh-Judgment. Yahweh not only as Judge but as Plaintiff and Prosecutor (v2c–3, 5). Not only will the nations be judged for what they have done to Yahweh Himself, but the Lord so identifies Himself with His people, that He will take everything as personally done to Him that was done to them. When He says "I will enter into judgment with them" (v2c) and "What have you to do with Me" (v4a), He doesn't just mean that He is the Judge (though He most certainly is!). He is also the Prosecutor and the Plaintiff. This is why He keeps saying "My." My people (v2d). My heritage (v2d). My land (v2f). My people (v3a). My silver (v5a). My gold (v5a). My precious good things (v5b). How dreadful such a court scene and judgment will be! Matt 25:31–46. Acts 9:1–5.
 - c. You don't know when the day is arriving—only that you have been warned, and that you must be prepared.
2. No payment can avail to escape in that day, v4–8
 - a. All attempted repayment requires its own retribution, v4. There will be no bargaining in the last day. Even any bargaining now is offensive to God. You have nothing good with which to repay Him for your sin. All of it is marred with sin and demands further retribution. "Will you repay Me? But if you repay Me, swiftly and speedily I will return your repayment upon Your own head" (v4c–e, cf. v7c).
 - b. The retribution will correspond exactly to the offense, v6–8
 - c. The offense is as great as God's glory itself, v5. This is the great problem of Rom 1:18–21. The wrath of God against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men is a wrath that is equal to God's own glory in its intensity. What atonement can possibly avail? Only the propitiating sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Himself (cf. Rom 3:25).
 - d. Application to believers (you will be avenged! Avenge not yourselves) and to unbelievers (with what will you repay God?)
3. No power can avail to endure in that day, v9–15
 - a. The mightiest of men will be as the weakest (v9–10). The mightiest from all the nations (v9) will be as trained and able and equipped as crop-farmers (v10). All will be weak, and it is a delusion to think that in that day you could be strong against Him.
 - b. Yahweh's own mighty ones will be there (v11), but it will be Yahweh Himself who executes (v14–15, cf. 2:11, Rev 19:21). There is nothing that can be done against Him any more than the grape can defend itself against the vintner from being cut down and stomped (v13, cf. Rev 14:6–20). The greatest powers we know in creation are nothing by comparison.
 - c. This is why we must not be ashamed of the gospel. For, it is the power of God—not man!—for salvation.

Conclusion: You must have Yahweh Himself as your atonement and Yahweh Himself as your righteousness and Yahweh Himself as your power before you leave this life. And that is the Christian confession: all who call upon the name of Yahweh will be saved. All who call upon the name of Jesus will be saved!

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Our gracious God.Father Son and Holy Spirit.You are worthy of all glory.All worship.And you have given us to worship you by.Reading and hearing.Your word.Read and preached.So we pray now for the help of your Spirit.

That you would not only receive this worship through Christ is atonement. His righteousness.But that you would also by your spirit make the word to take root in our hearts our fruit in our lives.And grant to us now to preach and to listen in manner that is appropriate to those who come to you by faith.

And who offer it as worship through Jesus.Come with power we pray.And do that work for which you send out your word.Which we ask in Jesus' name.Amen.This rise as we hear the word of God read.

Joel chapter 3 verses 1 through 15. These are God's words.For behold in those days and at that time when I bring back that captives of Judah and Jerusalem.I will also gather all nations.And bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat.And I will enter into judgment with them there on account of my people.

My heritage Israel.Him they have scattered among the nations.They have also divided up my land.They have cast lots for my people.Have given a boy as payment for a harlot and sold a girl for wine that they may drink.Indeed.What have you to do with me?

Though tire and siden.And all the coasts of Celestia.Will you retaliate against me?But if you retaliate against me swiftly and speedly I will return your retaliation upon your own head.Because you have taken my silver and my gold.And if carried into your temples, my prized possessions.

Also, the people of Judah and the people of Jerusalem you have sold to the Greeks.That you may remove them far from their borders.Behold I will raise them out of the place to which you have sold them and will return your retaliation upon your own head.I will sell your sons.

And yours into the hand of the people of Judah and they will sell them to the Sabians to people fall off.For Yahweh has spoken.Proclaim this among the nations.Prepare for war.Wake up the mighty men.Let all the men of war draw near.Let them come up.

Be your pleasure into swords.And your pruning hooks into spears.Let's say I am strong.Assemble and come all your nations and gather together all round.

Cause your mighty ones to go down there for Yahweh.Let the nations be awakened and come up to the valley of Yahusha Fat.For their I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations.Put in the sickle.For the harvest is right calm go down for the line presses full the vats overflow.

For their wickedness is great.Multitudes multitudes in the valley of decisions.For the day of Yahweh is near in the valley of decision.The sun and moon will grow dark.And the stars will diminish their brightness.The senses reading of God's inspired and inherent word we look to him to bless the preaching of it as well.

Please be seated.

There have been a number of days.Days of the Lord days of Yahoo in the book of Joel.First there was a day of the locusts that great plague that the Lord was bringing upon his people to wipe out.All of their joy because they were they were enjoying themselves apart from enjoying him in the worship so he removed from them the joy of the worship the worship itself everything that they were delighting in in their lives and he called them to a day of repentance a day of repenting from the heart a day of a holy worship service a holy assembly in which they would.

All repent together and he gave them more prophesied to them of a day of restoration in which he would restore the land having restored them to himself and restored himself to the place of being their great joy the locust plague having accomplished its purpose that that he would bring a day of restoration and restore to them even the years that the locusts had eaten and then he described to them.

A day that was coming to which this entire judgment of the locusts and bringing them to repentance and restoring them pointed forward the day of darkness that the apostle recognized as the day of Christ's being offered on the cross for our sins, which ushered in quickly a day of salvation the day of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit and,The convincing of many of the Word of God and making then to be united to Christ and to participate even in testifying for the Lord Jesus and the ways that we prophesy even to one another as we have been doing today and monitoring one another and Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs as well proclaim in a moment the Lord's death or in a few moments the Lord's death until.

He comes as we eat the bread and drink the cup but especially a day in which the spirit would be poured out on all flesh and from all nations men and women and boys and girls would call upon the name of Yahweh whom we now know Yahweh in the flesh the Lord Jesus and so all who pull upon the name of Yahweh will be saved.

But we saw last week is fulfilled in the New Testament Romans 10 acts to all who call upon the name of the Lord Jesus will be saved. And so there's been this day of locusts the day of repentance the day of restoration looking forward to today of darkness and the crucifixion the day of salvation in which we are in that time in which the Lord is gathering in people from all nations into and if you have a Bible open you can look back to the end of chapter two and we're in verse 32 into Mount Zion and Jerusalem verse 32 of chapter 2 and it.

Shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of Yahweh shall be saved foreign Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance as Yahweh has said among the remnant whom Yahweh calls and that wonderful day that we are in that if if you have known the Lord Jesus to be the creator of heaven and earth Jehovah himself Yahweh himself who became a man that that he might be crucified.

The creation itself heaven and earth a testing by the signs that God worked in heaven and earth at the crucifixion that this indeed was the Son of God and if you have come to believe in him and you have been gathered into his church that Zion to which we gather according to Hebrews chapter 12 that New Jerusalem for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, there shall be deliverance you have participated if you have believed in Jesus as God who became a man to die for your sin.

And you have called upon his name and you have been saved and all being saved you have participated in what verse 32 is describing but there is a day when that gathering in is completed and that is the day that is in view really in all of chapter 3 but it for our purposes this morning, that is the day the day of the completion of the gathering in to Mount Zion and into Jerusalem to.

The gathering of that remnant to the Lord is calling to himself to be saved the day of the completion of that gathering is what is in view you see that in verse 1 for behold in those days and at that time when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, it is a day of judgment this gathering of the nations in the valley of Jehoshaphat as you see it called that in verse.

2, you see it again called that in verse 12. Yahusha fat means Yahweh judgment the Lord's judgment and will be hearing then in these 15 verses about the day of the Lord's judgment the day of the valley of Jehoshaphaten the first place will hear about the arrival of the day the arrival of the day, especially in the first three verses so although we will can.

Consider. Because of the the continuing use of me and my in versus four and five up through verse five, there will be a little bit of a of an overlap so there's the arrival of the day versus one through five and then there is the impossibility of repaying God in that day, and we'll have to do a little bit of.

Translation work to see that well, but the impossibility of repaying God in the day of judgment versus four through eight. That there's nothing that we with which we can repay and for our guilt our sin and then that there is no power the impossibility of opposing God so that so in verses 9 through 15 so the arrival of the day and then how there is no payment that can avail to escape in that day versus four through eight and then that there is no power.

That can avail to endure in that day in verses 9 through 15 first then the arrival of the day says for behold. In those days and at that time when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations and bring them down to the valley of Yahusha fact the valley of Yahweh judgment the Lord's judgment and I will enter into judgment with them there.

There is a day coming in which the Lord will gather all the nations. And enter into judgment with them. Just as there was a day coming in the age of Noah when the Lord was going to open up windows in the firmament and he was going to bring a flood upon the earth and there was a whole world of people who lived as if that day was not coming.

Although righteous Noah preached in his generation and they lived as if that day was not coming and it came. And they were destroyed. There's nothing that they could plead with God once the heavens had been open there was nothing that they could do to survive once the day of the judgment had come.

Stars righteous light had pleaded in his generation and the apostle. Peter by the Holy Spirit tells us that his soul was tortured within him as he looked upon the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah. There was a day coming. When those cities would be judged. And the judgment of God the the fire and the brimstone of God would fall upon them.

And not only did the city as a whole live as if that day was not coming. But even those who were closest to Lot from the city those whom he was going to permit his daughter's to marry. Thought it was a joke laughed at him when he told them that the day had arrived.

So it was a great mercy of God that he tells us that there is a day coming. When all the nations will be gathered before God for judgment. It's a mercy of God to you that you are here this morning and being taught this and having this preached in your hearing.

It is a mercy of God. And yet it is a mercy that if you ignore it. If you don't deal with the reality that you will stand before the one who made you. The one from whom and through whom and to whom all things are. Then today will have been a great mercy from God.

But it have great foolishness for you.If you do not receive.The warning.Now the question that many of us want to ask in fact that we'll see the apostles asking in next next week's Luke Passage as when is that day coming?They wanted to know signs the Lord Jesus corrected them.

He had been talking about the destruction of the temple and they wanted to know oh what would be the signs of that happening and if you look at the Matthew parallel Matthew chapter 24 signs of his coming and of the end of the age and Jesus basically draws a distinction between two events.

One that he was talking about when there would be no stone left upon a stone and the temple would be destroyed. There would be signs of when that was about to.Happen and he actually commanded them to escape. It was predictable and escapable but the one that they had asked about when Jesus would return was not predictable.

It would come as a thief in the night. And it was not escapable. There is no one who can escape that day. The answer to the flame question in verse 1 is when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem. This is you.Is in the language of verse 32 for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance and as we have seen the Apostolic preaching by the Holy Spirit understood that to describe the age of the gathering in of those who call upon the name of the Lord Jesus and are saved and wherever Scripture talks about scripture gets close to stew telling us when the age will end when Jesus will return this is the answer.

When God is finished saving that remnant whom he is bringing to himself whom he is calling to himself whom he's bringing by his spirit to call on the name of the Lord Jesus to be saved.So in Romans 8.

Romans 8 and verse 18 for I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory, which shall be revealed in us for the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly weights for.The revealing of the sons of God.The creation was subjected to futility not willingly but because of him who subjected it in hope because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pains together until now not only that but we also who have the first fruits of the spirit even we are selves grown within ourselves eagerly waiting for the adoption the redemption of our body for we were saved in this hope but hope that is seen is not hope for why does one still hope for what he sees but if we hope for what we do not see we eagerly wake.

For it with perseverance, so the creation is currently in bondage to corruption and decay and it is straining forward to what the the day when the sons of God have been revealed Romans 8:19 and they are received the final portion of their adoption verse 23 the redemption of our body.

That is what this age is waiting for is for the revealing of the sons of God even more clearly revelation chapter 6.

Beginning in verse 9 when he opened the fifth seal. I saw under the altar the souls.Of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.And they hired with a loud voice saying how long oh Lord holy and true until you judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth very closely connected isn't it to Joel chapter 3 and that portion of the day of judgment which is the Lord avenging what has been done to his people throughout the ages.

And the question is how long oh Lord.Verse 11 then a white robe was given to each of them and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who would be killed as they were was completed and so the how long the question is a completion of the number question now.

The fact that there is a number as offensive to many but it is the truth of God and the scripture and the fact that he has chosen to save as we considered last week as the only reason there can be salvation that there is that remnant that he has decided to save for himself at the cost of himself that the Lord came and laid down his life for the sheep and so that the when question is a completion of an,Numbers question and we see that in our passage for behold in those days and at that time when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations and bring them down to the valley of Yahusha fat and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of my people Israel, so the completion of the gathering in of the elect the completion of that is what initiates this gathering in the valley of Yahusha,This gathering of judgment.

So the day is coming when the gathering in of the Lord's elect ones is complete.And that as also a gathering day but not a pleasant one it is a gathering in to the valley of your judgment this means that you cannot predict the time of the return of Christ any more than you can know who the elect are.

Okay, my job would be a lot easier if the Lord had printed on the foreheads tattooed on the foreheads of everyone with whom I spoke or to whom I preached either elect or reprobate.Then I could just know as I preached which ones the Lord was going to save.

The Lord is not given that to me to do. He's given to me to preach the gospel to every creature. And neither has he tattooed it so that you can see it. He has not given to you to try to figure out if you are

left. He is commanded you to turn from your sins and call upon the name of the Lord Jesus and thus be saved.

That's your part. And when you do and you find that it is only his grace that has enabled you to turn and to call on him then you give him all the praise and all the glory. It is a truth but it is not given to you to know whether or not you are like.

So if I can't even know who the elect are in this room, and none of us can know who all the elect are who all that remnant is that Yahweh calls to himself and end up calling up on the name of. The Lord and being saved are then we cannot know when the number has been completed and we cannot know the day the timing of the day.

So what that means is that there is a day coming and you don't know when it is, but you are about to find out what it is. It is the day of the valley of Jehoshaphat the valley of the judgment of the Lord. Now, this is the Lord's judgment not only in the fact that he is judged but the way that he talks now especially through the end of verse 5, it makes a point that the Lord is not only judged but he's also the point.

He's the one who has been offended. He's the one who has been sinned against and he's the prosecutor. So you're in triple jeopardy because the Lord is the one whom we have sinned against the Lord is the one who prosecutes the case and the Lord is the judge's verdict and executes sentence.

He says, I will enter into judgment with them there on account of my people.

My heritage. Israel, they're also divided my land. They've cast lots for my people. Number five, you've taken my silver and my gold you've carried into your temples, my prized possession. Do you hear the possessive singular first-person singular possessive pronoun that the Lord is using throughout this judgment children? He says my my my my and this word that's translated retaliation is repay and that's one way the word repay is used for retaliation.

But really the basic meaning of the word the root meaning of the word repay works just as well and more importantly is the truth that verse four is teaching will you repay me but if you repay me I will swiftly and speedily return your with payment. Upon your own head, but still there will you repay me but if you repay me you have to deal with the Lord at the judgment because it is primarily against the Lord that you have sent.

He exists. And you know that he exists he made you. And you know that he has made you you may resist that knowledge in fact he has said about you that you work hard to push down on the knowledge of God. But you have done so Romans chapter one and will come back to this passage a little later in the sermon as well.

Romans chapter one, he says for the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness. And unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth and unrighteousness because. Now this is the wrath of God that is revealed from heaven against all unrighteousness and ungodliness on godliness and unrighteousness of men because what may be known of God is manifest in them for God has shown it to them for since the creation of the world his invisible attributes are clearly seen being understood by the things that are made so you may and if you are still in resistance to him and have not repented and called upon the name.

Of the Lord Jesus and been saved one of those who suppress the truth in unrighteousness which truth especially the truth that the Lord made you. That the Lord made everything. That the Lord is good and glorious and you exist to enjoy and worship him and serve him to glorify God and to enjoy him forever and so the day of judgment will especially be a day of engaging with him and that's the language he uses here especially when he says I will enter into judgment with them that's the language that you would use when you were talking about going to the city gate where where court case.

Says were. Hard and you would enter into judgment with your neighbor. That's not just language of who the judges that's who the case is between. It would be between you and their neighbor. When it says, I will enter into judgment with them in verse 2, it is saying that the case is between the Lord and the nations.

And then when he says what have you to do with me in in verse 4, again, those are challenged words. Of the Lord's case against them. And so the Lord is not only the judge on the on the last great day. He is the one who is offended. And he is not only offended in his own behalf, but he's especially offended on ours.

And that's a great mercy for you and for me who have called upon the name of the Lord. Who had known ourselves to be the guilty ones and yet we by his mercy by this spirit had been brought to faith in Jesus Christ and we have called upon the name of the Lord and been saved and been gathered into his Jerusalem gathered into his Zion we are the captives whom he is freed we are the ones whom he is saved.

To see your champion in this passage. Taking personally everything that is every wrong that has done to you because we do not get justice in this world. Yes, there are those who he has appointed for the purpose of bearing the sword as avengers upon wickedness. But even the best of them do it imperfectly.

And the best of them are few and far between. In the history of this world across the nations across the centuries, very few people have ever gotten any justice. And no one has ever gotten complete justice. But all of God's people will get complete justice because the case has not been heard and the verdict has not been given and the sentence has not been executed for the last time.

A big part of the day of the Lord's judgment that a valley of Jehoshaphat is his taking personally and avenging all that was done to his people. We'll take time to read the the two passages but Matthew 25 verses 31 through 46 you remember this the separation of the sheath of the goat and the goats and the Lord saying I was hungry and you fed me.

I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink and,And so.Worth on the righteous say when did we do all these things and he said in as much as you have done it to the least of these my brethren you've done it to me and then the goats I think I've switched the order of the passage actually but the goats those who are being condemned.

I was hungry and you didn't feed me. I was thirsty you didn't give me to drink and so forth and they say when did we do that Lord and he said in as much as you didn't do it to the least of these my brethren, you didn't do it for me.

And then also an act nine you remember so I'll still breathing out murderous threats at the beginning of acts nine and when the Lord arrests him on the way to Damascus and he's blinded by the light from heaven, what does he hear he hears all why are you persecuting?

Me.Now how could saw the Pharisee persecute the risen ascended in throne? Jesus.Well it was because Jesus identifies himself with his people so entirely.That whatever is done to you dear. Christian.He takes personally.And he doesn't take it personally in a way that he swallows hard and says well.

I guess I'll just have to take that one.He takes it personally as one who is a judge and an avenger.And there is a day coming in which he will repay fully.

Well, that is great news.If you belong to Christ by faith.That is horrible news.If you have not turned from your sin.If you on that last day look upon him whom you have peers.Not as one who calls upon his name and are being saved.But as one whom he is avenging himself and all of his people upon now the fact that he is avenging himself.

Means that there is no payment that can avail to escape in that day and you probably already begun to see that because we stopped to do the the retranslating already in verse 4.

We come into the valley of judgment and he begins to make his case says they have scattered my people among the nations that divided up my land they have cast lots for my people have given a boy as payment for a haul at the the wickedness of.Not just the sin against his people but the murder and.

And adultery the violation of all of God's commands and he made man in his image having made marriage to glorify. God by man being made male and female in the two becoming one flesh in the image of God and sold a girl for wine that they may drink this indulgence of self and murder of others.

Which we see.Writ large.And the culture.

They always taught out the what they think are exceptions but aren't exceptions yeah well what if what if a child was conceived by force or violence or in relationship between those who are too closely related properly to get married?You murder the child.Because of the sins of others.

But all of that is of course a red herring because these children are almost entirely murdered for the sake of convenience.I just don't feel like I can handle another child right now.Well you can never handle any child every every good work depends entirely upon the grace of God how much more the good work of of parenting one of these children who are made in his image who need to be spiritually resurrected in order to be brought to faith in Jesus Christ and re-created in God's image.

You can't handle a child ever none of us can.But it's really for more convenience than that so what they really mean is I'm not willing to sacrifice all the property and all the pleasures and all the time and all the personal liberty to live for myself.That would be required if I don't murder.

This baby and while they're small and defenseless and and in a situation where we can tell ourselves lies about it.We'll go ahead and kill them for our convenience in our pleasure.

Is that not exactly the spirit.They've given a boy as a payment for a harlot soul to girl for a wine that they may drink.

God created us to bring him glory in his image to enjoy him and his goodness in all of his good gifts.To enjoy marriage to enjoy the relation between a husband and a wife as something that is only within that marriage only within that covenant.Even to enjoy drink for all of the good reasons that God has made it for joy and celebration and strengthening and and fellowship.

All of the things that we have with Christ to his table when we eat and when we drink.

Spiritual and glorious way.That builds upon the the lesser way that we enjoy those things day by day in our homes and with one another.We abuse it.To make it an end in itself.

And so God repays. God repays and we can't pay him back. What will we give to him? What will you give to him? Tire Sidon Philistia that he looks that he will accept will you repay me? He says in verse 4, if you repay me swiftly and speedily. I will return your repayment on your own head.

You see you and I have sinned against the holy and righteous God for whom we exist and whatever you are. I try to do in our sinful condition to pay him back for it would itself have synonyms.

There's nothing here. I do without some self-service in it. And our fallen state particularly. When you have not yet been brought to faith in Jesus Christ when you have not been made spiritually alive you are literally spiritually dead and you can do nothing out of a right and good and pure motivation.

You don't seek God. All of you together have gone astray. Apart from Christ. And so when you start to come under conviction and you know that you've sending in the creator and you you hear that you are going to have to stand before him and that you're seeing this against him and his glory and you start to think well.

I'll make it up to him. From now on from now on I will from the heart out of love for him desire only to do right and good. I will glorify him and all I do and I will only love and do good to my neighbor. From now for, The rest of my life.

First of all, that was already required of you. Second of all. No you won't. Our best works. Have synonym. Isaiah says all of our righteousnesses are as filthy rags. Before him. There's nothing that can come from you. That can repay God. That can make up for your sin that kind of tone for you.

Anything that comes from you just requires more judgment. Requires more wrath.

Now the point in verses 6 through 8 is that God's repayment is going to exactly correspond to the offense. So he talks about them having sold his people verse 3 and continues verse 6 and the people of Judah and people Jerusalem you sold to the Greeks that you may remove them far from their borders.

Behold I will raise them out of the place to which you have sold them and will return your retaliation upon your own head. I will sell your sons and your daughters and, Hand to the people of Judah and they will sell them to the Simeon's to people fall off for you always spoken.

So what he's saying here in the particular sins that he's highlighted in in the passage before us is you have done one thing against the the people of Judah and the people of Jerusalem and I will I will repay you I will punish you by doing something that exactly corresponds to what you have done.

Well, if the justice of God is exactly right and exactly corresponding and exists exactly just that leaves us. Apart from Christ apart from the gospel of Jesus Christ that leaves us without any hope of repayment. Because it's one thing to be able to be sold in in punishment for those who you have sold an eye for eye and a tooth for a tooth.

Well, that's fine for those who have eyes and teeth. But you're in my sin is not merely against people. It is against the living God. The offense for which we would have to be punished in the last day if you arrive at the day of judgment without the Lord Jesus Christ and his sacrifice and his righteousness and his power saving you by his sacrifice and his righteousness.

You will arrive with an offense, that is as great as the glory of God itself. This point we turn back to Romans 1 and we read again.

Beginning in verse 18 for the wrath of God is revealed from heaven. Against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men. Who suppress the truth in unrighteousness. Because what may be known of God as manifest in them. For God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world his invisible attributes are clearly seen being understood by the things that are made even his eternal power and Godhead so that they are without excuse.

Because although they knew God, they did not glorify. Him as God. Nor. Were thankful.

Failure to worship God as God. Failure to be thankful to God. Is a sin of infinite proportions a sin of proportion equal to the glory of God. Himself. This is the great problem in the opening three chapters of Romans. How can we repay? A debt that is as big as the glory of God.

You can't. That's why when you get to the conclusion of the argument and in the end of chapter three and he's talking about the repayment he's talking about what it is that can turn away this rap that he has been talking about since verse 18 of chapter 1. What is big enough to equal the wrath?

Chapter 3 verse 24 being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ. Jesus whom God set forth exhibited displayed as a propitiation. One who turns away all of the wrath of God. The moralists text for the fold identity of the Lord Jesus Christ, because. Since verse 18 of chapter 1 you have had that argued as big as the glory of God and the wrath that is against us for our sin is as big as the glory of God.

And then he displays his son chapter 3 verse 25. Big enough full enough atonement to turn away all of the wrath of God, that is you to you for denying his glory. So draw three says with what we repay me whatever repayment you give me. I will swiftly and speedily return your repayment upon your own head.

There's nothing that you and I can come to God with for our sin except for God himself. Given to take the penalty for our sin. This is why the apostle in the verses immediately preceding those wrath of God verses that we read is so excited about the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Because in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith and for faith not the righteousness of man, not your learning how to do better not your your giving back to the community or the culture where your neighbor or your family or even God himself. But God giving himself for you because that is the only payment.

That gonna tone for our sin. And the statement immediately proceeding and in Romans chapter one corresponds to the next point because not only is there no payment that can avail to escape in that day, except the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no power by which. You can survive that day.

Except for the power of God himself. So he says, I am not ashamed of the gospel for it is that power of God for salvation. And if you and I are going to understand verses 9 through 15, then we are going to rejoice that there is a power of God for salvation because verses 9 to 15 of our passage say that there is no power in creation of any man, there is no power of any creature that can avail in that day.

Proclaim this amend the nations he says verse 9. Prepare. Wake up the mighty men, let the men of war draw near let them come out. Now you remember the army that we saw earlier in the book. His army of locusts hundreds of millions of locusts. But you remember who is at the.

Head of the army. The Lord himself.

So verse 10 goes sarcastic on us. Proclaim this among the nation's prepare for war wake up the mighty men, let the all the men of war draw near let them come up. And then it says if he's looking around he's saying this the best you got better get the farmers in here, too.

We got all the soldiers we got all the warriors. You're gonna have a war against God. Need all the help you can get right. So they they got the soldiers with all their weapons not enough soldiers not enough weapons, he says, okay. You're not gonna you know, there's no reason to farm crops anymore, you guys are all done with that we're at the valley of judgment now.

It's the last day. Beat your plow shares into swords and your pruning hooks and disperse. Okay, now we've got enough weapons. We've still don't have enough military might to to face God, well let the weak common say ions strong. Let's just make our military out of any which person however however weak they are we'll get the weakest ones and we'll just call them strong.

Well in a sense, it's true. Because the strongest man. Are stand up against the living God. He says assembled and come only nations gather all around cause your mighty ones to go down there all the way. And we actually see that. Well in the last day the Lord at the front now not hundreds of millions of locusts, but of hundreds of millions of mighty angels.

And yet even in that context revelation. 1921 the sword that comes out of the mouth of the one on the white horse is the one that is what lights out everyone. You don't even need a single angel. Because the Lord Jesus himself is more than all of the opposition of oil of the spiritual of the physical realm.

And so he says let the nations be awakened and come to the valley of Jehoshaphat the Lord's judgment. For there always sit to judge all the surrounding nations, he uses an image that revelation uses in chapter 14 there in verses 6 through 20, we don't have time to go there but he says put in the sickle for the harvest is right.

Come go down. For the wine presses full the facts overflow for the wickedness, they're wickedness is great. Multitudes multitudes in the valley of decision for the day of Yahweh is near in the valley of decision. And again, the arrival of the Lord Himself you have the you have these signs in heaven in verse 15 but more than just them being signs it shows that he stronger than the sun and the moon and the stars the sun in the moon will grow dark and the stars will diminish their brightness.

What power can deliver you? In the last day. When the sun and the moon itself. The stars. Are nothing by comparison. To his power.

There is no power that can avail to endure in that day. You cannot put on a brave face in the last you can put on a brave face sitting under a sermon. You can hear about these things and you say.

I decide not to believe that. Well, You can walk out in the middle of the road. And the dump truck can come along 45 miles an hour. You could decide whatever you want to believe about your ability to survive that impact.

But what you decide to believe won't change the reality and it won't change the result. This is reality. You're going to stand before the one who made you the one who made all things. You're going to stand as someone who has sinned and has infinite wrath against your sin.

And either it has been repaid by Christ and you will survive that day by the power of Christ. Or you have no repayment that could possibly be accepted and you have no power to withstand what will come upon you? Those are the only two possibilities.

That is why we must not be ashamed of the gospel. For what it says is God has exerted his power to say by getting his righteousness. Through Jesus Christ. That he has repaid. What you cannot repay. And that he offers it to you freely that if you call upon the name of the Lord Jesus.

If you come to grips with this reality that you are going to stand before God not only as the one who judges you but the one who you have sinned against. And you have come to grips with that reality and call upon the name of the Lord Jesus because he has made repayment and has been accepted.

He didn't just die for our sins. He was raised on a count of our justification. So that the payment had been completed and he comes out of the grave victorious. God's declaring the sin paid for by his resurrection from the tomb raised on account of our justification. You come to the day clinging to him and you don't know when you're coming to that day, do you?

Because you don't just know when this age is ending you don't know where your life is ending. A couple of miles from my parents' home a week ago. Seemed so much longer now. There is a goalie for an NHL team. And they were doing some fireworks thing by the pool and apparently he had a firework explode and his chest but the first.

A. The first report was that he was running from it and slipped and fell into his head. Doesn't really matter how does it? Strong healthy prime of life has everything. In a few seconds, he's left this world. When are you leaving this world, do you know?

Well disappointed for man to die once and then after that the judgment Hebrews chapter, six says, So I can't tell you when but I can tell you what? And that's a drill chapter three verses one through 15 tells you.

You must have the Lord himself as your atonement the Lord himself as your righteousness the Lord himself as your power. You must have him now. Because you don't know. If you have later in which to have him. All who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.

And his name is Jesus. You host a fat means the Lord's judgment. Jesus. Means the Lord saves find your salvation in him. Let's pray.