

A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study
Date: November 22, 2023
Joel 2:1-17

1. What does it say to do in the beginning of 2:1?
 - A. I guess we're in for a band concert.
 - B. Blow the trumpet in Zion.
 - C. Sound the alarm...as if there is a pending attack. Everyone should come in from the surrounding areas to the fortified city.
 - D. Although this was often a battle alarm, it is also used in many cases in scripture to sound a spiritual alarm and call people to the place of prayer and worship for the same reason and in the same way.
 - E. The prophet has been calling this "plague" of locusts and "army" and using the military symbolism all along.

2. What are the implications of verse 11?
 - A. We should find hope because God is stronger...you know he who is for us is greater than he that is against us.
 - B. Uh oh...It sounds like God is at the heady of the army that is coming after us...so he who is against us is greater than he who is for us...that's not good.
 - C. The prophet is declaring this as a day of judgment...a day when God has judged against our actions and is not on our side.

3. After all that, what does God say in verse 12?
 - A. Even now...
 - B. Return to me with all your heart.
 - C. Show your sincerity with your actions, fasting, weeping, and mourning.

4. What is the significance of verse 13?
 - A. God says "rend" your heart and not your garments...but I don't know what that means.
 - B. It was common to tear your clothes in distress or times of mourning.
 - C. God is saying that the thing that we need to have a broken heart for our actions and don't just go through the motions of "mourning."

5. What does God say will happen if we return in this way, according to verses 13-14?
 - A. God is gracious and compassionate, he has to forgive us.
 - B. God's character is compassionate AND just. He doesn't have to forgive, but "who knows?" maybe he will if we are truly repentant.

6. What is the significance of verse 16?
 - A. God says everyone should gather.
 - B. God says for even the nursing children to come...and the bridegroom to leave his room and the bride her chamber.
 - C. Apparently, this is such a big deal that it should take precedence over even the most justifiable reasons. Certain things call for us to drop everything and make this a priority...and this call to repentance is one of them.

7. Are there times in our spiritual life where we need to disrupt our schedules to make the call of God a priority? Yes_____ No_____ Give some examples? _____
