

Week 32

Joel 2 Lifestyle



*Who can
endure?*

“Who

can endure it?”

Joel 2:11



There are two dimensions of the Day of the LORD. To the redeemed who have prepared themselves, it will be great – their finest hour of glory. Yet to many others, it will be very terrible (Joel 2:11).

This is the two-fold strategy of God. God intentionally allows these two dimensions to co-exist. The tension of these two realities will perplex the peoples of the earth. God has brought them together to bring about the greatest transformation of the human heart and greatest manifestation of divine activities on the earth.

This is not a new doctrine. The Lord uses this two-fold strategy throughout Scripture. Malachi described the Day of the LORD as both great and dreadful (Mal. 4:5). Isaiah calls it the year of the Lord's favor and the day of God's vengeance (Isa. 61:2).

An example of the “great Day” of the LORD is the story of Moses in Exodus. It tells us that God’s miraculous deliverance is released upon those who call on Him. The Babylonian military invasion in 586 BC, on the other hand, portrays the “terrible Day” of the LORD. God was warring against sin and rebellion which were lodged in the hearts and lives of His people.

Will we experience this Day as great or very terrible?

That will depend on our response.

For those who respond to God by living righteously, the coming Day will be a glorious time.

Though it will include suffering and testing, it will be the Day that the righteous will look forward to. The great dimension of that Day will include the outpouring of the Spirit with extraordinary signs and wonders (Joel 2:28 – 32).

For those who resist God, it will be a terrible day. It is a day of destruction across the globe. The terrible dimension of the Day of the LORD speaks of God's judgments coming upon the earth as He shakes up everything that can be shaken (Heb. 12:26-27).

*The most
Pertinent
question
is this:*

“Who can endure it?”

This is probably the most important and relevant question for all who are living in the End Times, a question we must certainly ask ourselves now. This question basically means, “Who can endure the Day without the favor of God?”. Only one kind of people can endure both the unparalleled, powerful visitation of the Holy Spirit and the devastating judgment that will shake the planet - those who are living in the favor of God by the gift of righteousness in Christ Jesus along with a life of wholehearted devotion to Him. Absolutely no one will be able to face this Day in their own strength or on their own account.

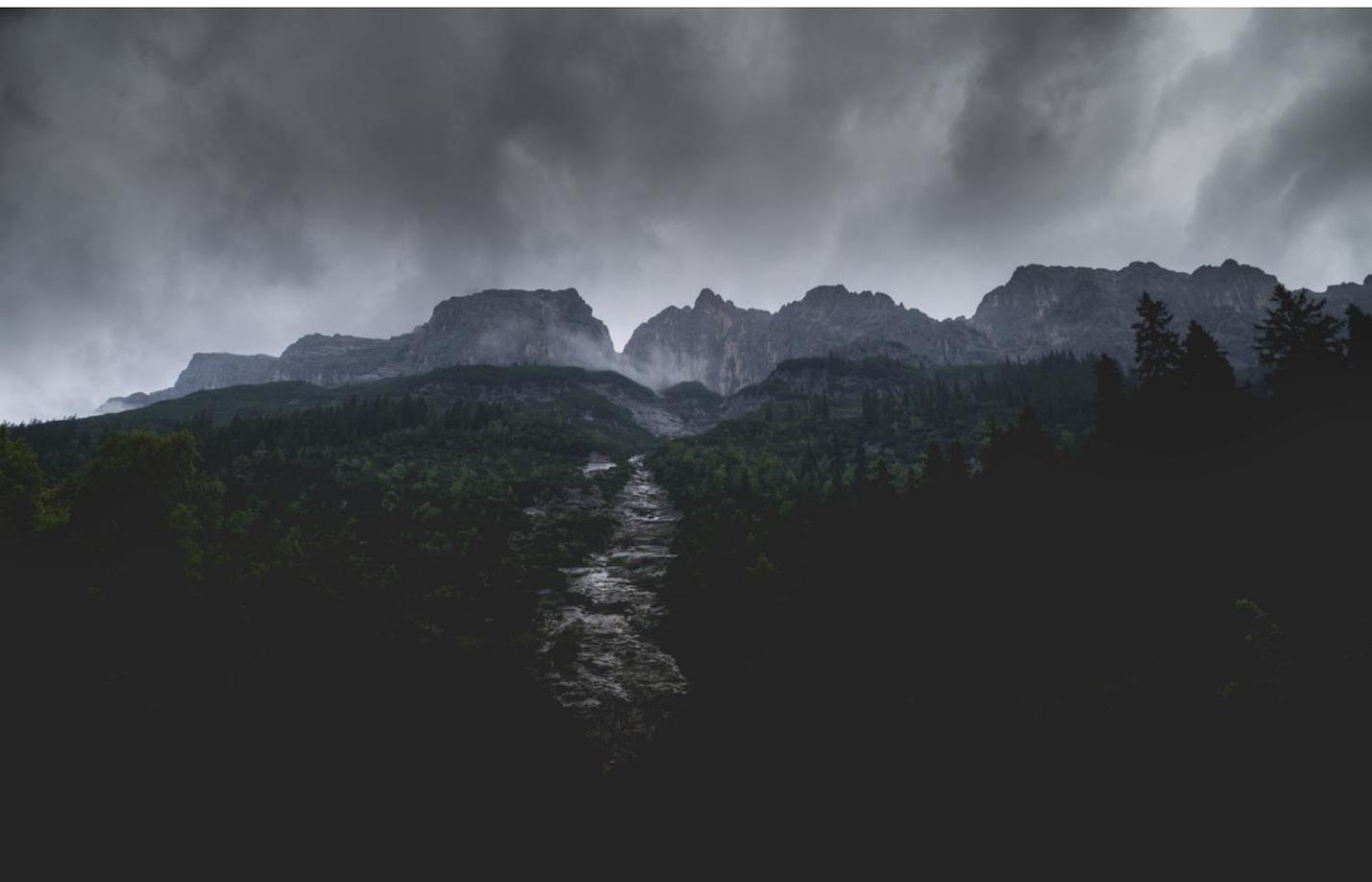
The Day of the LORD is the divine time frame when He shows Himself strong, to carry out both His warnings and His promises. He is mighty in bringing to pass all that He has declared in His Word.

What is startling, however, is that both His warnings and promises will go largely unheeded by the majority of the people on the earth. The rebellious will carelessly ignore the warnings of God’s judgment.

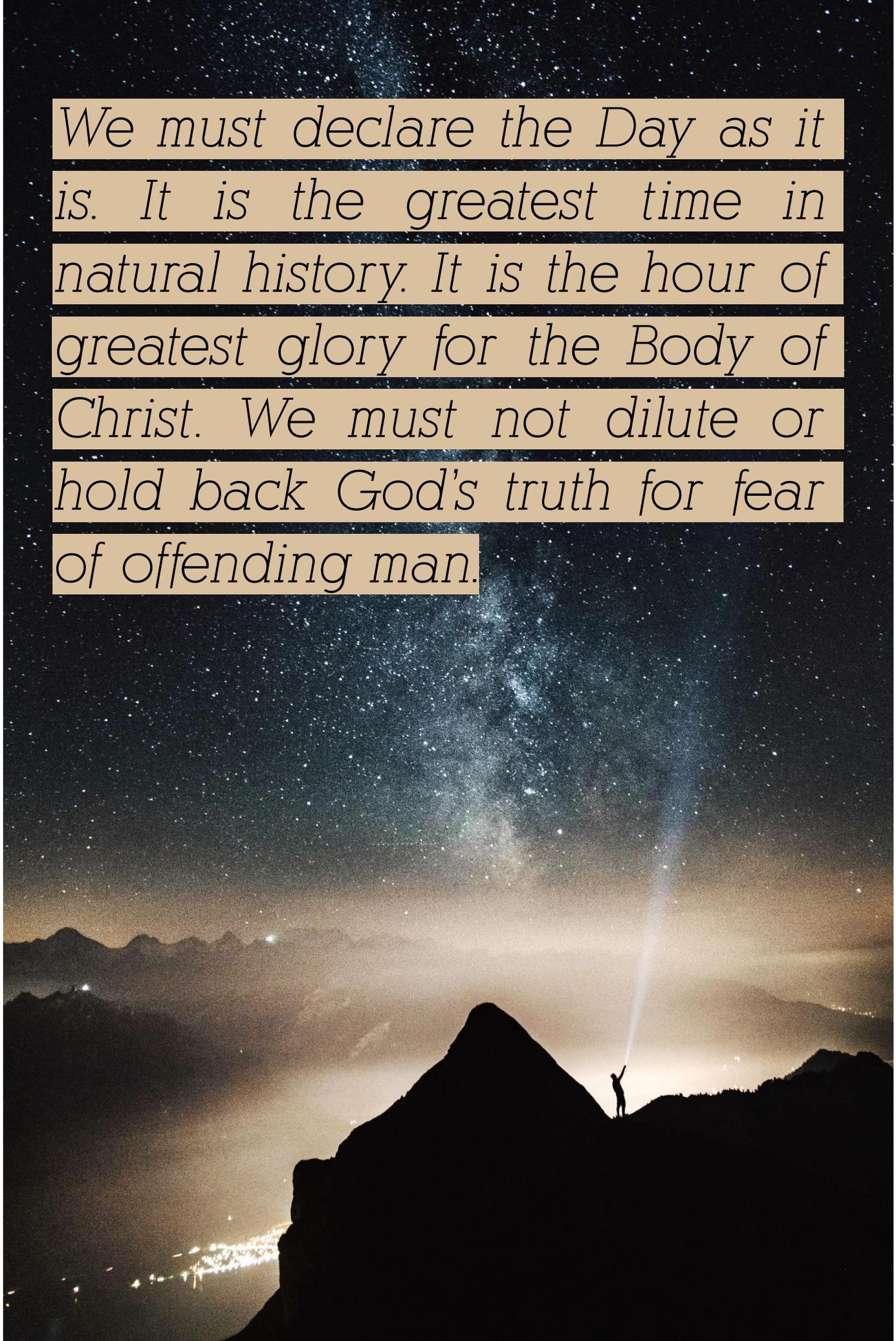
The Church, on the other hand, can often be as clueless about the two dimensions of the Day of the LORD.

No one will be able to go on living in the natural and withstand this Day. Even the Body of Christ will not be able to obey the Lord until the end without divine, supernatural enabling. The intensity of that Day will be so severe that without divine power, we will renounce the Lord. Without the direct involvement of God, we will have no prophetic direction, supernatural provision or divine protection. There is absolutely no way we can survive without Him.

It is our responsibility to search the Scriptures now to find out what they say about this Day. We must base our belief system on the Word of God, not our own theories or our past experiences.



We must declare the Day as it is. It is the greatest time in natural history. It is the hour of greatest glory for the Body of Christ. We must not dilute or hold back God's truth for fear of offending man.





We must also align our hearts with what God has purposed. God is inviting us to be a people of understanding, embracing His ways as we partner with Him in agreement with all that He is about to do on the earth.



The most intense hour ever known in history, characterized by the unparalleled release of the power of God and the judgment of God, is on the horizon. The question of the hour is:

“Who can endure it?”

We can...only if we throw ourselves wholeheartedly unto God who has a burning heart for us. God has provided a realm of supernatural endurance and strength that will be found as we walk intimately with Him and drink deep from our friendship with Him!

Will we do that?



Readings and Prayers for the week

Readings for Week 32

- Take time to read the story of Moses in Exodus and the Babylonian invasion in 586 BC. Ask the Holy Spirit to open the eyes of your understanding to the great and very terrible Day of the LORD. Search out the Scriptures concerning this.

Prayers for Week 32

- Use Col.1:9-10 to pray for the Church to understand the teachings on the Day of the LORD. Pray that the Church will be wise to prepare herself and grow in her personal history with God so that she will have confidence in Him in that Day.