



# *HOW TO SURVIVE A NATIONAL RECKONING*

Pastor Mark Driscoll

Joel | August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Sermon Link:

<https://realfaith.com/sermons/how-to-survive-a-national-reckoning/>

Good to be back to work repentance or Reckoning those are the two options for everyone in human history either repentance goes up to God or Reckoning comes down from God the time between God's Reckoning falling upon us you and I personally individually and corporately is God's patience to bring us to repentance this world is in the middle of judgment make no mistake things are bad and getting worse we are not evolving and progressing we are offending a holy and righteous God every moment of every day the Bible tells us that God is not slow but he's patient wanting us to come to repentance so if our repentance goes up his forgiveness comes down if our repentance does not go up his Reckoning comes down God is patient but do not be deceived God will not be mocked all will reap what they sow we know according to the Bible that there are times when God's patience comes to an end and his Reckoning begins there are times when God rightly he's tired of being ignored and even mocked and he shows up in power to prove himself to be true I'll give you some examples of where we are at globally this week we had an Abomination called the Olympic opening ceremony shots fired we've only begun 10% of Americans roughly watch this Abomination many of them children sitting on the couch couch with their parents it's a massive Global event the intent is to honor those athletes who have prepared themselves among those athletes we have men punching women in the face and we have a committee defending those men against being criticized for assaulting women we live in a day when God is mocked every moment of every day and it's open and it's public and it's shameful and it's damnable and it's reprehensible here's what we saw at the opening of the Olympics a rider on a white horse go back real quick I'll throw up in my mouth on the next slide uh Revelation 68 the opening ceremon is open with a rider on a Pale Horse well that's a prophetic sign from Revelation 68 I looked and behold a pair a Pale Horse and its writers name with death and Hades followed him see Revelation says that when God's patience comes to an end and God's Reckoning starts to begin into human history will ride the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse one of them is on a white pale horse rather and he brings death in Hades and then they are destroyed Revelation 19 by Jesus who rides in on a white horse to declare war on Satan demons and all the nations that are opposed to him if that wasn't bad enough just think of it from God's perspective think if every day you look at the planet in the people that you made and every day they just ignore you and defy you and then when given an opportunity to use technology for the biggest event of the year they just openly mock you and so this is what we witnessed we saw drag queens mocking the Last Supper of Jesus Christ and they did not apologize and instead the person in the middle I use air quotes on person the person in the middle pretending to be Jesus who is a drag queen is saying now that they're very offended that people were offended so they're thinking about suing yeah so we'll take up a special offering here in just a minute to cover that we live in this day when mockery of Jesus Christ is something that we celebrate is tolerance and love tolerance means this everyone is welcome except for Jesus Christ and love means this we love our sin and we hate the Savior there are times when God simply reaches the end of his patience and he begins to pour out his wrath those are the days of Reckoning and what is happening in our day is the beginning of the Reckoning make no mistake we are seeing a reckoning in the Church of Jesus Christ we are seeing a reckoning in the political realm we are

seeing a Reckoning with International National politics and Wars we are seeing a Reckoning with a culture that is in Decline and just hellbent on self-destruction we are seeing a reckoning economically there have been times like this in human history in the days of Noah God sent a reckoning in the form of a flood and everyone drowned and died except for Noah and his family in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah we saw God's flaming radar from Heaven it was a Day of Reckoning what you and I will learn as we are in four weeks studying The Book of Joel if you've got your Bible go there we're going to see a national Reckoning that came to the Old Testament nation of Israel more than 2 and a half thousand years ago in the form of locust though there circumstances are a bit different their mood is quite similar how many of you right now you're feeling a bit of tension uncertainty anxiety how many of you you wonder where are we going politically where are we going economically where are we going spiritually how many of you look into the future and it's not encouraging this is the mood the same mood that we are experiencing is the same mood that they were experiencing in the Book of Joel one more statistic this comes from a recent research survey and it's published by Reuters four in five Americans fear the country is sliding into chaos four out of five the other one out of five those are naive gullible people that are not on the internet okay it doesn't matter if you are on the left and Progressive or the right and conservative as you look into the future you sense that things are hopelessly out of control and so the question is when you're in the middle of a reckoning what could or should your response be as God's children that brings us to Joel chapter 1 where do we start Where Do We Begin Joel says start with the word of God start with the word of God so he says this in Joel 1 vers one the word of the Lord came to Joel the son of pethuel so for those of you who are new there is the Bible 66 books God wrote It's the highest Authority it's the only perfect thing on earth and through these human authors these multiple numerous human authors there is one Sovereign Divine author named God specifically God the Holy Spirit and so God the Holy Spirit has a message and he sends it through a messenger that means that the word of God is perfect because our god is perfect and never makes mistakes and so this is what we see here is an illustration of a principle in 2 Peter 1:20 and 21 no Prophecy in the Book of Joel just so you know it's a book of Prophecy and prophecy anticipates the future because God sees rules knows and reveals the future in advance and so about 25% of the Bible at the time that it was written was prophetic in nature God telling us here's what's coming and what he says is this Peter does no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man people just didn't make this up but men spoke from God as they were carried Along by the Holy Spirit Well that's precisely what we see here there is the Divine author God and then there is the human messenger Joel that's exactly what he says the word of the Lord these aren't Joel's words these are God's words through Joel that's why we absolutely fundamentally believe here as a church if you want to get a word from God open the word of God right that's how God speaks and it comes through uh Joel the son of pathol we don't know literally anything about this guy we're not even sure when he lived and here's the point sometimes people need to know your testimony here's who I am here's what I've done here's what Jesus did let me share my story other times you just need to get right to the point and tell them what God Said Joel doesn't tell us about himself because things are so dire there's no

time for cordial introductions we need to get right to the point that's the kind of day that we live in to give you an example this would be like in the ancient world before technology if there was a king that wanted to write a letter or decree or there was a lawyer that wanted to put forth a law they would call forth someone who would do dictation and write it down so they would speak it and somebody would write it down or they would write it down themselves that's how we got the books of the Bible the Holy Spirit told some people write this down the Holy Spirit told other people speak this and have them write it down that's exactly what's happening with Joel so let me say this in a world filled with lies we're going to need more truth in a world with a lot of deception we're going to need Revelation in a world where we don't know fact from fiction we do need to know that which is right from wrong and so as God's children we begin in place that others don't we begin with the word of God number two faith is always one generation from Extinction he says this in Joel 1 2 through 3 um hear this you Elders older leaders I guess I would now qualify as an elder since I needed to increase the font size in my sermon I'm officially an elder um and I still it's still fuzzy if I'm honest with you uh hear this you Elders give ear see some people just aren't listening often times people say I God's not speaking well maybe you're not listening give here all inhabitants of the land has such a thing happened in your days or in the days of your fathers the Reckoning has come tell your children of it and let your children tell their children and their children to another generation here's what he is saying no generation is born knowing god uh this week I know I'm loud I'm loud because I'm passionate not cuz I'm angry because there has to be a sense of urgency about the things of God but I'm actually not angry actually I met my granddaughter this week yeah yeah and I I know I know some of you be like my grandkids are the cutest that's false testimony uh that's false testimony I held her and she fell asleep you're lucky I made it here I'm just telling you but this beautiful little granddaughter that was born this week as well as the two grandsons that are in the world and the grandson that's in the womb they don't know who Jesus is when they're born they don't know that they're Sinners they don't know that God wrote a book they don't know that Jesus lived and died and Rose we need to teach them that so don't be like those Progressive foolish parents like I don't want to impose my views on my children well the government will so will a public school and heaven forbid they tick or talk someone is going to disciple your kids so what God is saying is you teach your kids and if you have grandkids help your kids teach their kids that's what he's saying and so ultimately what he's talking about here is two things I would say one opening the Bible and helping the Next Generation this is why kids ministry should be such a high priority at the church this is why Youth and students and Next Generation should be incredibly important we want people to be here in the future who love Jesus when we're gone and it would be best if they had our last name and so what he's talking about here is teaching them the scriptures and this means reading the Bible to your kids kids story Bible at bedtime this means bringing them to church and kids ministry and we love them and they're having a blast learn about Jesus uh this means as well having a Bible on your dining room table and having discussions and and bringing things back to the word of God in addition it includes sharing your own personal testimony this is how you train up the Next Generation see for me God is not just the god of Abraham Isaac and

Jacob but Joseph my dad and Mark that's me and my sons Gideon Calvin Zach and their sons Mo Riley at the end of the day it's not just the god of Abraham Isaac and Jacob they did stuff thousands of years ago it's the god who's our God he's been in our life he's been in our family tell your kids what God has saved you from and what God has done and how he's forgiven you he's liberated you he's LED you he's provided for you he's blessed you so that they know that the god who's in the word is also the god who's in your house and so what is happening in their day and it is happening in our day parents have given up on the responsibility of raising their own kids and they hand them off to secular education and government and ultimately they get brainwashed instead of disciplined let me say one thing to the older Saints any of you older Saints okay older Saints older Saints hear me in this you can have your Traditions or your grandchildren but you can't have both too many churches you show up and the old people turn it into a retirement home it smells like ointment and [Laughter] disappointment a church should be a family where there are multiple Generations okay I love you older Saints but if I had to pick one job I would do kids ministry they never split a church they don't blog about you and if you mess up they don't even know so I think kids are awesome and so as you get older as we get older as I get older we need to get more flexible y oh the young families need this service I'll go to another one and I'll watch the kids at their service oh the parking stinks because there's so many minivans filled with children yep yep so I mean apparently date night's working praise the Lord thanks for coming we're glad to have you but what can happen is if you reach a point you're like I don't like change and I don't like noise and I don't like disorder what you're saying is I don't like Legacy I don't like children children bring disruption how many moms would agree with that okay so here's what I would say you should be willing to give up your traditions for your children and your children's children at the end of the day as I get older I've had some people ask me like what do you think the music I am not allowed to have any opinions about music I am in my 50s I was never cool and I don't think it's coming soon what I do know is this if young people are worshiping and praising God even if I don't understand what they're talking about I'm really excited at the end of the day when you become a more mature believer you want to make space for people that are either meeting God or growing in their new relationship with God and realize I've already had my turn now you're the priority number three God is often behind a national Reckoning look at our world does it not feel like a little consequence in judgment oh yeah has begun I'm going to get into it when we get into the uh next series it's called vote like Jesus I've got a book and I'm preaching on Christian citizenship and politics if we're still here okay if we're still here but does it not look like things are not going well and it it it feels like God is removing his Blessing and he's allowing some some some consequence well here's what it says in Joel Joel 1: 4-2 we're going to learn about the Locust because I know you woke up today you're like I hope we're talking about Locust nailed it prayer answered what the cutting Locust left the swarming Locust is Eden what the swarming Locust left the hopping Locust is Eden what the hopping Locust left the destroying Locust is Eden what just make an observation here they they're really sick of the Locust and they have dealt with a lot of kinds of locust and they've got charts and graphs about the ways they hate the different kinds of locust awake you drunkers and

weeping well all you drinkers of wine what he's saying is this when Reckoning comes some people just avoid it by self medicating just self you're I'm going to avoid it because the sweet wine for it is cut off from your mouth for a nation has come up against my land the Old Testament nation of Israel powerful and Beyond number its teeth are lion's teeth and it has the fangs of a lionist it is laid waste my Vine and splintered my fig tree it is stripped off their bark and thrown it down their branches are made white lament Like a Virgin wearing sackcloth for the bridegroom of her youth the the imagery there is a gal's wedding day becomes a funeral the grain offering and the the drink offering are cut off from the house of the Lord the priests mourn the Ministers of the Lord the field fields are destroyed you hear all the Reckoning here the ground Mourns because the grain is destroyed and the wine dries up the oil languishes be ashamed H it just hit me we just had a month of Pride should have been a month of Shame be ashamed oh tillers of the soil whail oh Vine dressers for the weed and The Barley because the Harvest of the field is perished the vine dries up the Fig Tree languishes pomegranate palm and apple all the trees of the field are dried up and gladness dries up from the children of man God is saying everything is gone including the laughter and the joy and the Hope what he's saying is this often times a national Reckoning is caused by a lack of personal holiness a national Reckoning is caused by a lack of personal Holiness that's what's happening so here's what we learn number one God deals not only with individuals but also Nations see they don't teach you this in school because it's run by the father of Lies but over Nations is the king of kings and Lord of lords and Kingdom of God that means that Jesus Christ is not just Lord of your heart he's Lord of your nation so Jesus is over every nation of the earth and Jesus with his Sovereign dominion and domain whenever he pleases however he determines can involve himself in the Affairs of Any Nation and sometimes nations are dealing not just with difficult circumstances but the Judgment of God number two God is Sovereign over economies well you read here in an agrarian Society their economy has collapsed there's nothing left and let me just say this what it's talking about here is they didn't have any fruit well let me tell you how the Bible works if you want fruit give your first fruits and people like I don't give God my first fruits why doesn't he give me any fruit well if you abused everything he gave you why would he multiply what he gave you so that you could abuse it again if you continue to read in the storyline of Joel they stopped going to church they stopped worshipping they stopped praying they stopped giving they didn't give God the first fruits of their wealth or their time or their or their service and as a result God said if you're not going to give a percentage of your fruit to me I'm not giving any of my fruit to you number three sometimes tragedy is a reapo judgment see today we would read this we' say oh my gosh look at this social injustice and the climate change climate change God's like no this is cause and effect you sin against me I don't bless you you declare war on me I don't bless you you defy disregard dishonor me I don't bless you that at the end of the day sometimes when we suffer individually nationally collectively it's because of Injustice or evil or demonic oppression and sometimes it is just reap so right if you just reap opposition to God don't expect don't expect to receive blessing from God that's what's Happening Here number four there are no political solutions for spiritual problems their problem is a god-sized problem God's like here's what I'm doing I'm sick of being

disregarded and Dishonored and disobeyed I'm done being mocked I've waited a very long time I've been exceedingly patient and you are only getting worse so I am showing up in this occasion it wouldn't matter who they voted for because their problems are spiritual this is why two things need to happen and it needs to happen as soon as possible refer in the church a cleaning out of garbage Doctrine apostasy false teaching and cowards in the Pulpit who are worried about their approval ratings rather than the glory of God Reformation in the church and then Revival in the streets but if God's people won't repent how can they demonstrate repentance to those who don't yet know our God if the problem is spiritual it'll have political moral social implications but it is ultimately a spiritual solution and number five natural disasters are sometimes Supernatural disasters on this occasion I'm sure that they were arguing for you know electric camels you know um it's going to get worse and they were thinking oh my goodness you know if we just if we just changed um the way that we do business then we would have a better environmental condition God like no no if you don't obey me I am not going to bless you sometimes what we would call natural disasters they're Supernatural disasters now your insurance company will call it a natural disaster your guys's like actually that was me and Jesus said say as we get near the end of time this will only increase I quote the Lord Jesus in Mark 138 Nation will rise against nation and Kingdom against Kingdom there will be earthquakes there will be famines these are about the beginning of the birth pains so here Jesus uses the language of birth pains Paul uses it as well and this is where as we get near the second coming of Jesus in the end of human history it's like labor and what happens is the contra actions have greater intensity and frequency and right when it feels like the woman is going to die that's when new life is birt that's how history is going to work it feels like we're all going to die and then Jesus shows up and everything is new and alive so here let me ask you this what is the the primary character that just entered into the storyline of Joel what is it Locust Locust you excited to learn about Locust no okay let me try Okay let me show you what a locust looks like that's a locust on the left that's a swarm of locust on the right you get it and it talks about their teeth and their fangs they eat everything tangentially sometimes in Old Testament literature as well as ancient literature Locust is also sometimes not just a creature but some sometimes it is a metaphor for an invading Army and I think both could be true in the Book of Joel the Locust eat everything and then the Army comes in because the nation is vulnerable so let me tell you a little bit about the Locust they can eat their weight daily so they're like a teenage boy okay they can eat their body weight every day okay a swarm of locust can cover upwards of 400 square miles one square mile can have upwards of a hundred million locusts a swarm of locust can eat in one day what 40,000 people can eat in one year what happens after they eat they fly around and they go to the bathroom so after eat all their your food guess what they do to your air they completely polluted now you've got respiratory problems and you've got a really disgusting environment and people are getting sick for those of you who are germaphobes worst case scenario worst case scenario and then eventually the locusts leave and you think finally they're gone you know what they leave before they leave their eggs they're eggs and then what happens is eventually things start to grow back and then in a whole next generation of locust sub merch and they consume everything and it happens over and over and

over and over one female Locust could result in upwards of 18 million new locusts in the span of four months they're socialists just something to pray about um so let me say this let me let me change the subject let me let me walk around to culdesac and then come right back to where we started because here's the difficult part of the story I was reading it and God tells me what to preach about a year in advance I never know where the nation's going to be I just like okay Lord that's what I'm talking about I don't know so about a year ago God said Joel I was like Joel I saw read I'm like Locust I don't feel like people are just super Locust focused you know I don't I just don't how do I make Locust interesting from 2 and a half thousand years ago to Americans so let me do this let me talk about our national debt so that's the US national debt compared to our gross domestic product that means all the Revenue that we generate just so you know eating 121% of what you could of what you produce is bad what that means is we spend here okay this will be crazy even if you don't believe in Jesus believe in math just hear me out if you spend more than you make you've got debt in Israel they couldn't take out debt so they they were destroyed here's where our debt is today our national debt today is \$35 trillion the interest payment on our national debt is \$400 billion a year 7% roughly of all federal outlays go to our interest payment on our debt we spend on our interest for our debt \$100 billion more than veterans benefits and services which is shameful Elementary and secondary education disaster relief agriculture science and space programs foreign aid natural resources and Environmental Protection combined we have as a nation \$100,000 debt for every man woman and child we have as a nation \$250,000 debt for every taxpayer what's the difference most Americans don't pay taxes but they do consume resources in addition Americans have personal debt on credit cards totaling \$1 trillion a Pew research survey came out this week 44% of those who are between the ages of 18 and 49 and do not have a child have no intention of ever having a child let me explain to you how to destroy a nation spend all the money and don't have any people in the future to go to work and generate Revenue to pay the taxes to pay the debt that's America in addition 42% of Americans are obese so as you read The Book of Joel here's my exhortation to you when you hear about the Locust that's us we're the Locust we're eating everything and there's nothing for tomorrow and in that day they were suffering for their sin and in our day we're causing future generations to suffer for our sin what I'm telling you is if you just run the numbers we are headed toward an incredible collision between our debt and his Reckoning hear me friends we are the Locust we've eaten everything and we've taken out 35 unbelievable trillion federal dollars to eat more I I I just my my volume isn't anger it's passion like he's going to say here he's like wake up like is everybody drunk is nobody paying attention somebody should use that as their campaign slogan this is crazy so there's my encouraging positive safe uplifting for the whole family introduction and now we reach the theme of The Book of Joel so the Book of Joel the theme is the day of the Lord You're going to hear it in every chapter of Joel the day of the Lord we're going to read it in just a moment but let me tell you what the day of the Lord is the day of the Lord is the last day of the last days so in the Bible the last days refers to the period of time between Jesus coming God became a man lived without sin died on the the cross in our place for our sins was buried 3 Days Later rose from the dead conquered Satan sin death hell in the wrath



of God ascended back into heaven first coming Second Coming the dead rise there's the Judgment of the Nations there's Eternal rewards for the Saints there is sentencing to conscious eternal torment of hell for those who reject Jesus Christ the time between the first and second coming of Jesus first is lamb second is lion is called the last days guess what period of time we live in we're in the last days now the last days conclude or consummate with the last day that's the day of the Lord that's the day when all of human history and all of personal and National and Global Reckoning it escalates to the second coming of Jesus Christ and when the Bible speaks of the day of the Lord it'll use a number of words like the day last days last time last hours the tribulation and sometimes we'll just refer to it as the end times and so Joel is a prophetic book written over 2 and a half thousand years ago but he's pointing to the last days that we're in and he's pointing to the last day the day of the Lord that could come any day day and the Bible tells us some prophetic signs to prepare us for the day of the Lord let me give you a free resource I wrote a book um called war in Israel and uh if you scan it I'll give it to you it tells you what's going on in Israel right now and it'll explain to you and this is what I'm going to get into in just a moment the day of the Lord is preceded by war in Israel it's one of the prophetic signs of the end of the age and we know taught this in the past Abraham had two wives which is too many Father Abraham and God gave him one promise for a covenant and those two women had two sons and the fight since the days of Abraham 4,000 years ago has been a family feud between two sons who gets the land who is the heir of the lineage and through whom will come the Lord what the Bible tells us as I understand it and I want to hold these things in the open hand and I would just say anytime we're talking about prophecy and we're we're peering into history we should have a little humility because it hasn't happened yet so we'll keep it in the open hand but my understanding of what the Bible says and I'll share it with you in a moment is the last days culminate in the day of the Lord or the last day and the events that precede the last day of the last days and bring the day of the Lord and the second coming of Jesus Christ is a war in Israel I'm going to deal with uh three different groups you'll hear in the news today so right now we are living in a time where we may be on the precipice of the end I don't know Jesus says no one knows the hour of the day so I'm not raising my hand telling you I figured it out but what we're seeing right now we're seeing Iran which is a jihadist Islamic Terror State and rather than just declaring war on Israel up until this point they've worked through three proxies those three proxies are Waring on Israel but they're Waring from other nations these would include Hamas which I've preached about in the past it's an Arabic word that means Zeal it's also a Hebrew word in the Old Testament that means demonic violence so what they would consider Zeal for their God is actually demonic violence because their God is a demon named Allah in addition to Hamas there is another group you're hearing about in the news called Hezbollah Hezbollah means the party of God they're not not they're the party of the false god and then the third group and you're hearing about them more recently is the hoties they their name literally means the Defenders of God or The Warriors of God or the Hammer Of God all demonic all spiritual all counterfeit anyone who is hearing the news and doesn't understand that for these people this is a profound spiritual war does not understand what is happening and I'll show you now with a

prophetic timeline how the last days culminate in some epocal events that have been impossible in human history up until today I'll show you my big idea is the day of the Lord that's the theme of Joel we've not left Joel is triggered by war in Israel so let me catch you up to the new 2,000 BC 4,000 years ago God called Abraham to leave his family to receive the promised land of Israel roughly 30 ad around that time Jesus Christ lives dies and rises in what nation Israel and he's Jewish 138 onward Israel did not exist as a nation and Jews were scattered 1933 to 1945 Hitler's Holocaust sought to to eliminate the Jews and they scattered even more May 14th 1948 Israel became a nation for the first time in over 18800 years the day of the Lord is preceded by war in Israel for 1800 years there's no Israel imagine a nation ceasing to exist for 18800 years and then they're back that may be a prophetic sign that the end is near 1993 the Israeli Palestinian two-state solution begins and the answer is well let's give the Arabs the Muslims a portion let's give the Jews a portion I'm sure they'll be good neighbors and this will solve this problem and now Israel is roughly the same size in population of New Jersey so think of how they dominate the headlines in the scriptures in human history it's the size and population of New Jersey in 2005 President Bush pressures Israel into cot a land for peace deal in Gaza with the Palestinians okay what he's saying is this the Arabs who are Muslims get that land the Jews get this land immediately what do the Palestinians do they vote for a permanent government called Hamas which is a demonic terrorist jihadist organization May 14 2018 Jerusalem is recognized as Israel's capital for the first time in 2500 years back to the Old Testament prophecies in the Book of Daniel September 2023 \$6 billion is released to Iran in exchange for five American hostages the money is used to fund Iranian terrorist proxy proxies of Hezbollah in the North Lebanon the houes uh by the southern Red Sea in Yemen and habas in the west so if you look at the map these are the proxies from Iran that are now attacking Israel Hezbollah in the north excuse me uh Hezbollah is in the north the hooes are in the South and then you've got Hamas to the side to the west true or false that's exactly where we find ourselves today it continues let me bring you up to the present October 7 2023 Hamas invades Israel triggering the first Israeli War in 50 years Israel didn't exist as a nation for 1800 years and they have not had War for 50 years what precedes the day of the Lord war in Israel this week this week Israel killed the top commanders of Hamas and Hezbollah the top commander of Hamas was executed in Iran there to celebrate the installation of a new government and they assassinated him that is some kosher gangster right there kosher gangster and so in response guess what happened the last 24 48 Hours Iran and turkey are promising what full war on Israel that's where we are let me get back to it in a moment and here's how stupid everyone is you know what's in the news um did a candidate talk about cat ladies it's like hey hey is Armageddon coming that that to me is a bigger issue it's a bigger issue do we need to go get more toilet paper like a few years ago like are we [Laughter] there it's so stupid the day of the Lord will be preceded by uh the Gog and Magog war led by Russia Iran and turkey this is Old Testament prophecy in Ezekiel 38 and 39 where the Nations surrounding Israel will seek to destroy her triggering jesus' second coming at the battle of Armageddon let me summarize this real quick we're going to go deep into the pool nerd you go to Ezekiel 38:39 it gives the names of some ancient Nations that surrounded Israel and it says at the end before the

day of the Lord lord they're all going to come together they're going to declare war on Israel and if you take those ancient Nations and you overlay them with a modern map they're called Russia and Turkey and Iran so if turkey or Iran declares war on Israel I'm just telling you this what is likely to happen is Russia and China will follow do you know what we all that Armageddon and Revelation 16 it says that they are going to succeed in destroying the entire nation of Israel that's when Jesus comes back to stop it okay how many of you are like I thought the Bible was filled with motivational inspirational selfhelp tips yeah that's in Proverbs we're not doing that today uh okay so here's where it's all summarized Zechariah 14 Old Testament Prophet 1-4 Behold a day is coming you know what that day is we're still in Joel that's the day of the Lord we gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped we saw a precursor of that on October 7th half of the city shall go into Exile then the Lord will go out this is Jesus Christ and fight against those Nations as when he fights on a day of battle on that day that's the day of the Lord you and I friends we need to live for that day it doesn't matter if you're on the right side of History be on the right side of Eternity prepare for that day on that day his feet his nail scarred feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem that's Israel on the East and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west Jesus lived died Rose he returned he's coming back and his feet are going to land at the exact precise spot from which he ascended into heaven that is what is coming on the day of the Lord let me summarize all of this it's all it's all about Jesus Christ the Bible's about Jesus prophecy about Jesus judgment is about Jesus Israel is about Jesus Jerusalem is about Jesus the Mount of Olives is about Jesus the first coming is about Jesus the second coming is about Jesus the wars are Wars against Jesus the Conquering of those enemy foes will be by Jesus Christ if you you forget everything I say remember this stick with Jesus he wins and delivers you don't need to worry about anything you just need to stick with him okay you still with me how many of you read this you hear this like uh what do you want me to do what do you want me to do other than freak out cuz I am freaking out okay your response is your responsibility see we're not the world we're the church we're not wondering what's going to happen we know who is coming so here's Joel 13-20 put on sackcloth and lament oh priests pastors Ministry leaders whail oh Ministers of the alter go in pass the night in sackcloth oh Ministers of my God he's talking to guys like me right there this is my job I need to do my job we need to do our job because grain offering and drink offering withheld from the house of your God you can't give to the Lord when you have nothing consecrate a fast call a solemn assembly that's church gather the elders the older leaders and all the inhabitants of the land to the house of the Lord they'd C the temple we called the church your God and cry out to the Lord alas for the day there are painful days that prepare us for the day of the Lord and God allows a little pain today so that we would repent and not experience Eternal pain on that day for the day of the Lord is near and as destruction from the almighty it comes sometimes destruction comes from the almighty is not the food cut off before our eyes joy and gladness from the house of our God the seed shrivels under the clouds the storehouses are desolate the Grainer are torn down because the grain is dried up how the beasts grown the herds of cattle are perplexed because there is no pasture for them even the

flocks of sheep suffer and he concludes chapter one to you oh Lord he stops looking out he starts looking up I call for fire has devoured the pastures of the Wilderness and Flame has burned all the trees of the field even the beasts of the field pant for you because the water Brooks are dried up and fire is devoured the pasture of the Wilderness when the Reckoning comes what should the people of God do go to church call a solemn assembly you live in the world but the world is doomed for Destruction so make Church a priority come into the house of God and hear the word of God and sing the Praises of God and they repent sackcloth would have been clothing that you would wear to show mourning or grieving and what they're saying is God I'm a sinner I'm part of the problem I have not cultivated personal Holiness God it's not just them it's me too and let me say this this will be controversial um Democrats want Republicans to repent Republicans want Democrats to repent God wants Democrats and Republicans to repent because all of sin and fallen short of the glory of God the only way out of a national Reckoning is National repentance the only way out of a personal Reckoning is a personal repentance and we have far far too much repenting of their sin and not our own and and the people of God say you know what God you deal with them but I'm going to deal with me God I'm sorry it's my fault I sin I'm asking your forgiveness and what he's talking about here is a cultivation to personal Holiness see as we get closer to the end and the days get darker it becomes a lot easier to justify sinful Behavior at least I'm not a drag queen on the Olympics pretending to be one of the disciples well thank you for that Ministry but God would expect more of his children right right I mean how many right now like to be a moral person right now you don't even need to try a bad person is still pretty good and so what we need to do is not look at the culture and compare ourselves but look at the Savior and compare ourselves okay and say okay what where have I sinned and fallen short and where do I need to change and where do I need to learn and where do I need to grow and I'm not worried about them I'm worried about me and so for those of you who are not Christians let me say this your relation ship with God begins by your repentance of sin we are all Sinners by nature and choice and Jesus Christ Alone Jesus Christ Alone forgives sin Our God saw our rebellion and came down and he lived without sin and Jesus said something that no founder of any major world religion has ever declared I am God and I'm perfect no sin he never did Sin and they executed crucified him for saying that he was God and as he prophesied three days later he rose from the dead and Jesus Christ is God Jesus Christ is Lord Jesus Christ is King Jesus Christ is Savior Jesus Christ is deliverer and unless you turn from sin and trust in him there is only Reckoning on you and the day of the Lord will be the day that you stand my friend this is where you're going my my volume isn't anger it's worry it's concern it's it's love it's it's it's just concern for your eternity the day of the Lord is the day when you stand before the Lord and you go to heaven or hell and if your repentance goes up his forgiveness comes down and if your repentance does not go up his Reckoning comes down this is why you need to turn from sin and trust in Jesus Christ right now we don't know how much time we've got for those of us who are Christians what this means is as we get nearer to the day of the Lord the second coming of Jesus we need to cultivate greater levels of personal Holiness like if I'm going to stand before the Lord I know I'm not going to be perfect but I'd like to be making some progress and so that means two

things things dear Saint number one put your sin to death don't don't date it right don't live with it don't manage it don't deny it don't hide it crucify that which crucified your savior put it to death and when we do sin cuz we all will sin we don't want to abuse the grace of God but we do need to use the grace of God the key is to shorten the gap between your sin and your repentance some of you six years some of you it's six months some of you it's six weeks some of you it's six days some of you it's six hours my prayer six seconds i s oh gosh Lord I'm sorry okay oh I'm a sinner forgive me that was wrong I need your grace I'm sorry I walked away I'm walking back right now right now so what do they do they go to church they repent and then he says to this I'll bring the band up at this time to you oh Lord I call the nation isn't going to be saved but Joel will the nation won't be saved but Joel will invite people to join him and being the church and let me say this even if there's a national Reckoning there can still be a personal rescuing there's as I was praying for you this week God brought to mind a scripture that Peter gives he says God knows how to rescue The Godly from trial and he gives the story of Noah the story of Noah is a Day of Reckoning God floods the whole earth and everybody gets a reckoning except for Noah and his family because they repented of sin they met with God they listened they weren't perfect but they were saved I I love you with my whole heart I really do my volume is love passion concern are you thinking more about Jesus or elections are you thinking more about Jesus or interest rates are you thinking more about Jesus than anything else are you preparing yourself for the day the day the day friend that all the other days just don't matter matter anymore yeah I I could see him I could just see him the Bible says we're going to see Jesus face to face oh my gosh the Bible says he's going to take his nail scarred hands and he's going to wipe every tear from our eyes and he's going to bless us forever and there'll be no more Wars and no more conflict and no more sin and no more death and no more lies and no more interest rates and no more elections and no more debt oh just Jesus and the key in preparing for that day is repenting of sin on this day and every day and I'll close with this here's what he promises for those whose repentance goes up his Reckoning does not come down his Spirit does Joel 2:28 in the next chapter this is where we're going says I will pour out my spirit this is why we're here yeah the Holy Spirit doesn't fall at CCO if he does it's a miracle that's where the locusts are but the Holy Spirit falls on the children of God so here's what we're going to do we're going to call on the Lord we do that through praying I want you to pray to the Lord God I'm sorry I it's a sin I'm going to it's going to end today or if you're with someone tell them you're sorry repent to them too heal that relationship and this relationship and so we call out or cry out to the Lord in prayer and in song singing is how we pray together we pray together and we say Lord a reckoning is coming and a rescue is coming there may be a reckoning for those who don't know you but there could be a rescue for those who do know you and so we're inviting the Holy Spirit Holy Spirit as we go into a time of worship we just welcome you you're so welcome here it's your house these are your people this is your word this is your plan this is your destiny yes Lord Holy Spirit we just invite you save those who aren't saved bring the prodigals home take those who are filled with guilt and shame and condemnation and burden and just have them transfer that all to the Savior so that they could just walk in Freedom in Joy yes Holy Spirit we we invite you to to make the truth of your word

just penetrate our hearts and give us this deep passionate Devotion to not only hear the word on the weekend but to be in the word every other day and the Holy Spirit we just invite you heal those who are struggling encourage those who are discouraged release those who are bound and bring a freedom and a joy to your children and Lord we know as the world gets darker you're getting nearer and holy spirit we invite you right now to prepare us to see Jesus Christ face to face in whose name we pray amen.