

## Our assignment in God's Kingdom - Joel 2:2-11

2 It is a day of darkness and gloom, a day of thick clouds and deep blackness. Suddenly, like dawn spreading across the mountains, a mighty army appears! How great and powerful they are! The likes of them have not been seen before and never will be seen again. 7 The attackers march like warriors and scale city walls like trained soldiers. Straight forward they march, never breaking rank. 8 They never jostle each other; each moves in exactly the right place. They lunge through the gaps, and no weapon can stop them. 11 The LORD leads them with a shout! This is his mighty army, and they follow his orders. The day of the LORD is an awesome, terrible thing. Who can endure it (Joel 2:2-11 – NLT)?

A picture of the mighty army of God - Joel 2:2-11

- v. 11 Follow God's orders, fulfill your role and complete God's assignments
- v. 2 God's great and powerful army is made up of locusts!
- v. 7 Each one staying within its assignment
- v. 8 Because they stay in formation (harmony, unity)
  - They find their way through the gaps and no weapon can stop them

Call and assignment

- Example of Abraham (Genesis 17:4-5; Genesis 12:1-3)

Call of God (what) is based on gifts, focus, and general purpose

- Example of Peter's call - rock on which the church was established (Matthew 16:18)

Assignment (where, why, who, when) is our current task and place in the Kingdom

- Concrete activities and goals for this part of life
- For the Kingdom rather than for our own or for ourselves
- It's about the fruit that remains - part of the vine
  - Example: The women disciples - ministered to Jesus, provided finances (Lk 8:1-3 - NLT)
- Taking back territory for the Kingdom
- Being in the right place at the right time - God's timing
  - Example: Simon from Cyrene carrying the cross of Jesus (Mark 15:21)
- Based on place (church, region), goal, people (group or individual)

Anointing has to do with effectiveness and spiritual gifts

Authority grows as we grown in our assignment

- Moses called to lead His people
- Grew in his authority (example: Exodus 17)

- Ephesians 6:10-20 - not just any spiritual warfare!
  - v. 11 to stand firm against the strategies of the devil
  - v. 12 to fight against principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts wickedness in the heavenly places
  - v. 13 to withstand the evil days
  - v. 18 warfare intercession
  - v. 19 for Paul - to preach boldly as an ambassador in chains (evangelizing the elite guards in Rome while being their prisoner)

General assignments that we all have - preach, heal, etc. (Mark 16:17-18; Matthew 10: 7-8)

Specific assignments that God has for us individually or as a church

- Example: Good Shepherd as watchman on the wall

Some have easier assignments that seem to have greater results

- Some have more difficult assignments
- Jesus attitude: What is it to you who get the easy assignments? (John 21:20-23)

Too often we base our ability to fulfill our assignment on circumstances

- Examples: Paul's assignment to preach in Rome shaped his choices (Acts 21)

Example of how God expects us to fulfill our assignments (Ephesians 4:11-16)

- To prepare for the work of ministry
- To do the work of ministry
- To build up the church (the body of Christ)
- To be solid enough to be able to stand (to fulfill our assignments)

God has specific assignments for your life.

11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope (Jeremiah 29:11 – NKJV).

What does it take to fulfill our assignment?

1. God's call on our lives is developed through fulfilling God's assignments
  - Example: Paul as apostle to the Gentiles (Romans 11:13;
  - Example: Phillip as host for the early church leaders (Acts 21:8-9)
2. Courage - Joshua 1:6,7,9 (be strong and courageous)
3. God's timing
4. Preparation - Joshua had assisted Moses for 40 years (Joshua 1:1-2)
5. Proven heart of service - Joshua cared for the small details (Ex 24:13; 33:11; Num 11:28)
6. Place - Joshua was given an assignment in a specific area (Joshua 1:4)