

Time of Crisis

Scripture reading: Joel 3:9-14

The word CRISIS comes to me as being most appropriate to describe the time in which we live. Webster's Dictionary defines crisis as, *"The decisive state of things, or the point of time when an affair has reached its height, and must soon terminate or suffer a material change; turning point."*

The Greek word is "Krisis" from the root word "Krino", which means *"judgment, final decision"*. This adds somewhat to the meaning from Webster's. It somehow shows the purpose behind every crisis: the culmination of a matter, or the final act of a pantomime, the revelation of purpose.

The CRISIS of our end time is more like the convulsions of a dying animal, wherein every part of its body is being shaken by sporadic tremors. We ask ourselves, "WHY?" And God Himself has an answer from the word, since HE designed it and created us for this very hour.

Joel 3:9-14

3:9 "Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up:

3:10 "Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.

3:11 "Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD.

3:12 "Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.

3:13 "Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great.

*3:14 "Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in **the valley of decision.**"*

Three times in the 6000 years of human history, the world has come to the brink of extinction through the evil of Satan and the wickedness of man. Twice the world had to be saved in crisis, and this the third time, it will be again saved by Divine intervention. Each time however, it has been different, and the stakes have been raised. This time it is at its highest, and the crisis is upon us with a finality that must settle the question of evil forever and the whole question of human existence. In our future devotionals we will look at these three periods of time and see if we can more accurately understand our situation.

(Excerpt from *The Omega Message*, August 1987)

Thought for today: "Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision."