

Book of Joel: Discerning the Crisis in the Land

Joel 1:2-3- *Hear this, you elders, and give ear, all you inhabitants of the land! Has anything like this happened in your days, or even in the days of your fathers?³ Tell your children about it, let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.*

We study Joel's prophecy because God has uniquely designed its message to prepare the end-time Church for the unprecedented glory and the crisis that will occur in events related to the Day of the Lord's return. It is an "instruction manual" to prepare the Bride for such a time as this. Joel and God's nation Israel were witnessing the hand of God's judgment and discipline in the land. It was resulting in natural & agricultural disaster, economic disaster, and military invasion into their land. The pattern of God is to give warning to His people to before He draws near to judge sin and wickedness in geographic regions, lest we be swept into His judgment. This was true in Joel's day. It was true in the early church's day when the Jewish people were judged in 70 AD. This true TODAY as well. Prepare your hearts in repentance that refreshing and empowering would come before and in the midst of great judgment across the whole earth.

"When there is no hope for a nation; when there is no remedy, God has a holy prescription: JOEL 2- Call a solemn assembly." (Lou Engle)

I. GOD'S JUDGEMENT IS IN THE LAND

- A. **Joel 1:2-** *Hear this, you elders, and give ear, all you inhabitants of the land! Has anything like this happened in your days, or even in the days of your fathers?*
- B. Joel calls the spiritual leaders of his day to account first. Afterwards, he includes all of the inhabitants in Israel. Joel calls the people to examine and "hear". Discern the hour of crisis before you.
- C. An ominous black cloud descends upon the land... the cloud of judgment, for them, in the form of 4 waves of locusts. Moses prophesied the destruction that was inflicted on Jerusalem and Israel by the Babylonian armies in 586 BC and the Roman armies in 70 AD.
- D. "**Locusts:** The New International Bible Commentary p.887 says that the locust came from the desert in Sudan. With the wind at their back, they were capable of migrating 1200 miles in three days. 400 miles per day, for 14 hours in a day would be about 28 miles per hour. Typically they migrated in a straight line. The ancient historian Pliny claims in Natural History 1.2.12 that a plague of locusts could even gnaw through doors. While this might not be true, this illustrates the terror a plague of locusts would bring."
- E. The church of America in large part is living like prostitutes in our culture. We have divided our heart up and given our love to multiple lovers, thinking that this would satisfy us; thinking that a life of compromise is the only way to survive in hard times.
- F. **Matthew 6:24-** *"No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."*
- G. "*Hear this*" and "*Give ear*" was Joel's instructions from God to the people of Israel. This expression is frequently used by Jesus. It is an expression, implying that the highest attention should be given

to what was spoken. (Think long & hard on this...Let me have your attention...Take this to heart...If you hear nothing else I saw...)

- H. There has never been a more critical season for our lives than this season today of preparing by listening for the Holy Spirit's voice. The transition of this age into the age to come is underway currently. Jesus is returning to a planet near you!
- I. **Matthew 24:4-** *And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you."*
- J. In light of Jesus returning to the earth, how should we live?
- K. The Lord is sounding a trumpet to the earth by the Holy Spirit that He is sending His Son back to the earth to reclaim ALL that belongs to Him. Repent of your ways and prepare your hearts for the hour of visitation.
- L. **Deuteronomy 28:45-** *"Moreover all these curses shall come upon you and pursue and overtake you, until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you."*
- M. The judgment of the Lord must be seen as the mercy of God. His mercy is to expose our sin and weaknesses in enough time to change before we appear in front of Jesus. We will be a worthy Bride for the inheritance of Jesus Christ.
- N. Joel's prophetic message for today is the equivalent of speaking to Church Pastors and Christians.
- O. In Joel's day, the people had forsaken and forgotten their God. We today have become more interested in establishing a comfortable life in this age than in living and investing into the ages to come for eternity. We accuse the US Government for spending more than they bring in and squandering the inheritance of our children and our children's children. As Christians, we too are squandering our eternal inheritance and our children's eternal inheritance by deciding to live only for this age.

II. INDIVIDUAL & CORPORATE CRISIS

- A. Joel begins by addressing and calling 5 generations to account. *"Tell your children...& your children's children..."* We are responsible to pass the Word of God to the generation behind us. This is "the spirit of Elijah" or the ministry mandate like Elijah to call multi-generations to prepare for the Lord's appearing.
- B. **Share my Stadium VISION:** In 2010, I saw a vision of people praying and worshipping in a large stadium. As we prayed and worshipped the stadium roof was being opened up with old mechanical gears. I anticipated seeing a beautiful sky with sunshine and palm trees. Instead, I saw dark clouds approaching the region. It was as if the Lord was saying that this regional and global prayer movement is inviting me to draw near. *"When I draw near, you get ME as I am. Depending on where your hearts is when I draw near will determine how you can receive me."*
- C. **Matthew 24:37-39** *"But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."*
- D. Joel is calling his generation to perceive rightly. The crisis they are facing is no coincidence. It is God-initiated. Joel is saying "Wake up!"
- E. **Joel 1:5-** *Awake, you drunkards, and weep; and wail, all you drinkers of wine, because of the new wine, for it has been cut off from your mouth.*

- F. Joel is saying to those in his culture to awaken and shake off the “spirit of this age”. As in Joel’s day, the Lord is saying to the Body of Christ, “Wake up! Shake off the ease of this culture! You are yielding to darkness and being overwhelmed by spiritual complacency.”
- G. In Matthew 24, Jesus declares that in the generation before He returns there will be “many false Christ’s”, “many offended”, many deceived”, and “many cold hearts”.

III. REMOVAL OF GOD’S BLESSINGS

- A. In Joel’s day, the nation of Israel is facing national crisis. There is an opposing army threatening them with war, starvation, and a lack of offerings to offer to the Lord on the tabernacle altar.
- B. **Joel 1:10**- *The field is wasted, the land mourns; for the grain is ruined, the new wine is dried up, the oil fails.*
 - 1. **The field is wasted**- All living vegetation is consumed and wasted. The harvest is destroyed.
 - 2. **The land mourns**- There is no ability to plant & grow a new harvest; bareness.
 - 3. **The new wine is dried up**- There is no new wine, which is symbolic of the joy & sweetness of life.
 - 4. **The oil fails**- There is no production of olive trees due to the drought. The oil represents the healing of God’s blessing and provision.
- C. There is a spiritual drought in our nation in this hour which is causing the crisis of the hour. The fruit of our labor and the ability to produce spiritual fruit is barren. There is no joy in the heart, nor grace of healing because we have sinned against our God.
- D. Why is there judgment in the land?

IV. SPIRITUAL MOURNING REQUIRED

- A. **Joel 1:13**- *“Gird yourselves and lament, you priests; Wail, you who minister before the altar; Come, lie all night in sackcloth, you who minister to my God; For the grain offering and the drink offering are withheld from the house of your God.”*
- B. **Matthew 5:4** *“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”*
- C. The Lord requires spiritual mourning before He can release spiritual blessing and healing. Joel first calls the priests back to their position of standing between the living and the dead to cry and weep for the mercy of God to His people.
- D. **Numbers 16:48**- *And he (Aaron) stood between the dead and the living; so the plague was stopped.*
- E. Esther is another who stood between the living and the dead. As intercessors and believers of Jesus we are called to stand as priests before God, on behalf of people.
- F. The greatest and most anointed ministry on this earth is the ministry of standing before God on behalf of men! When God speaks to move our heart and we respond back by speaking to move His heart He then breaks in to move the heart of regions and nations.

- G. **Ezekiel 22:30-31**- *“So I sought (searched) for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.”³¹ Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed (rewarded) their deeds on their own heads,” says the Lord God.*
- H. “God shapes the world by prayer. Prayers are deathless. They outlive the lives of those who uttered them.” (E.M. Bounds)
- I. **The Lord is saying**, *“I am so merciful and loving that I will actually honor your free-will by giving you whatever you work for in this life. You will be granted the power to reap and sow...because you are created in my image and likeness.”*
- J. Acts 1-2 is meant to be a model of how the Spirit is poured out. The apostles followed the pattern set forth in Joel 2:12-17, 28-32—as the people prayed with fasting, the Spirit would be poured out, and whoever responded would be saved. Joel prophesied that the Spirit would draw people from all nations to Jesus (Acts 2:21) as the Spirit was poured out.

Book of Joel: Preparing for the Day of the Lord

In this hour, we must have Messengers who speak boldly and clearly the Message of God’s heart to our generation. Joel was sounding a “trumpet/alarm” in Israel to declare impending danger. In the same way, the Church of Jesus must not shrink back in this hour in fear. We must stand firm and true on God’s promise of revival through repentance. We must not retreat from public squares of politics, education, family, media, business, and entertainment. This is the hour to contend for the greatness of God and the fame of Jesus’ name in all of the spheres of our American culture. The Lord WILL have His day!

Joel 2:1- *“Blow the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the LORD is coming, for it is at hand:”* (NKJV)

Joel 2:1- *“Sound the alarm in Jerusalem! Raise the battle cry on my holy mountain! Let everyone tremble in fear because the day of the LORD is upon us.”* (NLT)

I. PREPARE FOR BATTLE

- A. *“Blow the trumpet/Sound an Alarm”*- This is the warning of Heaven to prepare for battle. Joel is warning all of Israel (God’s People) that they are to face the discipline of a loving father, unless they repent and return to the mercy of His heart. This is not a call for Israel to fight WITH God but to fight AGAINST Him.
- B. This is a wake-up call to a people gone astray and fallen asleep. Joel is sounding the “alarm clock/siren/buzzer/bell/etc”. WAKE UP! WAKE UP!!
- C. The Lord calls Joel to blow 2 Trumpets among the people.
1. The **First Trumpet** is an alarm which signals impending danger and looming war on the land (Joel 2:1).
 2. **Joel 2:1**- *Blow the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the LORD is coming, for it is at hand:”*

3. Joel is blowing a trumpet of war, which is very uncommon. The trumpet was used primarily to call Israel to worship or to declare the start of religious festivals or the beginning of the month. Joel is also blowing the trumpet of war on the “holy mountain”.
 4. Joel is sounding the trumpet from God’s chosen place of dwelling. There is no place to hide from this hour of judgment. The source of the hour of judgment is the Lord God Himself.
 5. The judgments predicted by Joel represent all judgments till the end; the conduct, prescribed on their approach, is a pattern to the Church in every generation.
 6. The **Second Trumpet** is a call to gather together in solemn assemblies.
 7. **Joel 2:15-** *“Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly;”*
- D. **Romans 13:11-12-** *“And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. ¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.”*
- E. **Litmus Test:** If are not currently feeling or facing spiritual conflict, get ready for the conflict to come. If you have long been removed from spiritual battle and conflict then check yourself. You just might not be in the fight at all. The Alarm is sounding. Wake up!

II. LET US RESPOND RIGHTLY

- A. **Here is the Holy Prescription from the Lord for a nation who has gone astray.**
- B. **Joel 2:12-17-** *“Now, therefore,” says the LORD, “Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning...”*
- C. This is the hinge for the entire prophetic message of Joel. “*Now therefore*” is a call to respond in repentance. The Lord is paving a highway for Israel to return to His heart. Everything that follows Joel 2:12-17 is depending on Israel’s singular heart response!
- D. God, the loving Father, pleads with us saying: “Come back to me! Return to me! Follow the path of repentance so that you can stand before me.”
- E. **Matthew 5:3-** *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*
- F. Jesus declares that to the one who will respond in repentance and spiritual bankruptcy He will give us the keys of Heaven. We will be given an invitation to sit with Him in fellowship and friendship. Jesus says, “I’m knocking! (Rev. 3:20)”
- G. *“The strict Judge cannot be overcome, for He is Omnipotent; cannot be deceived, for He is Wisdom; cannot be corrupted, for He is justice; cannot be sustained, for He is Eternal; cannot be avoided, for He is everywhere. Yet He can be entreated, because He is mercy; He can be appeased, because He is Goodness; He can cleanse, because He is the Fountain of grace; He can satisfy, because He is the Bread of life; He can soothe, because He is the Unction from above; He can beautify, because He is Fullness; He can beatify because He is Bliss.”* (Commentary by Barnes)
- H. **Fasting:** The Lord desires to restore the ancient spiritual gift of “fasting”. Fasting unlocks our hearts to receive more of God’s heart, while also freeing us from the entanglements of the spirit of this age. There is no greater weapon than that of routine fasting to bring us in touch with our utter poverty and weakness.
- I. The Lord is raising up a powerful generation from the place of weakness and hiddenness, in large part because of fasting combined with routine prayer.
- J. “I can’t fast because I get so weak.” Weakness is the whole point. (There are some people who have legitimate medical reasons for caution when fasting from food.)

- K. **Joel 2:13**- *So rend (expose) your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm."*
- L. As Joel was calling Israel to respond from the inside of their hearts, rather than merely with religious rituals, so to the Lord is calling His church today to expose their heart to Him.
- M. **Amos 5:18, 21**- *"Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! For what good is the day of the LORD to you? It will be darkness, and not light...I hate, I despise your feast days, and I do not savor your sacred assemblies."*
- N. Be assured that just because Jesus comes does not mean all is well for us. When He comes, He comes as Himself! Where our hearts are, that will be how we receive Him. This is the mercy strategy of His heart to reveal everything that is hidden and secret so that we have time to repent and turn to Him for mercy.
- O. **Joel 2:13**- *So rend (expose) your heart,...for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents (turns back in mercy) from doing harm."*
- P. God is declaring His character to His people in this verse. He is full of forgiveness and mercy and GREAT kindness. **If we respond with all of our heart, He will respond with all of His heart.**
- Q. Someone might say, *"What's really the big deal with a little bit of sin or wrongdoing?"* This is a critical question for all of us to ask. God the Father has declared that He is holy, perfect, and sinless. No sin can stand nor enter into His presence without being consumed by fire.
- R. The Father desires so strongly for His family to stand before Him and to see Him that He sent His perfect Son to pay the perfect Price for the eternal separation. The seriousness of sin is so great that it cost Him everything...but He willingly spent everything to win us back. Sin cost God His Son's life!
- S. **Matthew 5:8**- *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."*
- T. Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart. Those who pursue holiness in the secret places of their heart will be given the grace to see God working, moving, and expressing Himself in greater power and authority. Holiness must precede spiritual authority in the end-time outpouring and awakening that is coming.

III. WHO IS REQUIRED TO RESPOND

- A. **Joel 2:16, 17**- *"Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children and nursing babes; Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, and the bride from her dressing room."¹⁷ Let the priests, who minister to the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar;... "*
- B. In order to experience corporate healing and forgiveness in geographic regions, the entire Body of Christ must respond to His voice in repentance. It is not THEM over there. It is US here, together. Christ has a Body and wants the entire Body responding in agreement and love to Him.
- C. This is the hour of solemn assemblies. Everyone with an "ear to hear" is saying the same thing. This is the only remedy for our Nation and City.
- D. We believe the Lord has called IHOP-Miami to meet continuously and perpetually to respond in solemn assemblies. We gather together daily & weekly in groups of two or three or more.
- E. **Assemble the Elders**- The elders represent the spiritually mature and those who will be most responsive to gather for corporate fasting & prayer.
- F. **Gather the People**- Call the entire Body of Christ into this holy gathering. One of the primary reasons for the corporate gathering is to minister to the Lord in lives of repentance and holiness. We cry out for His mercy to us and to our geographic region. This moves His heart deeply.

- G. **Sanctify the Congregation**- Let there be a preparation of the heart through lifestyles of routine fasting, prayer, and repentance. If we are asking God to show up we want to be prepared to meet Him.
- H. **Gather the Children & Nursing Babies**- This is a clear picture of the seriousness of our neglect in responding to the Lord. Even the children and young babies are affected by the crisis in the land.
- I. **Bridegroom & Bride Go from Chamber/Dressing Room**- The matter of judgment in the land and God's invitation to ask Him to reverse what is to come is so serious that it would affect even those preparing for the most intimate of earthly celebrations. The Lord says, "Push pause on your wedding plans and respond to your Heavenly Bridegroom God."
- J. **Let the Priests Weep & Pray**- The Lord brings the call and conversation all the way back full circle by reminding the Priests of the role before God & Man. He is even so gracious to give them the words to pray back to His heart:
- **Joel 2:17**- *"Spare Your people, O LORD, and do not give Your heritage to reproach, that the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?' "*
- K. The call of Joel to the people of Israel is for repentance of sinful deeds AND a season of fasting from joyful deeds of celebration.

IV. THE IF-THEN COVENANT OF GOD

- A. The "IF" Requirement of God's People was laid out for us in **Joel 2:12-17**. Joel even declares an "IF" of God in verse 14.
- B. **Joel 2:14**- *"Who knows if He will turn and relent, and leave blessing behind Him."*
- C. **Then**- God's response to Israel and to us is one of anticipated and desired mercy being extended. It's the picture of the Father on the porch of his property (Luke 15:20) looking, waiting, and anticipating the day when his son would return home.
- D. This was God's heart for Israel almost 3000 years ago and is still to this day His desire! He waits...
- E. **Joel 2:18**- *"Then the LORD will be zealous for His land, and pity His people."*
- F. This Bridegroom God and King will respond with extravagant love to those who follow this holy prescription. Israel did not respond to this prophetic message and a few years later was captured and conquered and the city of Jerusalem was destroyed in 586 BC.
- G. What will be our individual and corporate response in the cities of the earth?
- H.

Book of Joel: The Promise of an End-Time Harvest & Global Outpouring

Joel 2:28-32- *It shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. ²⁹ And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. ³⁰ And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood and fire and pillars of smoke. ³¹ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. ³² And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the remnant whom the LORD calls.*

*(This was actually my 1st Sermon ever preached!)

The Church of Jesus in America has experienced great pain and great blessing over the last 200+ years of our history. Our history has experienced 2 national revivals and great awakenings. Though there have been other smaller outpourings, none have impacted the direction of the whole nation like these two timeframes of our history. We are contending for a 3rd Great Awakening and outpouring of God's Holy Spirit. This national outpouring will only be a small part of a global outpouring which will lead to the completion of the Great Commission (Mt. 24:14) and the salvation of Israel (Mt. 23:39). Sick bodies will be healed, dead bodies will be raised, demons will be cast out, salvation will come to whole cities and villages, the Holy Spirit's gifts AND fruit will be manifested in fullness. We will cry out together with "perfect" agreement with the Person Holy Spirit and cry, "Come Lord Jesus!"

I. THE PROMISE OF HOLY SPIRIT'S OUTPOURING

- A. **Afterward:** After turning to God with prayer and fasting in corporate wholeheartedness (Joel 2:12-17), God manifests His zeal and compassion (Joel 2:18) in material blessings (agricultural and military victory; Joel 2:19-27) and spiritual blessings (pouring out His Spirit; Joel 2:28-32).

Joel 2:28- *It shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh...*

- B. Jesus promised that if His disciples tarried in prayer, the Spirit would endue them with power.

John 16:7- *Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.*

Luke 24:49- *Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.*

Acts 1:8- *You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...*

- C. In Acts 1-2, the disciples followed the pattern described by Joel as they sought the promise given by Jesus. Thus, they gathered to pray in the upper room. After ten days, on the Feast of Pentecost the Spirit came on them with power (Acts 1:14-2:4). Peter explained this visitation of the Spirit as being that which was prophesied by Joel (Acts 2:16).

Acts 2:15-16 ¹⁴ *Peter ... said to them, "Men of Judea ... let this be known to you ... ¹⁵ these are not drunk, as you suppose ... ¹⁶ but this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel."*

- D. These ten days of prayer occurred in a strategic, prophetic timing. It was preceded first by the death and resurrection of Jesus and by a dynamic prayer history that included Israel's greatest intercessors. Jesus and **John the Baptist** had prayed fervently for God's blessing to be released as did **Anna** who prayed for sixty years (Lk. 2:37). In other words, the apostles stepped into a dynamic history of prayer that had been in developed before that Feast of Pentecost had come.
- E. Revival and Spiritual Outpouring on a region and people is always preceded by much prayer, fasting, and repentance.
- F. The Joel 2:12-15 pattern of corporate prayer with fasting has been followed throughout church history resulting in many great revivals. In our day, we must also follow the Joel 2:12-15 pattern. More and more in the Church today are seeing the importance of gathering in corporate intercessory worship until God releases the fullness of His blessing.

II. THE DOWN PAYMENT OF JOEL'S PROPHECY OCCURRED AT PENTECOST

Joel 2:28- *" will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and daughters shall prophesy..."*

- A. God's promise to pour out His Spirit is the most well-known passage in the Book of Joel.
- B. The prophetic promise of the outpouring of the Spirit that Joel prophesied was not completely fulfilled in Peter's generation. The fullness of what Joel prophesied has still not yet happened.
- C. Joel said that the sun and the moon would grow dark and signs such as blood and smoke would be seen. The early church did not see these signs.
- D. Joel prophesied of a worldwide outpouring of the Spirit on all flesh or on all nations. In Acts 2, the Spirit only rested on 120 local Jewish believers in Jerusalem, and then on 3,000 who were saved that day. The fullness of Joel's prophecy requires a global dimension.
- E. Peter understood that Joel's prophecy would only be completely fulfilled when Jesus returned to earth to restore all things during the millennial kingdom.

Acts 3:19-21 ¹⁹ *Repent...that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,* ²⁰ *and that He may send Jesus Christ [Jesus' second coming]...* ²¹ *whom heaven must receive [retain] until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.*

III. THE TIMING IN JOEL'S PROPHECY: THE LAST DAYS

- A. Peter said that the outpouring of the Spirit would happen in the last days (Acts 2:17). The last days began with Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension and culminating with Jesus' return.
- B. Joel prophesied of a worldwide outpouring of the Spirit. When will the fullness of this occur? Joel tells us it will happen "afterwards" (Joel 2:28). The important question is: after what? It is after something specific. Some see the afterwards of v. 28 as a reference to the second coming. This is not possible because Joel makes clear in v. 31 that the prophetic spirit and signs in the heavens occur before the Day of the Lord or the second coming of Jesus.

Joel 2:28-31 ²⁸ And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh... ²⁹ I will pour out My Spirit in those days... ³¹ the sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD...

- C. In studying the options for what **afterwards** refers to, it is best to understand it in the context of Joel's call to fasting and prayer (Joel 2:12-17). In other words, **after** the times of corporate wholeheartedness, God will pour out His Spirit. It is as though Joel was saying, "When you cry out to the Lord with fasting and prayer, afterwards He will bless you by releasing His Spirit."

IV. THE INHERITANCE OF THE BODY OF CHRIST: ALL WILL PROPHECY

Joel 2:28- *I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.*

- A. In Joel's generation, the prophetic anointing had been only been released to a small group in the Old Testament era, usually older Jewish men who were kings, judges, or prophets. However, Joel prophesied that the Holy Spirit would be poured out on all flesh—Jew and Gentile, men and women, young and old. In other words, every believer was to receive the anointing of the Spirit.
- B. **1 Corinthians 14:31-** *For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged.*
- C. Paul quoted Joel 2:32 and then applied it universally to all believers (Rom. 10:12-13).
- D. **Romans 10:12-13** *"There is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord...is rich to all who call on Him. ¹³ For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."*

V. THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

Revelation 19:10- *"...Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."*

- A. When we interpret Joel's prophecy of the outpouring of the spirit of prophecy in context to the end-time drama of equipping the saints in the end-time harvest and to expose the deception of the Antichrist.
- B. **Isaiah 42:1-** *"Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, my Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.*
- C. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on "all flesh" is all about the end-time harvest. The end-time harvest is defined best as a fully mature Bride who is prepared and equipped to rule and reign with Jesus Christ forever.
- D. The Bride of Christ will encounter and "prophesy" of His love to the nations. We will prophesy in song, prayers, art, and written, audio, and video media, in all spheres of society.

- E. In the Great Tribulation it will be an issue of life and death to see, hear, and understand God's purposes in the earth. We must contend for the spirit of prophecy now with sustained prayer with fasting. *Don't limit your understanding to this gift simply because your denominational background hasn't taught this.
- 1 Corinthians 12:31** *"But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way."*
- F. We seek to prophesy because it opens us up to the other gifts of the Spirit. Prophesying encompasses all that is involved in operating in the revelation of the Spirit. Prophesying is more than just someone on a microphone declaring, "Thus saith the Lord..."
- G. The spirit of prophecy will be the vehicle for leading the Church of Jesus Christ into the final days and through the Great Tribulation before Jesus returns. The praying and fasting church of Jesus will speak clearly and boldly ahead of time to make sense of the signs of the times.
- H. **Joel 2:28**- *"And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions."*
- I. Prophetic dreams will strengthen and equip the church to discern false signs and wonders (Mt. 24:4-5, 11, 24). Dreams will give direction when life and death decisions need to be made in the end times.
- J. **Dreams & Visions** have increased exponentially in our own praying community. In the last three months, the Holy Spirit released a number of dreams and visions to us which allowed us to discern and pray specifically for some in our community.

VI. PROPHETIC MINISTRY: SIGNS IN THE HEAVEN

Joel 2:30-31- *I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood and fire and pillars of smoke.
³¹ *The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. (Joel 2:30-31)**

Joel 3:15- *"The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will diminish their brightness."*

- A. In describing the outpouring of the Spirit in the end times, Joel gave three prophecies to Israel that the sun, moon, and stars would be dramatically altered as supernatural proof that the Messiah was intervening on the earth.
- Luke 21:11**- *"There will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven."*
- B. God will release dramatic prophetic signs to help the end-time Church and to warn the lost. These signs will be given at strategic times and will bring vital understanding to those who interpret them rightly (**7 Seals; 7 Trumpets; 7 Bowls**).

VII. ISRAEL'S END-TIME DELIVERANCE AND THE GREAT HARVEST

Joel 2:32 *"It shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance..." "*

Romans 11:26 *"So all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion..." "*

- A. Joel prophesied that whoever calls upon Jesus' name will be saved. Being saved has several distinct dimensions to it in the Scripture.
- B. We are saved in the initial sense of receiving forgiveness and being born again, saved from God's end-time judgments, saved from being abandoned in times of need, etc.
- C. We understand that one of the prophetic precursors in the end-time generation will be the completion of the Great Commission.
- D. **Matthew 24:14**- *"And this gospel (full account/testimony) of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."*
- E. All of Israel will welcome Jesus, their Messiah, back home to Jerusalem. He will declare to them "Hephzibah" and "Beulah": "City of God's Delight" and "Bride of God".
- F. **Matthew 23:39**- *"for I (Jesus) say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' "*