

Understanding the Book of Joel
Joel 2:28-32 (p. 968)

Intro

I. _____ and calamities in this life are actually a _____ of the judgment that is to come...

The Book of Joel was written in the context of a plague of _____ and is a call to the people to _____.

The word of the Lord that came to Joel, the son of Pethuel: Hear this, you elders; give ear, all inhabitants of the land! Has such a thing happened in your days, or in the days of your fathers? Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children to another generation. What the cutting locust left, the swarming locust has eaten. What the swarming locust left, the hopping locust has eaten, and what the hopping locust left, the destroying locust has eaten.... For a nation has come up against my land, powerful and beyond number; its teeth are lions' teeth, and it has the fangs of a lioness. It has laid waste my vine and splintered my fig tree; it has stripped off their bark and thrown it down; their branches are made white. (1:1-7)

Awake, you drunkards, and weep, and wail, all you drinkers of wine, because of the sweet wine, for it is cut off from your mouth.... Lament like a virgin wearing sackcloth for the bridegroom of her youth. The grain offering and the drink offering are cut off from the house of the Lord.... Be ashamed, O tillers of the soil; wail, O vinedressers, for the wheat and the barley, because the harvest of the field has perished.... (1:5,8,9,11)

But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God...then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.... You shall carry much seed into the field and shall gather in little, for the locust shall consume it. (Deut. 28:15, 38)

Put on sackcloth and lament, O priests; wail, O ministers of the altar. Go in, pass the night in sackcloth, O ministers of my God!....Consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly. Gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land to the house of the Lord your God ,and cry out to the Lord. (1:13,14)

Difficult circumstances do not _____ mean that God is judging you, but they are a foretaste of what _____ would be like.

Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming; it is near, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people; their like has never been before, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations.... Their appearance is like the appearance of horses, and like war horses they run. As with the rumbling of chariots, they leap on the tops of the mountains, like the crackling of a flame of fire devouring the stubble, like a powerful army drawn up for battle. Before them peoples are in anguish; all faces grow pale. Like warriors they charge; like soldiers they scale the wall. They march each on his way; they do not swerve from their paths. They do not jostle one another; each marches in his path; they burst through the weapons and are not halted. They leap upon the city, they run upon the walls, they climb up into the houses, they enter through the windows like a thief. The earth quakes before them; the heavens tremble. The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining.... For the day of the Lord is great and very awesome; who can endure it? (2:1,24-11)

For the unrepentant, suffering is a _____; for the repentant, suffering gives us a taste of what God has _____ us from.

**II. But God will pour out His _____ on those who turn to Him and
_____ on His name.**

“Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Consecrate the congregation, assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. (2:12-16)

Repentance should be _____, trusting in the Lord’s grace and mercy;
_____ yourself to Him.

When you repent, the Lord _____ give you what you want, but He will
_____ restore you to Himself.

The Lord answered and said to his people, “Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil.... “Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things! Fear not, you beasts of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit; the fig tree and vine give their full yield. “Be glad, O children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God, for he has given the early rain for your vindication; he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the latter rain, as before. “The threshing floors shall be full of grain; the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent among you. (2:19,21-25)

The Lord has _____ that He will pour out His Spirit on _____ who
call upon Him in faith.

“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, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit. v.28,29

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed [David] in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. (1 Sam. 16:13)

If there is a prophet among you, I the Lord make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream... (Nu. 12:6)

The outpouring of God’s Spirit is not _____ to those who hold office but
extends to all _____ of believers everywhere.

...the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to [Moses], and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied.... Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets, that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!” (Nu. 11:25,29)

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Gal. 3:28)

Joel foretold the outpouring of God's Spirit that would happen at _____, which was an annual Jewish _____ celebration.

"You shall count seven weeks. Begin to count the seven weeks from the time the sickle is first put to the standing grain. Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to the Lord your God (Deut. 16:9,10)

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they [the disciples] were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." And all were amazed and perplexed.... But Peter... lifted up his voice and addressed them: "... this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel... (Acts 2:1-16)

...your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. V.28

The prophecies, dreams, and visions—along with speaking in _____ and the visible flames of fire-- were outward _____ of this new reality.

"And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. v.30,31

The emphasis is not on a supernatural spiritual experience for a select _____; the emphasis is on the _____ need to call upon the Lord and be saved.

And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls. v.32

Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.... (Acts 2:38)

For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Rom. 10:13)

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