

The Return of God's Favour

Joel 2:18-3:21

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Recap

- Chapter 1 – the great locust plague and devastation of the land
- Chapter 2 – The warning of the great Day of the Lord
 - Seek God in repentance – Joel 2:12

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Joel 2:18-27

- This is the heart of the book
- This is God being faithful to His covenant and His covenant people
 - Though they broke the covenant, God remains faithful to His word
 - See Lev 26:40-45

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Joel 2:18-27

Vs 18 – God is jealous for His land and His people

- God is not pleased with its devastation and wants to see it flowing with blessing again

- God is not pleased with His people in exile and wants to see them as objects of blessing again

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Joel 2:18-27

Vs 19 – The restoration of the olive oil and new wine

- These are a sign of God's blessing

- God will be for them, not against them

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Joel 2:18-27

Vs 20 – The locusts will be driven from the land

NOTE!

-A prophecy about Assyria?

-A prophecy about end times?

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Joel 2:18-27

Vs 20 – The locusts will be driven from the land

NOTE!

- A promise of security in His presence

- See Ps 33:16-22

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Joel 2:18-27

Vs 21-24 – God's restoration of provision

- Rains in their proper season

- Crops that flourish and mature

- Oil and wine to be used for making sacrifices to God once again

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Joel 2:18-27

Vs 25-27 – God's promise to restore the wasted time (years)

- To make up for the times of the curse due to sin

NOTE!

It is often the case that our later years are more profitable and abundant in fruitfulness to God

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Joel 2:18-27

Vs 25-27 – God’s promise to restore the wasted time (years)

NOTE!

It is repentance that moves God to restore us to Himself and to bring spiritual fruitfulness and abundance to our life

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Joel 2:18-27

Vs 25-27 – God’s promise to restore the wasted time (years)

- Restored to being God’s people, God’s possession, God’s chosen instruments
- This is the special covenant agreement we have with God

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Joel 2:28-32

- Quoted by Peter in Acts 2:17-21
- Pentecost is the fulfillment
- Also an apocalyptic sense of the Day of the Lord
 - See Rev 19:11-21

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Joel 2:28-32

Filling of the Holy Spirit

- Numbers 11:29; Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:17-21

NOTE!

The fullness of the Holy Spirit results in the promotion of the Gospel

See Acts 1:8

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Joel 3:1-21

A prophecy of both near and far

- Begin to see more apocalyptic language
 - The day of the Lord, the great battle, gathering of the nations, the valley of decision

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Joel 3:1-8

- Vs 1 – Another promise of restoration for Israel
- Vs 2-8 – punishment upon the nations who mistreated Israel
 - Though God used these nations, they were cruel and harsh in their treatment of Israel
 - They became proud and did not recognize God at work in themselves

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Joel 3:9-16a

- The nations called to war by God
- God is calling them out.
- NOTE!

Plowshares into swords is opposite of Isa 2:1-5 and Micah 4:1-5

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Joel 3:9-16a

- Valley of Jehoshaphat – The Lord Judges
 - Also referred to as the valley of decision
- Swing the sickle – see Rev 14:14-20
- Valley of Decision – Repent while He may be found. Now is the time for repentance

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Joel 3:9-16a

- Sun and moon darkened
 - See Mt 24:29; Joel 3:15
- Roar like a lion
 - See Amos 1:2

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Joel 3:16b-21

- The Lord will protect and guard His people
- They will KNOW that God is God
- They will walk with God and know Him personally – in a relationship

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Joel 3:16b-21

- The land will be flowing with milk and honey once again
- Note the fountain flowing from the house of the LORD
 - See Ezek 47:1-12; Zech 14:8

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Conclusion/Summary

- God will bring punishment upon all who are against Him
- God will once again bless those who return and repent before Him
- God desires that we repent and be saved
- His very presence will be with us and IN us
 - The shekinah glory

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