

# **“The Pouring Out Of God’s Holy Spirit”**

## **Joel 2:18-32**

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**Teaching Aim:** To illustrate God’s zeal for His people and His Promised Land, especially when true repentance occurs. To realize that God is a Mighty Warrior and He will fight for His people when they are in a right relationship with Him. To understand the role of the Holy Spirit today under the New Covenant is different from what it was under the Old Covenant.

### **DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)**

#### **Part I: A transition from divine judgment because of sin to God’s blessing following the repentance and obedience of His people (Joel 2:18-20)**

1. According to **Joel 1:12-17**, when will “*the LORD be zealous for His land and take pity on His people*” (**vs. 18**)? To “*repent*” means more than just a change in mind, it also means a change in direction. Repentance means doing a 180 and changing the way you live your life so that you live to please God. What are some areas in your life that have led you to repentance? What are some changes that you’ve seen in your life since repenting and getting right with God?
  
2. After Israel repented, the LORD answered her prayers and restored her land (**vs. 19**). When will God not answer our prayers? (See **Psalm 66:18**) What is “*cherished sin*?” (See Dictionary) According to **verse 19**, would Israel continue to be a reproach among the nations if they repented and turned to God? Why do the Muslims hate Israel so much today? Do you see the view of Israel changing among many people in the United States today? If so how? What promise is made by God in **Gen. 12:1-3**?
  
3. Do you think **verse 20** refers to a literal army of locusts or to a human army? With the exception of Egypt, conquering armies attacked Israel from the north. Why? (Google map of Assyrian Empire) What promise did God make to Israel in **verse 20** if she would only repent? How might **verse 20b** be a reference to the Assyrian army in the Old Testament? (See **Isa. 34:1-3; 37:36-38**)

**Part II: God demonstrates His glory by restoring the destroyed land to a state of beauty and abundance (Joel 2:21-27)**

1. Writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Joel personifies the land in **verse 21**. What does it mean to “*personify*” something? (See Dictionary) What message did God send to the land? Why should the land “*rejoice and be glad?*”
2. What do we find Joel “*personifying*” in **verse 22**? Considering the information shared in **verse 22**, why do you think the animals were in a state of fear? According to **Joel chapter 1**, what are some ways that the sin of Israel affected both the land and the animals? Does our sin still affect others today? What are some ways that you’ve seen this in your everyday life?
3. Who is the third group instructed by the LORD to “*be glad and rejoice*” (**vs. 23**)? Who are these children? According to **verse 23**, even rain is a blessing from God. How can we know this for sure? (See **Deut. 28:1-14**) What was Israel promised if the nation did not obey the Law of God? (See **Deut. 11:13-17; 28:42**)
4. How did God promise to bless Israel in **verse 24**? What was the prerequisite? Does this principle still hold true for us today? If so how? What are some ways that you’ve seen God bless faithful Christians today?
5. Israel was devastated by an invasion of locusts in **Joel chapter 1**. What did God promise Israel in **verse 25** if the people would repent and return to Him? Is this promise true for us today, even when people have wasted many years of their lives? (See **1 John 1:9**) Do you think God would multiply the effectiveness of your ministry if you repent from your sin and dedicate the rest of your life to serving Him? What is stopping you from being all God wants you to be?

6. How will the Jews respond to God's blessing according to **verse 26**? How does your personal relationship with Christ affect the way God will bless or not bless you in the future? (See **John 14:6**) What are some of the greater blessings that you've received from God? Was Joel mistaken in **verse 26b** when he said, "*My people shall never be put to shame?*" Historically, Israel was defeated, humiliated and taken into captivity by Assyria, Babylon and Rome after Joel wrote these words. When do you think this promise will be ultimately fulfilled? (See **Rev 20:4-6; 21:1-4**) Under whose reign will Israel finally be protected from the attacks of her enemies? What do theologians call this period of history?
7. How will Israel respond to the LORD after he demonstrates the "*wondrous*" renewal of His land and people (**vs. 26**)? What is a "*wonder*"? (See Dictionary) Will the LORD share His glory with any other god according to **verse 27**? (See **Isa. 42:8; 48:11**) Why or why not? (See **Deut. 6:4-5**)

### **Part III: The pouring out of God's Holy Spirit upon the remnant in Israel and upon all believers in Christ (Joel 2:28-32)**

1. Much of biblical prophecy is like parallel railroad tracks going in the same direction; one prophecy is fulfilled at the time of the prophet or in the near future, the other will be filled in the distant future. How do you see the illustration of parallel railroad tracks relating to the Day of Pentecost and **Acts 2:17-21 (vv. 28-32)**? Joel was writing primarily to the Jews, but did he include Christians when he said "*all flesh*" in **verse 28**?
2. According to **verse 28**, will there be age or sex discrimination from God when He pours out His Spirit upon "*all flesh*?" How will the Spirit be manifest in the "*last days*" according to Joel? Will there be discrimination in social status (**vs. 29**)? (See **Jam. 2:1-6**) What "*days*" are referred to in **verse 29**?
3. Did the wonders referred to in **verses 30 & 31** take place in their entirety on the Day of Pentecost or are they yet future events? (See **Acts 2:17-21**) According to **verse 31b**, when will this prophecy ultimately be fulfilled? Are the descriptions in **verses 30 & 31** consistent with the descriptions of "*the Great Tribulation*" in the Book of Revelation? Match each "*wonder*" in **verses 30 & 31** with a Scripture found in **Rev. 6:12** and **8:7-17**.

4. What did God promise to do if the people repent during “*the terrible time of Jacob’s troubles*” (**vs. 32**)? In the Book of Joel, the promise is made primarily to the Jews. Who did Paul apply this Scripture to in the Book of Romans? (See **Rom. 9:9-13**) According to **Rom. 9:9-13** and **Joel 2:32**, what should occur as a person comes to saving faith? What is promised to Mount Zion and to Jerusalem (**32b**)? A “*remnant*” is a small quantity of something or a small minority of people. According to **verse 32b**, “*Who*” calls this remnant before they ever call on Him?
5. How was the role of the Holy Spirit different before Pentecost than it is today? (**See Exod. 36:1; Num. 11:17; Judg. 3:9-11; 6:34; 11:29; 1 Sam. 10:12; 16:13-14; Psa. 51:1-11; John 14:16-18; Acts 1:6-8; Eph. 1:13-14**) What is needed in order for us to “*walk in the Spirit*” today? (See **Rom. 8:1**)
6. Have you received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? If so, be sure to share with others how Jesus has changed your life. If not, why not pray to receive Jesus Christ as Savior in the quietness of this moment? (See **Rom. 3:23; John 3:16; 14:6; Acts 16:31; Rom. 9:9-13**)

#### **MINER’S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!***

- Repentance from sin is a prerequisite to being right with God and receiving His blessing on your life.
- God has the ability to restore areas in our lives that we have damaged in the past.
- God will help us make up for the wasted years in our life when we commit to faithfully loving and serving Him.
- Biblical prophecy can often be likened to parallel railroad tracks going the same direction; one prophesy to be fulfilled in the writer’s time and ultimate fulfillment in the distant future.
- According to Peter, **Joel 2:28-32** was partially fulfilled at Pentecost; the prophecy will ultimately be fulfilled following the return of Jesus Christ.
- Whoever calls on the name of the LORD in genuine faith will be saved.