

# “Millennial Blessings”

## Joel 3:16-21

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**Teaching Aim:** To realize Jesus will come in judgment as the roaring “*Lion of Judah*” at His Second Coming. To realize the resurrected Lord is “*The King of kings and the LORD of lords,*” not “*the tender Lamb of God*” that we saw at His First Advent. To understand Jesus will reign from Mount Zion in Jerusalem during His millennial Kingdom. To see the radical geographical, horticultural and everyday life changes that will take place during the millennial reign of Christ. To understand ultimate peace and eternal salvation are available to people only by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

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

#### **Part I: The LORD returns to reign from Mount Zion in Jerusalem (Joel 3:16-17)**

1. According to **verse 16** and **Amos 1:2**, what will Jesus do at His Second Coming that He did not do at His first? (See **Rev. 5:5**) What are some ways that the Second Advent of Christ will differ from His first? (See **Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 2:8-14**) What makes “*the virgin birth*” of Jesus so important to every Christian today? (See **Isa. 7:14; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 1:21-24**)
  
2. **Rev. 19:11-21** describes the Second Coming of Jesus Christ as *the KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS*. What do you think this judgment on fallen humanity will be like? Does reading **Rev. 19:11-21** increase your concern for loved ones and friends who do not know Christ? What are some ways that you can more effectively minister to the unsaved?
  
3. According to **verse 16**, how will the heavens and earth react to the coming wrath of God? If inanimate objects have the sense to tremble at the wrath of God, shouldn’t human beings? God is holy and we are not. Why do you think more people don’t tremble at the holiness of God? Do you think unbelievers really understand the consequences of rejecting Christ?
  
4. According to Joel, what will the LORD be to those who trust in Him (**vs. 16b**)? Do you consider the LORD to be your refuge and strength today? What are some ways that your trust in God has helped you in life?

5. In light of **chapter 3**, how will Israel know that the LORD is God (**vs. 17**)? Have you ever seen God clearly at work in your own life? If so, how? What will make both Mount Zion and the city of Jerusalem “*holy*” during the millennium? Do they have the same kind of holiness today? Who are the “*aliens*” (or strangers) referred to in **verse 17**? Why are they called aliens? What will keep these aliens out of the holy land? What is required for people to walk in holiness today? (See **Acts 16:31; Gal. 5:16,25**)

## **Part II: Eden-like/pre-flood blessings returns to Israel during the millennium (Joel 3:18-19)**

1. In **verse 18**, what future period of time is referred to as “*that day*”? For the most part, Israel is a barren land today, although there are some lush areas. According to **verse 18**, what will Israel be like during the millennial reign of Christ? What are some ways that the millennium will be similar to the Garden of Eden and to the pre-flood days? (See **Gen. 2:8-17; Isa. 51:3; 65:19-20,22**)
  
2. What geographical and horticultural changes will occur in the Promised Land during the millennium (**vs. 18**)? How does this relate to some of the Old Testament promises? (See **Exod. 3:8; 13:5; Lev. 20:24; Isa. 55:1**) What is the purpose of the fountain flowing from the house of the LORD (**vs. 18**)? (See **Ezekiel 47:1-12; Zech. 14:8-9; Rev. 22:1-5**) According to these verses, where will the waters flow to? What do we call this region today? According to Jesus in **John 4:10-14**, where can Christians find living water today? What does Jesus say will happen to those who drink from this fountain?
  
3. Acacia trees are generally located in dry and barren places? What can we learn about the pre-millennial topography of the Valley of Acacias from the name “*Acacias*” (**vs. 18b**)? Where else do we see this valley in Scripture? (See **Num. 25:1; Josh. 2:1; 3:1**) What critical event in Israel’s history occurred in this valley? What will the river flowing from the Temple of God do to this barren land during the millennium (**vs. 18**)? What do the waters of life, found only in Jesus, do for us today as we walk through this spiritually barren land that we call the world?

4. Egypt and Edom symbolize “*all the enemies of God*” (**vs. 19**). What are some ways that these lands will contrast the Promised Land during the millennium? What reason is given in **verse 19** for this contrast? (See **1 Kin. 14:25-26; Ezek. 35:1-15; Amos 1:11; Ob. 10**) Whose innocent blood is referred to in **verse 19**? Is God aware when His people are forced to suffer today? Will God stand by forever or will a day of reckoning come to those who persecute His people? If so, when will this day of reckoning be? Have you ever had to suffer for your faith? (See **Matt. 5:11-12; John 15:20**)

### **Part III: God’s people will be forever blessed (Joel 3:20-21)**

1. What did Joel mean in **verse 20** when he said, “*But Judah shall “abide” forever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation*” (NKJV)? (Compare KJV, NIV, NASB or ESV versions of the Bible) How can Israel be sure of her longevity in the land?
2. **Verse 21** is one of the more difficult verses in Joel to interpret. **Verse 21** can either be translated “*I will ‘acquit,’ ‘pardon’ or ‘cleanse’ them of the guilt of bloodshed*” (See **KJV, NKJV, NIV**) or “*I will ‘avenge’ their blood which I have not avenged*” (Compare **NASB, ESV** versions of the Bible). Which interpretation do you think better fits with the context of this chapter? Why?
3. According to **verse 21b**, what is the basis of Israel’s assurance of future blessing? What assurance do we have as Christians that we will receive future blessings in Christ? (See **Luke 24:1-6; Eph. 1:13-14**) What is the only way anyone will be able to be saved from the coming wrath of God? (See **John 3:16; Acts 4:12; 16:31; Eph. 2:8-9**) Have you yielded your life to Jesus Christ? (See **Rom. 5:8-9**). Why not repent of your sin and receive Jesus as Savior and Lord right now?

**MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!***

- Jesus came as "*the tender Lamb of God*" at His First Advent; He will come as the roaring "*Lion of Judah*" at His Second Coming.
- Jesus (*along with His holy angels*) will destroy the enemies of God at His return.
- Jesus will reign from Mount Zion in Jerusalem during His millennial Kingdom.
- Edenic-like/pre-flood conditions will return to Israel during the millennium.
- Living water will flow from the Temple of God during the millennial reign of Christ and the eternal state which follows.
- Living water is available to Christians today by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.
- Eternal salvation is found in Jesus Christ alone.