

## Message #1

### Joel 1:13-15 THE COMING OF A GREAT AND TERRIBLE DAY

#### **Introduction:**

Joel lived before the fall of either kingdom of Israel and was a priest who called the people to repentance.

#### **I. The warning to Israel**

- A. Joel addressed all of the people , especially the elders.
- B. He warned of an invasion of insects, 1:4-7.
- C. He called for the elders and priests to weep, 1:8, 13.
- D. He called for a gathering of all the land at the house of God, 1:14-15.
- E. He warned of drought to follow the locusts, 1:17.
- F. He issued a second appeal for all to come.
- G. He informed all of the danger, 2:2-11.
- H. He called for all to repent, 2:12-14.
- I. He promised that if if they would repent that God would have mercy and spare them, 2:18-20.  
(The locusts would come, but God would spare.)
- J. The people evidently did repent and were spared.
  - 1. Joel does not record their repentance.
  - 2. But other historians record the destruction of the locusts by a storm.

#### **II. The warning of a terrible day yet to come**

- A. The day of judgment from the Lord upon Israel foreshadows God's judgment on all the unsaved, Rev. 20:11-15.
  - 1. That day will be just as real as the locusts which came on Israel in Hosea's day.
  - 2. It is going to be even more terrible.
  - 3. When the locusts were gone it was all over, but for the unsaved, the suffering will never be over.
  - 4. All of the unsaved will then b e cast into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone.
- B. Let us sound the alarm to all. (It is closer at hand than some might think.)
- C. Let the saved pray before God for the souls of lost men.
- D Let all of the saved pray before God for the souls of the unsaved.
- E. Let all confess their sins and repent toward God. (“Rend your hearts!”)
- F. Let men believe God's promise of pardon through Jesus Christ.
- G. Let men trust in Jesus Christ and e saved.
- H. Let each saved pardon dedicate his heart and life to God.

#### **Conclusion:**

The people of Israel repented toward God. Will you?

## Message #2

### Joel 2:12-13 TURNING POINTS IN LIFE

#### **Introduction:**

There are a number of turning points in one's life. (When one begins school, graduates, enters the military, gets married, changes jobs, retires and many others.)

In our text Joel warns the people of Israel of judgments from God and calls for the people to turn to God in repentance. He said that God is gracious and merciful and hates to punish men for their wrong doing. But He will punish if one does not repent and surrender his will to God.

In this message I will refer to various Bible characters and point out some of the turning points in their lives.

#### **I. Adam**

- A. If any man ever had it made, it was Adam.
  - 1. He had virtually a heaven on earth.
  - 2. He had no pain, no sorrow, no sickness, no debts and no trouble of any kind.
  - 3. He had nothing but blessings and bliss.
  - 4. If he had never sinned, it would have remained that way forever.
- B. But Adam came to a turning point.
  - 1. He ate the forbidden fruit.
  - 2. The curse of death came upon him.
  - 3. The poison of that fruit entered his body and the poison of sin entered into his soul.
  - 4. He who could have lived happily forever faced doom. (He faced death and he faced the fires of hell after death.)
- C. But thanks be to God, another turning point came.
  - 1. God came calling upon him. (He called him to repentance, to faith and to salvation.)
  - 2. At first Adam tried to run from God and hide from God.
  - 3. But then he turned to God and was saved. (He was clothed with the skin of an animal which symbolized his salvation.)
- D. Isn't God good and gracious and merciful just as Joel told the Children of Israel that He is?

#### **II. Saul of Tarsus**

- A. A turning point came in Saul's life when Stephen was stoned.
  - 1. He kept the coats of those who stoned Stephen.
  - 2. He was so inflamed with hate for Christians that he soon became a fierce persecutor of Christians. (He breathed out threatenings and wrought havoc in their lives. He imprisoned, killed or scattered almost all the Christians in and around Jerusalem.)
  - 3. He even pursued them to other cities.
- B.. Then another turning point came.
  - 1. A light from heaven struck him to the ground.
  - 2. He saw someone in heaven.
  - 3. He cried out, "Who art thou Lord?"
  - 4. He was told, "I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest."
  - 5. He trusted Jesus as his Savior. (Later when someone asked him how to be saved he said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." He said that because

- that is the way he got saved.)
- 6. He asked Jesus, "What would you have me to do?"
- 7. He surrendered to do the will of Jesus.
- 8. He was then baptized and gave his life in service to Jesus Christ.
- C. Is not God gracious and merciful as Joel has said?

### **III. The thief on the cross**

- A. A turning point came in his life when he stole his first item. (He would steal again.)
  - 1. He probably had stolen many things before he got caught.
  - 2. But eventually he got caught and was sentenced death by crucifixion.
- B. It was after he was nailed to a cross that another turning point came in his life.
  - 1. He was crucified side by side with Jesus.
  - 2. He came to see Jesus as being more than just another man being crucified.
  - 3. He now saw Jesus as being the King of a great spiritual kingdom.
  - 4. He cried out to Jesus and asked for mercy. (He said, "Remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.")
  - 5. Jesus saved his soul and assured him that before the day was over, they would be together in Paradise (heaven).
- C. Is not God gracious and merciful just as Joel has said that He is?

### **IV. Those of us who are saved**

- A. A turning point came when we realized that we were guilty before God and stood in need of being saved.
  - 1. Like Adam and like all other men we faced death at any time.
  - 2. Like Adam and like all other men we faced the fires of hell.
  - 3. It was then that we cried out to God for mercy through the Lord Jesus Christ and asked Jesus Christ to save us.
  - 4. When we trusted Jesus Christ to save us He saved us, Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:13, John 3:18..
  - 5. Is not God gracious and merciful just as Joel has said that He is?
- B. After we were saved there was another turning point in our lives.
  - 1. The Bible called upon us to follow Jesus in scriptural baptism. (Just as the Lord had called upon Saul of Tarsus to be baptized.)
  - 2. The Bible also calls upon us to give our lives in submission to the will of God.
  - 3. Is not God gracious and merciful just as Joel has said that He is?

### **Conclusion:**

- 1. There are some of us who have already trusted Jesus as Savior and we have already committed ourselves to serve Him.
- 2. There may be some of you who are already saved who are at a turning point. You are already aware that you need to surrender your life to the Lord in some particular way. He has been patient with you and merciful to wait for you to surrender to His will. Won't you surrender to Him now?
- 3. There must surely be some of you who know that you need to be saved, but you have never called on Jesus and trusted Him to save your soul. Through the Holy Bible and through the Holy Spirit God has long been calling for you to trust Jesus and be saved. Won't you call on Jesus now and trust in Him to save your soul?

Joel 2:28-29 **THE OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**Introduction:**

Joel is to the Old Testament what the book of Revelation is to the New Testament. In our study let us first climb up a high mountain and through the writings of Joel let us look into the future of Judah as Joel saw it. (1) We plagues of locusts.(2) We see an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. (3) We see signs in heaven and earth. (4) We see the Valley of Jehoshaphat. (5) We see the millennium.

**I. The difficulties involving the text**

- A. We see a difficulty involving the expression, “...*the last days.*”
  - 1. Joel literally said, “afterward,” meaning after the plagues of locusts.
  - 2. The Apostle Peter quotes from the Septuagint in Acts 2:17 saying “*in the last days.*”
  - 3. Yet Peter said that the prophecy was fulfilled on Pentecost about 2000 years ago.
  - 4. The answer is that “in the last days” simply means “in the later days” and that Pentecost was much later than the days of Joel.
- B. Another difficulty is in the expression “*upon all flesh.*”
  - 1. This certainly does not mean upon every person.
  - 2. But it does mean upon all nationalities and kindreds, including the Gentiles.
  - 3. Yet on that particular Pentecost to which Peter referred the Holy Spirit came only on the Jewish people.
  - 3. The difficulty is answered in that the Holy Spirit was to abide on the local church and soon there would be many local churches which included Gentiles in their membership. (Thus upon all nationalities)

**II. The prophecy and its fulfillment**

- A. On the Day of Pentecost following the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of Jesus this prophecy was fulfilled, Acts 2:1-8, 16. (The Holy Spirit came upon the church at Jerusalem.)
- B. The sign to the Jews that the prophecy was fulfilled was the miraculous understanding of the Galileans in other tongues or languages, Acts 2:6-8. (The Galileans spoke in their native Galilean language, but the listeners heard what they said in their own native language, Acts 2:6--8.)
- C. Other miraculous signs were to follow, Joel 2:28-29; I Cor. 12:1, 5, 8-11. (These miracles were not the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy, but they were signs of the fulfillment.)
- D. The signs would be discontinued, II Cor. 13:8-13. (But the work of the Holy Spirit through the churches would continue,.)
- E. Thus, the real fulfillment of the prophecy was the opening up of the gospel to the Gentiles, Acts 1:8. (In this the Holy Spirit was poured out on “all flesh.”)

**III. The importance of the prophecy today**

- A. Today its importance is not that it helped the people of Judah to understand the future, although it did. .
- B. Its importance today is not even that it helps us to understand the past, although it does.
- C. Its importance today is that it helps us to understand the preaching of the gospel.
  - 1. The preaching of the gospel is to be to all nations, Mark 1;6:15. (It is not to be

preached exclusively to the Jews. Nor is it to be exclusively to the Gentiles. It is to be preached to all nationalities.)

2. The power of the gospel is not in man, but in God. (If one will repent and trust Jesus he will be born again.)

**Conclusion:**

The tugging at your heartstrings urging you to trust the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved is the Holy Spirit of God. God does not want you to go to hell. He wants you to trust Jesus Christ and be saved.

Message #4

Joel 2:30-31 **SIGNS OF ARMAGEDDON**

### **Introduction:**

Did you ever put your hand to your head and discover blood? Did you ever suddenly discover the room filled with fire or smoke? These things should excite one to action. God has given these very things as signs of Armageddon.

Wonders let us know that these are no ordinary run-of-the-mill events. Armageddon will be no ordinary run-of-the-mill war. These are “*signs, wonders.*” But they are not the same kind of wonders as were performed by the apostles.

### **I. The sign of blood, V. 30**

A. There has already been some blood. (When Cain slew Abel; murder and war; plagues in Egypt)

B. But just before Armageddon there will be much blood. :(A blood-red horse. Rev. 6:4, followed by a pale horse, Rev. 6:8; one-third of sea becomes blood, Rev. 8:8-9; again Rev. 16:3; Rivers and fountains become blood, Rev. 16:4-6; the Two Witnesses turn water to blood, Rev. 11:6.

### **II. The sign of fire and smoke, V. 30.**

A. There have been fires before. (Rome, Chicago)

B But just before Armageddon there will be great fire and smoke. (Fire with blood and hail, Rev. 8:7; a mountain of fire cast into the seas, Rev. 8:8; thus smoke; smoke out of the Bottomless Pit, Rev. 9:1-5. )

### **III. The sign of the darkened sun and blood-red moon, V. 31**

A. A. The smoke from the fires and the pit are enough to darken the sun and discolor the moon, Rev. 9:2.

B. But the wonders are not from the smoke only, Rev. 8:12 (There is no mention of smoke in this verse.)

C. The prophecy of Joel is explained by John, Rev. 6:12-17.

### **IV. The harshness of the signs**

A. These things are harsh. (Some people say that they are too harsh.)

B. But they are God's way of getting man's attention, which He had not been able to do by His word

1. It reminds one of the story of the man who hit his mule between the eyes with a club. When asked why he did that, he said, “It was just to get his attention.”

2. It also reminds me of a hooded stick-up man who shot the clerk in a fast food restaurant. (The clerk thought the man in the hood was one of his friends trying to pull a joke on him. The shot convinced him otherwise.)

### **Conclusion:**

Do not wait until God has to beat you over the head to get your attention. Surrender your will to Him now while He still calls softly and tenderly.

## Message #5

### Joel 3:1-2, 9-14 THE VALLEY OF JEHOSEPHAT

#### **Introduction:**

This is the valley where Jehovah will bring judgment upon Israel and the world by means of war. Joel foresaw the future for Judah. In this text he foresaw The Armageddon War and the Valley of Jehoshaphat. This valley is northeast of Jerusalem. Armageddon is farther north, but the Armageddon War involves both places.

#### **I. Two things in the prophecy other than the war**

- A. Judah would be scattered among the nations of the world, V. 2.
  - 1. Joel lived in a day when neither kingdom of Israel had fallen.
  - 2. Probably none imagined that either of the two kingdoms would fall.
  - 3. Joel prophesied that they both would fall and they did. (First the northern kingdom fell and then the southern. The final scattering of the Jews would not come until 70 A. D.)
- B. Judah would be restored after her fall, V. 1.
  - 1. Prior to World War I a few families began to drift back to their homeland.
  - 2. During World War I the Jews returned in great numbers. 2.
  - B. By the 1940s there were enough who had returned to declare themselves to be a nation. (This they did in 1946.)

#### **II. The main prophecy: war in the holy land**

- A. The armies of the world will gather to the holy land to war against the Jews, V. 2.
- B. Other prophets later foretold the same war, Ezek. 38:14-16; Zech. 14:1-2; Rev. 16:13, 14, 16.
- C. This war will last for 3 ½ years and will be scattered throughout the holy land.
  - 1. Half of Jerusalem will fall and half will stand, Zech. 14:2.
  - 2. Most other Jews will flee into the wilderness in an effort to survive, Rev. 12: 14.
- D. The war will climax with the coming of Jesus who will judge the enemy, Zech. 14:4; Joel 3:9-14.
  - 1. It will be the greatest tragedy since the fall of Adam into sin.
  - 2. More people will die in this war than in many wars combined.

#### **III. The great tragedy of it all**

- A. It is tragic for even one man to die.
- B. It is tragic for so many to die at one time.
- C. But the real tragedy is that they die without Christ as their Savior and they will go to hell.
- D. An even greater tragedy is that every man in all the world and in every age who dies without Christ will go to hell.

#### **Conclusion:**

Men, women, boys and girls of our own community will go to hell. Perhaps some of you right now are still in danger of going to hell. I bring you good news. If you will repent of your sin and trust

Jesus now to be your Savior, you will not go to hell. You will go to heaven. Rom. 10:13, John 3:16; Acts 16:31.

## Message #6

### Joel 3:16-17 THE LORD, THE HOPE OF ISRAEL

#### **Introduction:**

Joel foresaw the millennium as the time of exalting for Israel. Therefore, he saw the second coming of Jesus as the hope for Israel.

#### **I. The Lord, Israel's hope of survival for the nation**

- A. The second coming of Jesus is Israel's hope of survival. (Israel's hope of survival is not to be found in her military might nor in making treaties with her enemies.)
  - 1. Very few Jews have believed in Jesus as the Messiah.
  - 2. The apostles did and the other disciples did: (On Pentecost following the ascension of Jesus about 3000 did. Later about 5000 did. Still others did also.)
  - 3. Even today a few do, but only a very few.
- B. Jesus is not their hope in the sense that they are hoping for His return. (They are not. They are still looking for the first coming of the Christ.)
- C. The very existence of Israel as a nation and as a people is threatened.
  - 1. Masses of people throughout the world have a bitter hatred of Jews.
  - 2. At least one world leader has openly declared that his aim is to destroy Israel.
  - 3. Militant groups in numerous nations also have the destruction of Israel as one of their chief objectives.
- D. The Anti-Christ will gather forces from around the world to come against Israel for the purpose of utterly destroying Israel as a nation and taking over her land.
- E. The Lord Jesus Christ will be Israel's only hope of survival, V. 16.
  - 1. He will return to the world, Acts 1:11.
  - 2. He will rule from Zion, V. 17.
  - 3. He will rule from the hill where David's throne formally was.
  - 4. He will rule from the temple site where Jehovah was worshiped in olden days.

#### **II. The Lord is the hope of Israel for material blessings**

- A. It is characteristic of men to seek material blessing. (This is especially so concerning the Israelites.)
- B. The millennium will be a time of greatest prosperity for Israel, V. 18.
- C. This prophecy is to be taken literally.
  - 1. The fountain from the house of God is to be real, Ezek. 47:1.
  - 2. The abundant production of grapes will be real.
  - 3. The abundant growth of grass and production of milk will be real.
- D. Yet this prophecy illustrates a greater truth: All blessings flow from from the throne of God.

#### **III. The Lord is the hope of Israel for vengeance**

- A. One of the strongest desires of the Jews is for vengeance upon those who have wronged them.
  - 1. David took vengeance on those who wronged Israel in the time of Moses.
  - 2. Egypt and Edom were prime enemies in the time of Joel, V. 19.

B. The desolation of these illustrate that the Lord will avenge Israel of all her enemies.

#### **IV. The Lord Jesus is the hope of Israel for eternity**

A. This overall prophecy is primarily about the millennium.

B. But verse 20 extends beyond the millennium.

1. It goes beyond the melting of the elements.
2. The old Jerusalem will melt with the old world.
3. But the New Jerusalem will last forever.

#### **V. The Lord Jesus Christ is the hope of Israel for cleansing**

A. the Lord will cleanse them from all guilt ---even from the guilt of bloodshed, V . 21.

1. They have shed much blood, even the blood of Jesus.

2. It is ironic that His blood which they have shed is the only blood which can cleanse them from sin, I John 1:1.

B. None can cleanse from sin but Jesus, Acts 4:12.

1. Jews who reject Jesus will go to hell even as do all others who reject Him, John 3:18, 36.

2. All who will trust Him for salvation will be cleansed, John 3:16; Rom. 10:13.

#### **VI. The Lord Jesus Christ, the hope of all mankind**

A. Jesus is he only hope for any man. .

B. He is the only hope of forgiveness of sin.

C. He is the only hope of staying out of hell.

D. He is the only hope of going to heaven.

1. Those who reject Him are without God and without hope.

2. Those who trust Him have a sure hope that will not fail.

#### **Conclusion:**

If you have never trusted Him to save your soul, do so now. If you have already trusted Him to be your Savior, then commit yourself to worship Him and serve Him.