

Repentance and Restoration

Joel 2

“Like Israel in Joel’s day, believer’s today also need a broad perspective to show them that the pass judgment of God against sin was evidenced in the cross and that future judgment will come at the end of the age. Until then, believers are to live in full remembrance of God’s hatred towards sin, which cost his Son great suffering and will cost unbelievers an eternity of anguish. How much does God hate sin and want people to return to him? Enough to take the life of his dear Son, to bring judgment upon the world at the end of the age, and to proclaim eternal rewards for the faithful and suffering for the faithless. The judgments on the cross and in eternity are not to be seen only as far in the past and far into the future without present implications. They are to be seen as God’s present call to people to repent and live with him in holy fellowship. The book of Joel teaches its readers to be mindful of both the past and future judgments now, and encourages them to fill the present with God’s presence and to live to please him.”
Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary

- I. It is good for those of us who are followers of Jesus Christ to be reminded from time to time that we must keep ourselves ready for his **imminent** return. In fact, the life choices we make and how we live our lives should show that we are keeping watch, knowing that God will deal with the wickedness of this world soon. Jesus himself cautions us by saying, “So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him” (Matt. 24:44).

2 Peter 3:3-7

2 Peter 3:10-13

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 *16For the LORD himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the LORD in the air. And so we will be with the LORD forever. 18Therefore encourage one another with these words.*

- II. In Joel 2, the prophet turns from describing the devastation of the locust invasion and what it did to the land, its commerce, food supply and worship, to what the "**Day of the Lord**" will mean when God invades **the whole world** with his wrath against sin. He likens it to an army doing battle with wickedness. Like the literal locust invasion that devastated the land of Israel, God's wrath will thoroughly devastate everything in its path. There is no force either physical or supernatural, that can prevent or overcome it.

Joel 2:1-11

Amos 5:18-20

Rev. 8:12

Rev. 6:17

Ezek. 18:32

- III. The "**Day of the Lord**" is meant to draw all of Israel to repentance and salvation. The people will respond by rending their hearts as they fast, weep and mourn over their sin. God will respond with grace, compassion and love to where all of Israel will be saved (Rom. 11:25-27). During that time, there will be a tremendous outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon Israel to usher in the millennial reign of Jesus Christ. The Messiah will sit on his throne in Jerusalem as King over all mankind, ruling with perfect righteousness and justice. The offer of salvation is for Jew and Gentile alike. Joel says, "*everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*"

Joel 2:12-32

Ezek. 18:32

Exodus 34:6-7

Rev. 11:3-4

Rev. 16:9-11

Zech. 12:9-10

Rom. 11:25-27

Rev. 19:19

Rom. 8:21-22

Hosea 5:15-6:3

"It will strike you at once that the locusts did not eat the years: the locusts ate the fruits of the years' labor, the harvests of the fields; so that the meaning of the restoration of the years must be the restoration of those fruits and of those harvests which the locusts consumed. You cannot have back your time; but there is a strange and wonderful way in which God can give back to you the wasted blessings, the unripened fruits of years over which you mourned. The fruits of wasted years may yet be yours." (Spurgeon)