

JOEL – CHAPTERS 2:28- 3:21 – God’s Spirit Poured Out; God Judges the Nations; God Blesses His People

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

Events prophesied in Joel:

830BC -- The year of the locusts

586 BC - The Day of the Lord – Judgment of Judah by Babylonians

33AD - The Day of Pentecost –beginning of outpouring of the Spirit

70 AD – The Day of the Lord -- judgment by the Romans

???Soon – The Beginning of the Great Tribulation

7 years later – The end of the Great Tribulation

1000 year period following - The Millennial Reign of Christ!
Other prophets/Books quoting same thing:

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Amos, Micah, Nahum, Matthew, Acts, Revelation

+God’s Spirit Poured Out

Joe 2:28 "And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.

Joe 2:29 And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

Joe 2:30 "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke.

Joe 2:31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

Joe 2:32 And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.

Acts 2:16 - Now Jesus told His disciples, “Wait for the promise of the Father, that I talked to you about”. No doubt, this promise of the Father that He had talked to them about, was this promise in Joel. That, “In the last days, I’ll pour out my Spirit upon all flesh”. The reason why I say that, is that when the Holy Spirit then did descend upon the waiting believers, the early church, and the multitudes that were in Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost, when they heard the sound perhaps, of the mighty rushing wind, they, they came to the place where the disciples were being filled with the Spirit. They wondered what was going on! They said, “What is, what is happening! What’s, what’s going on here? Are not all of these people Galileans, and yet we hear them praising God, and declaring the glorious works of God in our own languages! What does this mean?” Some suggested that they had gotten hold of some wine, and they were all pretty drunk.

v. 28 Having stated the outward blessings that would follow repentance, Joel unveils the extraordinary spiritual blessings that were in store. “**Act 2:16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: Act 2:17 'AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THE LAST DAYS, SAYS GOD, THAT I....**

As a believer you have the Holy Spirit. Does the Holy Spirit have you? – the coming “upon” Acts 1:8

v. 29 Men servants and maidservants should partake of the gifts and grace of the Spirit in great, abundance; and many of them were effectually called by grace, through the ministry of the word; and some servants became ministers of it; all which appears from 1Co 7:21;

v. 30 Wonders - They who read what historians report of these times, will see this fulfilled in the very letter. *Blood* - Possibly eruption of blood, as some fountains have been reported to have run with blood, prefiguring the great effusion of blood by the sword, and wars following. *Fire* - Either breaking out of the earth, or lightning in the air. *Mt. 24:29*

v. 31 The sun - Having mentioned the prodigies which were to be wrought on earth, he now specifies what shall be done in heaven. *The awesome day* - The unholy day of the destruction of Jerusalem; typifying the day of judgment.

v. 32 The Day of the Lord - The greatest revival in the history of the world will occur in the Day of the Lord! – Rev. chapter 7 - 144,000 Jewish Billy Grahams! Rev. chapter 14 – angels flying overhead!

Whoever calls - Who hearing the gospel repents and believes in Christ.

deliverance - Either from those outward afflictions, or which is infinitely better from eternal miseries, which will swallow up the unbelieving world; "and it will aggravate the ruin of those who perish, that they might have been saved on such easy terms." Is it then easy for a non - elect to repent and believe? May he not as easily pull the sun out of the firmament? *In Mount Zion* - In the true church typified by Zion. Jerusalem - In mystical Jerusalem, the church and the city of the Messiah. Deliverance - Temporal and eternal. *Whom the LORD calls* - To believe in Christ, and by him to wait for eternal life.

JOEL 2:27-31: - *Matthew 24, Luke 21, and Revelation 6-19* speak exactly of what verses 30 & 31 describe. During the 7 year Tribulation, that God judges a Christ-rejecting world—these sign will be seen on earth—specifically by the people of Israel. We see in verses 27-29, even as the Tribulation comes down, so does the Holy Spirit. We live in the time of the Gentiles, the Church Age. But the church is going to be raptured in the day of Jesus Christ. Then the day of the Lord will dawn. As God begins to judge, He’ll pour out His Spirit particularly on the nation of Israel. That’s why Paul would declare in Romans 11:26 that all Israel will be saved. The Jews who are now blinded to the fact that Jesus Christ is Messiah, will have their eyes opened at that time. **What a glorious day that will be!** That is the ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy, but the fulfillment began in Acts 2 on the Day of Pentecost. The disciples had seen the resurrected Jesus Christ. They had spoken with Him. He had made Himself known to them. But when He ascended into heaven, the disciples at the time must have wondered, “What now?” They were believers. They had the Holy Spirit inside of them, for we read in John 20 that Jesus had gathered them around Him, breathed on the, and said, “**Receive the Holy Spirit.**” They were born again at that moment. The Spirit indwelt them. But yet they were not a radical, on-fire group of believers, for before He ascended, Jesus told them to **go to Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the Father, for the Holy Spirit to come upon them (Luke 24:49)**. In other words, although the Holy Spirit was already in them, they were to wait for Him to come upon them. So they went to Jerusalem. They prayed behind closed doors. After ten days-on the day of Pentecost—Acts 2 tells us there was the sound of a might, rushing wind. There were flames of fire seen on the heads of each one of them. They began to speak in other tongues, praising God, magnifying the Lord. They were worshiping and praising God to the point that people on the street began say they are drunk.” But Peter said, “These men are not drunk as you suppose. **This is that prophesied by Joel 2:28. The fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy began at Pentecost. But its fullness will only be seen after the Rapture of the church. Pentecost was the initiation. The Tribulation will be the completion.**”

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God Judges the Nations

Joe 3:1 "For behold, in those days and at that time, When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem,

Joe 3:2 I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land.

Joe 3:3 They have cast lots for My people, Have given a boy as payment for a harlot, And sold a girl for wine, that they may drink.

Joe 3:4 "Indeed, what have you to do with Me, O Tyre and Sidon, and all the coasts of Philistia? Will you retaliate against Me? But if you retaliate against Me, Swiftly and speedily I will return your retaliation upon your own head;

Joe 3:5 Because you have taken My silver and My gold, And have carried into your temples My prized possessions.

Joe 3:6 Also the people of Judah and the people of Jerusalem You have sold to the Greeks, That you may remove them far from their borders.

Joe 3:7 "Behold, I will raise them Out of the place to which you have sold them, And will return your retaliation upon your own head.

Joe 3:8 I will sell your sons and your daughters Into the hand of the people of Judah, And they will sell them to the Sabeans, To a people far off; For the LORD has spoken."

Joe 3:9 Proclaim this among the nations: "Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men, Let all the men of war draw near, Let them come up.

Joe 3:10 Beat your plowshares into swords And your pruning hooks into spears; Let the weak say, 'I am strong.' "

Joe 3:11 Assemble and come, all you nations, And gather together all around. Cause Your mighty ones to go down there, O LORD.

v. 1 *In those days* - When I shall by Cyrus bring Judah out of Babylon. *Of Judah* - As the type of the whole remnant that are saved. *And Jerusalem* - For beside what refers to the two tribes restored by Cyrus, the bringing back the captivity of the whole Israel of God by Christ is to be considered all along through this chapter.

v. 2 *All nations* - In the type it is all those nations that have oppressed Judah, in the anti - type, all nations that have been enemies to Christ and the church. *to the valley of Jehoshaphat* ("Jehovah judges" - the valley of judgment!) - I will debate my people's cause, and do them right in the midst of my church, signified by the valley of Jehoshaphat. *Divided up My land* - Such is the injustice of the persecutors of the church now, and so God will judge them in due time.

v. 3 *Cast lots* - It was customary with conquerors to divide the captives by lot, and so did these enemies of the Jews.

v. 4 *Indeed* - Have I done you any wrong, which you avenge upon my people? Or do you begin to violate the laws of neighborhood and friendship, and think to escape? Do ye think you have to do with a poor oppressed people, my people, and I nothing concerned at it? *Philistia* - On which were towns of trade, and merchants that bought and sold these captives. *A retaliation* - Have I or my people so dealt with you? And if - If you will deal thus, I will speedily avenge myself and my people of you.

v. 5 *Taken* - Either as part of the spoil, or as part of your pay. *My silver* - Silver and gold vessels dedicated to my service.

v. 6 *Remove them* - That there might be no hope of their return to their country.

v. 7 *I will raise them* - This was fulfilled when Alexander, and his successors dismissed all the Jews that were slaves in Greece, and gave them leave to return to their own country.

v. 8 *And I will sell* - Give them up into the hands of the Jews. **Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. "Sabeans" - The Sabeans were like the Phoenicians, a wealthy merchant people, and, of old, united with them in the trade of the world, the Sabeans sending forth their fleets across the Indian Ocean**

v. 9 *This* - These things which I will do to the enemies of God's people. *The nations* - The Assyrians, Chaldeans, and Grecians successively. Prepare war - Make ready for wars against the enemies of my people.

v. 10 *In the Tribulation period-prepare for war! I am strong* - Put on strength and valor; let none be absent from this war.

v. 11 *gather together all around* - All round about Judah. *Down there* - Toward Jerusalem; the church and heritage of God. *mighty ones* - All those mighty warriors whom thou wilt make use of successively to punish the oppressors of thy church. **The mighty ones are being called down – the prayer being uttered by the people to the Lord, who will come with 10,000s of His saints! He will be coming as a conquering King!!!!**

JOEL 3:1-3: Here the Lord declares that, in the day of the Lord, He will judge all nations on the basis of how they treated His people-including those who sold Jewish boy and girls into slavery and used the money to indulge their flesh. This has happened throughout history. In A.D. 70, the Roman general, Titus, killed one and a half millions Jews and sold thousand into slavery in a three-month period alone. In our own day, there has been the horror of the holocaust of World War II. But the Lord will one day bring all nations to the valley of Jehoshaphat where they will answer to Him. In Matthew 25, we read that at the end of the Tribulation, when the seven year period of judgment is over and before the world is ushered into the 1,000 years of peace in the millennium, God will call all of the nations together to judge them. In the Valley of Jehoshaphat, the Lord will determine which people will be allowed to go into the Millennium. What will be the measure? How they treated the Jews in the day of Tribulation. Those who cared for them, stood by the, and watched over them will be allowed to come into the kingdom. Those who ignored them, who didn't care about them will be cast into hell itself. Why will I that be the criterion? Because when the Jews recognize Jesus as their Messiah midway through the Tribulation, anti-christ will wage war against them. Therefore, any nation or individual who stands with them placed his own life in jeopardy for the cause of Christ. On the other hand, this gathering of the nations could refer to the final battle, the battle of Armageddon. We know that this brutal, bloody battle in which all of the nations of the world will converge in Israel will be in the valley of Megiddo. This valley is big enough for the nations of the world to converge in battle (up to a billion people could be amassed there.). **But suddenly, when things look hopeless for Israel, Jesus will appear.** Thus, whether this passage refers to the battle of Armageddon or to the judgment of Matthew 25, **the enemies of God's people will definitely be judged.** So this could refer to the judgment in the valley of Jehoshaphat or to the Battle of Armageddon **or to both!**

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Joe 3:12 "Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations.

Joe 3:13 Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; For the winepress is full, The vats overflow— For their wickedness is great."

Joe 3:14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

Joe 3:15 The sun and moon will grow dark, And the stars will diminish their brightness.

Joe 3:16 The LORD also will roar from Zion, And utter His voice from Jerusalem; The heavens and earth will shake; But the LORD will be a shelter for His people, And the strength of the children of Israel.

Joe 3:17 "So you shall know that I am the LORD your God, Dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, And no aliens shall ever pass through her again."

God Blesses His People

Joe 3:18 And it will come to pass in that day That the mountains shall drip with new wine, The hills shall flow with milk, And all the brooks of Judah shall be flooded with water; A fountain shall flow from the house of the LORD And water the Valley of Acacias.

Joe 3:19 "Egypt shall be a desolation, And Edom a desolate wilderness, Because of violence against the people of Judah, For they have shed innocent blood in their land.

Joe 3:20 But Judah shall abide forever, And Jerusalem from generation to generation.

Joe 3:21 For I will acquit them of the guilt of bloodshed, whom I had not acquitted; For the LORD dwells in Zion.

v. 12 The nations - The several nations in their appointed time, perhaps the Assyrians first under Salmaneser, next under Sennacherib, both of whom came up to the valley of Jehoshaphat. *For there* - In the midst of My people to plead with, condemn and punish the heathen round about Judea.

v. 13 *Put in the sickle* - The destruction of his enemies is represented here under the metaphor of reaping down the harvest; and of gathering the grapes, and treading them in the wine-presses. **Rev. 14:18**

v. 14 "Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision." **Will I follow the Lord, or will I live after the flesh, and follow my own fleshly desires? Decisions that each of us make for ourselves.** The day of vengeance. May they decide for You!!!

vs. 15-17 Jerusalem is still being trodden down by Gentiles. The Garden Tomb was so crowded with tourists the last time we were there that we could not get into it. It was not Jews who were there, but it was Gentiles from all over the world—tourists coming and going all the time. The day is coming when the Garden Tomb will not be the tourist attraction in Jerusalem. Someday the Lord Himself will be there! [In Revelation, chapter ten, "As He comes with the open scroll, one foot upon the earth, one foot upon the sea, and roaring as a lion." Triumphant, victorious!] Now we move into the time of the Kingdom—

v. 18 *The mountains - The vines planted upon the mountains. Shall flow - So fruitful shall the hills be, that milk shall abound every where. A fountain - The prophet alludes to those waters which were conveyed from some spring through conduit pipes towards the altar. This no doubt is a shadow of the purifying blood of Christ, and his sanctifying spirit and word.* And in that it is said to come from the house of the Lord, it intimates that this saving grace shall be first preached from Jerusalem, and by the church, which is the house of God, shall be published to others. *Acacias*- Was a place in the plains of Moab. These spiritual waters shall flow down to the dry and thirsty, the barren and fruitless Gentiles, and make them fruitful.

v. 19 *Egypt* - By Egypt we may understand all the enemies of the church who carry it toward the church, as Egypt carried it toward Israel. Edom - Edom was an implacable enemy to Judah in his greatest distress. And all who come under Edom's character are here threatened under this name. *Judah* - The people of God.

vs. 20- 21 " *For I will acquit them of the guilt of bloodshed, whom I had not acquitted* "—the Lord has not yet moved in their behalf. " *For the LORD dwells in Zion* "—He doesn't dwell there today. Jerusalem is as pagan and heathen as any city on topside of the earth, but the day is coming when the Lord will dwell there. Then we will see all these things fulfilled. We would need to see Christ Himself there to say that these things are being fulfilled today. But that is not where we see Him, for at this very moment He is at God's right hand. It is my prayer that we might be continually conscious of Him and have the reality of His presence in our lives.

JOEL 3:20-21:

The Lord will cleanse the blood of Judah.

In Zechariah 12, we see the meaning of this: **Zec 12:9-10** *It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. [10] "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.*

In that day, God's people will look at Jesus – the One whom they have pierced – and they will at last realize what He did for them. They'll mourn over the fact that they rejected Him. In that day, they'll see Him and embrace Him. They'll be cleansed and forgiven. All of Israel will be saved – *Romans 11:26-27* And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "THE DELIVERER WILL COME OUT OF ZION, AND HE WILL TURN AWAY UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB; [27] FOR THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS."

Oh what a glorious day that will be!!!!

The Lord coming to dwell there in Jerusalem, to establish the kingdom of God upon the earth. So, interesting, fascinating prophecies by Joel, that will soon be coming to pass. I mean we're gearing up for it now. We're right at the time of the fulfillment of Joel, is my conviction. I really believe that we are right there.

The time to make your decision is now. The time to seek the Lord with all of your heart, is now. Time to call upon God is now. The time to be filled with the Spirit, and to walk in the Spirit, is now. I surely don't want to be around, when the judgment of God begins to fall upon this earth. As Jesus described events of the great tribulation, in Luke, twenty one, He said, "Pray ye always that you'll be accounted worthy to escape all these things that are going to come to pass upon the earth, that you might be standing before the Son of Man".

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<p><u>O GOD OUR HELP IN AGES PAST –</u> London Philharmonic/Vocal Masters</p> <p><i>1 Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:</i></p> <p><i>2 Beneath the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure; sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.</i></p> <p><i>3 Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame, from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.</i></p> <p><i>4 A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone, short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.</i></p> <p><i>5 Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all our years away; they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.</i></p> <p><i>6 O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, be thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.</i></p>		<p>That’s my prayer. Lord, I don’t want to be around here when it happens, I want to be up there, standing before the throne of God, rejoicing as the Lamb takes the scroll out of the right hand, of Him who sits upon the throne. I want to be among those who are just singing, “O worthy is the Lamb to take the scroll, and loose the seals! For He has redeemed us by His blood out of every nation, tribe, tongue, and people, and made unto our God kings, and priests, and we’re going to reign with Him on the earth”! That’s where I want to be! I’ve decided to follow Jesus, to let Him be the Lord of my life, in order that I might be with Him, in His glorious kingdom. His eternal kingdom. Your choice, your decision. It’s your call. You’re the one that decides for you, your destiny, your future. The valley of decision, multitudes in the valley of decision. What will your choice be?</p> <p>Lord there are thousands in the valley of decision. This could be the crucial night when the die is cast. This could be the crucial night when their eternal destiny is determined. They make their choice, one way or the other. Let the Spirit of God Father, just move upon our hearts. We thank You for Your Holy Spirit, you said that You pour out upon all flesh. Let Your Holy Spirit right now Father, speak to their hearts, and draw them unto that decision to follow Jesus. In His name we pray, Amen.</p>
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