

Joel 2

Salvation in the Day of the Lord

Text: Joel 2:28-32

Introduction:

1. God had promised that the seed of woman would crush the head of the serpent and the enemy of man would be defeated (Genesis 3:15).
2. He showed that this victory would include blessedness for all through the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).
3. This Victor would be a mediator (Job 19:23-27), a ruler (Genesis 49:10), a star (Numbers 24:17), a prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15-19), a priest (1 Samuel 2:35), and a king (1 Samuel 2:10) - ruling from the throne of David (1 Chronicles 17:11-14).
4. During the time of David, the "sweet psalmist of Israel" (2 Samuel 23:1) recorded many prophecies of Jesus in the Psalms.
5. In the writings of the prophets, much more detail about the coming Messiah was given.
6. Joel wrote so that man could find salvation in the Day of the Lord...

I. THE BACKGROUND

- A. Joel's name means, "Jehovah is God."
- B. He prophesied around 830 BC during the reign of Joash in Judah.
 1. Joel never mentions a king in his writing; instead, he addresses the priests.
 2. This fits with the period of the minority of Joash.
 3. Though he was seven years old when his reign began, a king did not come into his majority until he was sixteen (cf. 2 Chronicles 34:1-3).
 4. Thus, for nine years, Jehoiada the priest oversaw the government of Judah (cf. 2 Chronicles 24:1-2, 15-16).
 5. Jehoiada destroyed idolatry from the land and reinstated true worship of God (2 Chronicles 24:16-21).
 6. However, this restoration was only an outward show on the part of the people.
 7. Therefore, Joel preached to the nation the need for genuine repentance and true restoration (Joel 2:12-13).
- C. To illustrate the judgment of God, Joel used a very real and devastating plague of locusts.

II. THE BOOK (JOEL 1 - 3)

- A. Joel 1:1 - 2:17 - **Reminder of Judgment**
 1. The Locust Plague 1:1-12
 2. The Cry to God 1:13-20
 3. The Day of the Lord 2:1-11
 4. The Call to Repentance 2:12-17
- B. Joel 2:18 - 3:21 - **Hope for the Future**
 1. Blessings for the Faithful 2:18-32
 2. Punishment for the Wicked 3:1-17
 3. Promise of the Messiah 3:18-21

Prophecy of Jesus

- III. THE DAY OF THE LORD (JOEL 2:1-11)
- A. The Day of the Lord is first mentioned in 1:15 - as destruction from God.
 - B. Now in chapter 2, an alarm is raised and a warning is sounded for the Day of the Lord is near.
 - C. It is a day of darkness - hearkening back to the plague of darkness in Egypt and the appearance of God on Mount Sinai.
 - D. The army of locusts is described in symbolic terms to emphasize their destructive power.
 - E. Then, it is revealed that this plague is a work of the Lord.
 - 1. Apocalyptic language is used to describe the power of God when He comes in judgment.
 - 2. It is important to recognize this style of language because it will be used many times throughout the Scripture (cf. 2:30-31).
 - F. The phrase "the day of the Lord" will also be used many times to describe the coming of God in judgment upon men, nations, and - ultimately - the world.
- IV. THE PROPHECY OF SALVATION (JOEL 2:28-32)
- A. The word "afterward" looks forward to the time of the Messiah - the "last days" (Acts 2:17).
 - B. The phrase "all flesh" refers to both Jew and Gentile.
 - C. Verses 30 and 31 contain apocalyptic language that describes the coming judgment on those who reject the Spirit by disregarding His message (cf. 2:1-2; 3:15; Malachi 4:1-6).
 - D. There can be no question as to the interpretation and application of this passage for Peter said, "This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel" (Acts 2:16).
 - E. This passage is a prophecy about the Day of Pentecost and the power of God manifested in the establishment of the church.