

**Repent Now, the End is Here
And the Benefits Are out of This World! – God
Joel 2:18 – 29**

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Last time, we discussed the urgent call of the Lord for Judah to come together as a people and repent. Here is the good news, they did, this time. The cycle though will repeat again in the future with a different outcome when Babylon comes calling.

God promised that there would be consequences if repentance took place just as He also provided consequences if repentance did not take place. The Priests, this time, were obedient and prayed as instructed. The people humbled themselves and prayed.

What YAHWEH does now is outline what deliverance from their current and future situation would look like. In other words, repentance and obedience enables God to lavish His grace on Judah.

This is an important message for our culture today. God is asking those who know Him to repent and return, not those who are strangers. As a church in our culture today, we must hear what it is the Spirit is saying and take action to make sure we are walking with the Lord and not ignoring what it is He is saying to the church.

Revelation 3:19–20

“Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.” (ESV)

Not a lot has changed in over 2800 years, has it?

If we repent and return to the Lord placing Him first in the church in this nation, there are benefits. Amazingly, they are similar to what Joel outlines here for Judah.

Joel outlines the benefits that repentance brings, and it is much more than just a changed life. The impacts we will see for Judah are mind blowing and consistent with what we have already seen, some are for today, and some are to be added in, in the future.

The promise, which the Lord conveys to His people through the prophet in answer to the prayer of the priests, refers to the present and the future. (Keil and Delitzsch 1996, 133)

Joel 2:18–20

“Then the LORD will be zealous for His land, And will have compassion for His people. The LORD will answer and say to His people, “Behold, I am going to send you grain, new wine, and oil, And you will be satisfied in full with them; And I will never again make you a disgrace among the nations. But I will remove the northern army far from you, And I will drive it into a dry and desolate land, Its advance guard into the eastern sea, And its rear guard into the western sea. And its stench will ascend and its odor of decay will come up, Because it has done great things.” (NASB 2020)

The people have been obedient, they did what Joel, and the Lord have called them to do, and the Priests have led the way just as the Lord required. “They prayed that God would spare them, and see here with what good words and comfortable words he answered them; for God’s promises are real answers to the prayers of faith, because with him saying and doing are not two things.” (Henry 1994, 1498) Restoration begins.

Here is the thing that Judah is learning in this, experiencing judgement or discipline from God does not mean that God is through with you. God has disciplined His people because He loves them. “Judgment did not mean the end of God’s plans for His people. After the judgment, material and spiritual blessings were available for those who called on God’s name.” (Smith 1994, 237-238)

Discipline from the Lord does not mean He is done with us either. Do we fail? Yes, we do. Is He ready to forgive and restore? Absolutely.

1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (ESV)

He does not say if we justify our sins, excuse our sins or overlook our sins...but confess our sins. This is for those who have already expressed trust in Christ’s work on the cross.

Romans 8:1

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (ESV)

If we are in Christ, we belong to Him. He will make certain of finishing in us what He has already started and at times, discipline is in order. The path back, if we blow it, is not hard, and He has a promise for us.

Philippians 1:6

“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” (ESV)

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his is all new for those in Judah who just responded in obedience and repentance. For Judah, repentance means restoration for the people, the land and everything connected with the covenant. For many, this will be a brand-new experience.

Joel 2:18

“Then the LORD will be zealous for His land, And will have compassion for His people.” (NASB 2020)

As God begins to answer the prayer of the priests and the people, He also outlines His prophetic plan for them by giving a glimpse of the near future to include the beginning of the church age, (unknown to them) and the future Day of the Lord.

The people prayed to be spared, and God responds by becoming zealous for the land again. That means God intends to undo what the locusts have just done.

More than that, the language used here also points us to the end of the Tribulation. As we have already seen prophesied by Zechariah, when His people repent and ask for Messiah to save them, “then the Lord will be zealous for His land.”

This is serious bad news for the beast, the armies of the beast and all of those fallen divine beings who have totally different plans. Jesus, who had already won at the cross, signaled with His arrival the final mopping up process needed to take place as He takes over the planet.

Yes, when He returns, He does so with the intent to rule and reign from Jerusalem and the church is with Him. We have a few jobs to fill.

But for Satan, he is done. After being personally kicked out of the 2nd heaven by Michael the Archangel in Revelation 12:12 – 13, what would make Satan and his minions think they would ever have any chance at all against their own creator. But filled with pride and lying to himself, Satan believed he could secure a place in the universe to be like God. Satan begins by empowering the Beast and embracing genocide. Isaiah provided Satan’s announcement for us.

Isaiah 14:13–15

“You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit.” (ESV)

By lying to and using the Beast and his armies, Satan has moved into the physical realm from the unseen in his attempt to be like the most high, most notably by attempting to take the city God has stated will be His own and the place He has stated that He will dwell with men on...Zion.

On top of that, Satan is going to attempt to destroy all of God’s chosen people, the Jews. But when they pray, repenting and asking Him to rescue them, just like they did in Joel, Messiah shows up and begins reversing everything just like what was done by God in the past, post locust.

Joel 2:18

“Then the LORD will be zealous for His land, And will have compassion for His people.” (NASB 2020)

God is restoring the land from the locusts, as He will later from the Beast. Locust restoration is a type of the restoration after the Tribulation.

The Lord’s jealousy is His passionate loyalty toward what is His, a loyalty that prompts Him to lash out against anything that would destroy it (cf. Isa. 26:11; Ezek. 36:5–6; 38:19; Zech. 1:14; 8:2). (Chisholm, Jr. 1985, 1418)

For all of those who are on the side of the enemy...they will not have a good day. Because Jesus has returned as the avenger of blood, and He is operating in that role.

Zechariah 14:12–13

“This will be the plague with which the LORD inflicts all of the people who have attacked Jerusalem: he will cause their flesh to rot away, even while they’re standing on their feet. He will cause their eyes to rot away in their sockets, and their tongues to rot away in their mouths. At that time, they will be stricken with a terrible panic from the LORD. Everyone will attack each other.” (ISV)

God’s jealousy also implies that His people who have repented, have turned away from their sin and are now faithfully loyal to YAHWEH.

Joel 2:19a

“The LORD will answer and say to His people, “Behold, I am going to send you grain, new wine, and oil, And you will be satisfied in full with them;” (NASB 2020)

The Lord announces He personally is answering the prayers of His people Judah. He will restore the crops, the wine and the oil. In fact, they will have more than enough as He says “you will be satisfied in full with them.” From nothing to more than enough is a breathtaking promise.

The force of the word Behold, followed by the present continuous tense of the verb ‘send’, is to let the people know that God’s great reversal is already under way. They do not have to wait. What was destroyed, what had failed and languished, was being supplied in abundant measure. (Prior 1988, 64)

The divine response takes the form of word and deed; the word declares the imminence of the deed, like the earlier announcement concerning YHWH’s day. (Crenshaw 2008, 150)

The reversal is quick and with it comes not just enough food, wine and oil, but more than enough and continuous. The promise regarding the nations though is not part of this verse, but the next.

Joel 2:19b–20

“And I will never again make you a disgrace among the nations. But I will remove the northern army far from you, And I will drive it into a dry and desolate land, Its advance guard into the eastern sea, And its rear guard into the western sea. And its stench will ascend and its odor of decay will come up, Because it has done great things.” (NASB 2020)

Now we move from the current day of Joel, to a future day that has yet taken place.

We learned about this army that is used by God to discipline His people as well as judge the planet. Here we learn where the army is from which transfers us to the Day of the Lord.

It is this army from the north which was in the process of destroying God’s people as well as His city when His people pray, and Jesus shows up with all the armies of heaven with Him (Revelation 19:11 – 19).

Restoration will indeed take place when Messiah returns in the Day of the Lord as the avenger of blood, but the dealing with the army from the north once and for all, that is relegated solely to the Day of the Lord.

Again, normally locust swarms came from the south, not the north. But enemy armies, they came from the north for the most part. The use of the Hebrew term “northerner” here in the Hebrew eliminates this being about the locusts at this point as that is a term never used of locusts. The Targum clearly says this is a people and not bugs.

Joel 2:20

“I will remove the people who come from the north far from you, and I will drive them into a desolate and ruined land, their front to the eastern sea and their rear to the western sea; and the stench of them shall go up and the foul smell of them shall rise up. For they have done much evil.” (Cathcart, Maher and McNamara 1996, Joel 2:20)

The army being referred to here by Joel is huge. The advance guard of this army, in other words the forward leading elements including artillery, mortar and other various tactical air assets are located in the Dead Sea area. Behind this front line stretches out an army and its logistics train. It stretches all the way to the Mediterranean 52 miles away. More than likely with ships sitting in the Mediterranean providing support.

The size could be as large or larger than the north/south measurement of the Dead Sea which is 50 miles.

Where else have we seen such an army? Let's see, there is a reference in Ezekiel to a northern army, as well as in Daniel. Ut the sheer size and location of this army causes us to begin to think about the army from the north that we read about in Ezekiel. Gog and Magog, those guys.

It also makes us think about the Army of the willful king of Daniel 11. That one is clearly the army of the Beast.

Let's look at Ezekiel first.

"This is an army and it is one warned of in the scriptures as coming from the north. Whatever else one may make of the armies of Gog and Magog in Ezekiel, they are armies "from the far north" brought against Israel (38:15; 39:2). They are a vast horde that advances like a cloud (38:15–16) and schemes to assault Jerusalem and carry away plunder (38:10–14). They will fall in the slaughter of the day of the Lord. Birds and wild animals will eat their corpses, and the Israelites will be occupied for seven months with burying the dead and for seven years with burning the equipment. The burial ground will occupy "the valley of those who travel east toward the sea" and will be so extensive that it will block the passage through (39:1–20)." (Garrett 1997, 355)

The timing of the Gog Magog war is one that is subject to more than a little debate. Views as to the timing of this war include pre-rapture, post rapture but pre-tribulation (Day of the Lord), first half of the tribulation (Day of the Lord), another description of Armageddon (Day of the Lord) and at the end of the Millennium (Day of the Lord.) Or even a couple of them.

All but the first scenario fit in with what it is Joel is describing . "The "northerner," whatever it is, is certainly of enormous size, since it stretches from the "eastern sea" (the Dead Sea) to the "western sea" (the Mediterranean)—in other words, across the whole width of the southern Judaeian desert, which is the "parched and desolate land" the prophet refers to." (Barton 2011, 89)

Ezekiel 38:14–16

"Therefore, son of man, prophesy, and say to Gog, Thus says the Lord GOD: On that day when my people Israel are dwelling securely, will you not know it? You will come from your place out of the uttermost parts of the north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great host, a mighty army. You will come up against my people Israel, like a cloud covering the land. In the latter days I will bring you against my land, that the nations may know me, when through you, O Gog, I vindicate my holiness before their eyes." (ESV)

Ezekiel 39:11–16

"On that day I will give to Gog a place for burial in Israel, the Valley of the Travelers, east of the sea. It will block the travelers, for there Gog and all his multitude will be buried. It will be called the Valley of Hamon-gog. For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, in order to cleanse the land. All the people of the land will bury them, and it will bring them renown on the day that I show my glory, declares the Lord GOD. They will set apart men to travel through the land regularly and bury those travelers remaining on the face of the land, so as to cleanse it. At the end of seven months they will make their search. And when these travel through the land and anyone sees a human bone, then he shall set up a sign by it, till the buriers have buried it in the Valley of Hamon-gog. (Hamonah is also the name of the city.) Thus shall they cleanse the land." (ESV)

In the very near future, this would take place on a much smaller scale when the Angel of the Lord deals with 180,000 soldiers of the Assyrian army. This took place during the reign of Hezekiah and is also a type of the Day of the Lord. It is a clear picture of what the Lord will do in the Day of the Lord to the enemy from the north.

If this is not the Gog Magog army, and that possibility does indeed exist. "It might be the army under the wilful king (Dan. 11:36–45), seen as equated with "the king of the north" (40). If so, it could be distinct from the Ezekiel invaders from the north. Then it would be the army of the military leader described as the "little horn" in Daniel 7, equated with the wilful king and also the Antichrist in the future tribulation period (2 Thess. 2:4–10; Rev. 13:1–10; 19:11–21)." (Rosscup 2008, 1326)

By His power and in His manifestation He will remove far the One from the North, that is the northern army, the Assyrian of the end-time. Thus He broke the Assyrian once and overthrew his proud army. So He will do in the future when the One from the North will trouble Israel again. (Gaebelien 1909, 120-121)

There are some things we know absolutely will take place in the Day of the Lord, but this is one of those specifics that it is difficult to be really dogmatic about. We do know that these two armies will move against Israel at some point during the Day of the Lord. The overall timing as to when though can be subject to interpretation.

Joel though is not wound up in the arguments of when this will happen, he flat out states that an army from the north in the Day of the Lord will be in serious trouble when God rescues His people. It could even be both of them.

Joel 2:21–22

"Do not fear, land; shout for joy and rejoice, For the LORD has done great things. Do not fear, animals of the field, For the pastures of the wilderness have turned green, For the tree has produced its fruit, The fig tree and the vine have yielded in full." (NASB 2020)

Here the land and the animals are addressed. In chapter 1, the land was in a state of mourning (Joel 1:10) and the animals were groaning and suffering (Joel 1:18.). Repentance has brought about a reversal. This reversal was seen as a type when the Lord restored the land in the time of Joel and ultimately this will be fulfilled when the Messiah returns.

This day is the one which Paul also talked about in Romans. Even today the land of Israel is still under a curse. It is not green like Eden, but it will be.

God will transform the land because He has transformed the hearts of His people. They have repented, recommitted themselves to Him, witnessed His rescue of them and are filled with the Holy Spirit. They have been transformed so therefor, the land too will be transformed and restored just like the people.

Romans 8:19–23

"All of creation waits with eager longing for God to reveal his children. For creation was condemned to lose its purpose, not of its own will, but because God willed it to be so. Yet there was the hope that creation itself would one day be set free from its slavery to decay and would share the glorious freedom of the children of God. For we know that up to the present time all of creation groans with pain, like the pain of childbirth. But it is not just creation alone which groans; we who have the Spirit as the first of God's gifts also groan within ourselves, as we wait for God to make us his children and set our whole being free." (GNB)

It is a description of when Jesus Christ returns in power and the great reversal begins. Eden will be restored here on the planet and the land is not to fear because of what the Lord has accomplished. The same holds for all of the animals of the planet. This coming day is so certain that it is spoken of here in the past tense as a done deal. There will be plenty for wildlife to eat and it will be abundant just like the crops being produced.

Joel then moves on to speak to those who have repented and been rescued.

Joel 2:23–24

“So shout for joy, you sons of Zion, And rejoice in the LORD your God; For He has given you the early rain for your vindication. And He has brought down for you the rain, The early and latter rain as before. The threshing floors will be full of grain, And the vats will overflow with the new wine and oil.” (NASB 2020)

First question, who are the sons of Zion? This is not a trick question; we are talking about the folks who live in Jerusalem and in the southern kingdom of Judah. This is a term to draw in all of Judah who worship on Zion. Why celebrate?

The reason for their rejoicing is abundance of rain. Has given is perfect tense to show how certain God’s promise is. Early rain or ‘autumn rain’ (JB) usually falls between the latter part of October and the beginning of December; it is especially welcome as it breaks the summer drought. (Hubbard 1989, 69)

The rains were put off due to the sin of the nation but now they have repented, and the rains have returned.

The rejoicing is because He has done it. “The children of Zion, which means the inhabitants of the land, will then rejoice and be glad. Their joy will be in the Lord, who has arisen and had mercy on Zion. The rain is especially mentioned. The early and latter rain as before comes again upon the land. In the next verses the result of the rain is described, that is, a return of the former fruitfulness of the land.” (Gaebelein 1909, 123)

In a desert country without extensive irrigation, rain is important. Agricultural production is dependent on it.

By the way, this verse has been misapplied and misused in the past. It was used to start what became called the “Latter Rain Movement” in 1948. There are numerous other off shoot movements that came from that as well, but all from a misinterpretation or spiritualization of this scripture.

What takes place at this place in Joel this is a promise of restoration of the normal rain cycle for the land. This rain cycle continues even today.

A further fact should be noted about this verse: the word rain (moreh) can mean teacher. Some scholars say that God is promising to give a teacher of righteousness—the Messiah Himself—to His people. In that light, the Messiah would come down to rain righteousness upon His dear people as well as to give rain to water the earth. (Leadership Ministries Worldwide 2008, 29)

The context here though points to rain.

Joel 2:24

“The threshing floors will be full of grain, And the vats will overflow with the new wine and oil.” (NASB 2020)

We are talking about more than enough. Overflowing abundance and since the rain is falling at the right times, the grapes and the olives now carry extra juice and oil. Facilities were built to hold a normal harvest, and then there were those for larger harvests that had overflow capacity. That is what is being alluded to here. There will be an overflow situation everywhere.

When you see the description that the threshing floors are full of grain, that is a manner of letting us know that all the storage silos are full and now they are storing grain wherever they can because there is so much of it. All has now been provided and more than enough.

This happens today, when production exceeds the storage capacity, grain is stored on the ground in heaps.

But there is even more that God wants to do for His people in His grace.

Joel 2:25–27

“Then I will compensate you for the years That the swarming locust has eaten, The creeping locust, the stripping locust, and the gnawing locust— My great army which I sent among you. You will have plenty to eat and be satisfied, And you will praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; Then My people will never be put to shame. So you will know that I am in the midst of Israel, And that I am the LORD your God And there is no other; And My people will never be put to shame.” (NASB 2020)

He will compensate for the years that the swarming locust has eaten? What is that all about. I thought they ate crops, not time.

God is the one speaking here, He wants to make clear His intent. The focal point of the text here is what YAHWEH will do. It is all about His grace, His blessing and His restoration.

The verb I will make up is a legal term depicting restitution for damages paid to the party wronged or suffering loss (cf. Exo 22:3–5 [22:2–4]; Lev 24:18). Yahweh here promises to provide full compensation to Israel for all the losses suffered, even though she herself was the guilty party and therefore could make no formal claim. (Busenitz 2003, 178)

But back to the comment about “the years.” Can you restore a year?

No, not really, but I like the way Charles Spurgeon talks about this point. “Time once past is gone forever. Let no one make any mistake about this or trifle with the present moment under any notion that the flying hour will ever wing its way back to him. So the meaning of the restoration of the years must be the restoration of those fruits and of those harvests the locusts consumed. We cannot have back our time. But in a strange and wonderful way, God can give back to us the wasted blessings, the unripe fruits of years where we mourned.” (Spurgeon 2017, 1195)

Judah has wasted time applying around with obedience while Queen Athaliah did her thing and tried to kill off the Davidic line. You can’t buy those years back. But those blessings missed out on from not being obedient can indeed be restored by the Lord. For the people of Joel’s day, the loss of one crop will be made up by overabundance in the next crop or crops.

It will be like they never missed out on that year of no crops it will be so large. “The promise of God is absolutely incredible, for He promises not only to carry us from the point of devastation but actually to make up the lost time.” (Courson 2006, 776-777)

God is promising to restore all that was taken by the locusts and restore with abundance . He wants His people to have more than enough. He is not only promising a fresh start, but also restoring what was lost.

Once again though, what did it take for them to get to this point?

- Doing life on their own without YAHWEH in all decisions
- Procrastination
- Substance abuse
- Losing everything
- Losing the ability to fix it
- Having to rely completely on the Lord and no one else
- Repentance, confession that God is right, and I am wrong.
- Turning away from the way they had been living and being faithfully obedient again.

Do I want to do it that way to obtain a blessing? No, I really don't but here is the thing, we have all played around with obedience in the past and we have all wondered, like Judah, how did I get here?

How much time did this realization and turn around take? For Judah, we could be talking about somewhere around the neighborhood of 6 to 10 years. The Priests and the people didn't start procrastinating when Athaliah pulled her tricks, they leaned into those days with a history of already engaging in it. It hits them, look at all the time we have lost and what we could have been doing for the Lord?

We cannot undo what is done. Sin is sin, and the effects of sin often continue for long periods. But God can restore what the locusts have eaten. Opportunities may have been lost, but God can give new and even better opportunities. Friends may have been alienated and driven away, but God can give new friends and even restore many of the former ones. God can break the power of sin and restore a personal holiness and joy that would not have been dreamed possible in the rebellion. (Boice 2002, 142)

He is saying here that it will be as if you have had that time given back to you. The word is restoration and when He restores, He does the whole thing.

2 Corinthians 5:17

"So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; what is old has passed away—look, what is new has come!" (NET 2nd ed.)

Revelation 21:5

"And the one seated on the throne said: "Look! I am making all things new!" Then he said to me, "Write it down, because these words are reliable and true.'" (NET 2nd ed.)

I like the idea of restoration; I like the idea of all things new. I know that here on this planet in this sinful body prone to failure, injury and disease, I never can be quite what I want to be. But I know He will compensate for the years, and there are way too many of them, of locust problems. "What a glorious experience to be free of all this and to be in the presence of Christ! He will make all things new. He will restore the years that the locusts have eaten." (McGee 1997, 672)

We have all had locust problems of one type or another. I am looking forward to that day when He makes it all new and you learn that there really is a full head of blonde hair on this head, unless this truly is the hair style of the eternal state, hmmm.

For Judah, their sin had resulted in seeing some of the covenant curses take place in real time as well as covenant blessings for being faithful and obedient. And they saw this all in the same year. But with repentance and obedience, they are restored, and they also receive a promise that is contingent on that obedience.

Joel 2:26–27

"You will have plenty to eat and be satisfied, And you will praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; Then My people will never be put to shame. So you will know that I am in the midst of Israel, And that I am the LORD your God And there is no other; And My people will never be put to shame." (NASB 2020)

Imagine the journey, you went to the Temple, with the sound of animals in distress from hunger rising up from the countryside. The stench of smoke in in your nostrils from the fires; and wondering if there will water to drink and wondering do locust burgers taste like they say.

As one, they seek the Lord. They do everything asked of them and more. More than likely a decision was made to be done with Athaliah once and for all. The elders were all together after all.

And now, in response, stunning promises, the sounds of rain falling, the discovery of grain and wine storage facilities that had not been compromised, the beginning of restoration visible for all to see and then more.

The rain has put out the fires, the sky is clearing, and the stench is gone. The hills are starting to turn green.

Then there is the promise that was made. YAHWEH promised more than enough to eat. What about the wonderful times of worship and praise in the Temple where the glory of God can still be seen over the Holy of Holies that we have had since we did this.

Why did we ever wander away?

God has rescued His people and done so with a miracle. They know He is with them. They recognize that He is indeed God. “The uniqueness of God and his presence among his people—these are the solid joys and lasting treasures which only Zion’s children share (cf. Hos. 11:9; Zeph. 3:15, 17). The linking of your God with my people rings with covenantal overtones of a fully restored relationship (cf. Hos. 2:23; Amos 9:14–15).” (Hubbard 1989, 72)

He is not done yet, in the present, the relationship of YAHWEH with Judah has been fully restored and they have seen miracles take place on their behalf. The people have gone from disaster to abundance. This is also a picture of what will take place at the end of the Tribulation when Messiah returns for His people and rescues them.

We have seen the promise of the locust damage to be removed and all that takes place with that, and we also know it is a picture of what God will do yet in the future. But there is more. There is a hint of a new day coming.

Joel 2:28–32

“It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and your daughters will prophesy, Your old men will have dreams, Your young men will see visions. And even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, Blood, fire, and columns of smoke. The sun will be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And it will come about that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD Will be saved; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem There will be those who escape, Just as the LORD has said, Even among the survivors whom the LORD calls.” (NASB 2020)

That sure sounds familiar. If you have read the book of Acts, it should. Peter uses this as part of his discussion about what is taking place on the Day of Pentecost shortly after Jesus’ resurrection.

Acts 2:14–21

“But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: “ ‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (ESV)

For those of us who have been busy doing other things rather than what it is God has wanted for us, we still have time. God delayed for Judah to repent and then He moved in a mighty way on their behalf. He will do that for them again at the end of the Tribulation.

What about us today?

If we know Jesus, we must return to our first love and confess our sin to Him and He clearly promise in 1 John 1:9 to restore us back to relationship.

But what about if faith in Christ never took place?

2 Peter 3:3–9

“First of all, you must understand that in these last days some people will appear whose lives are controlled by their own lusts. They will mock you and will ask, “He promised to come, didn’t he? Where is he? Our ancestors have already died, but everything is still the same as it was since the creation of the world!” They purposely ignore the fact that long ago God gave a command, and the heavens and earth were created. The earth was formed out of water and by water, and it was also by water, the water of the flood, that the old world was destroyed. But the heavens and the earth that now exist are being preserved by the same command of God, in order to be destroyed by fire. They are being kept for the day when godless people will be judged and destroyed. But do not forget one thing, my dear friends! There is no difference in the Lord’s sight between one day and a thousand years; to him the two are the same. The Lord is not slow to do what he has promised, as some think. Instead, he is patient with you, because he does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants all to turn away from their sins.” (GNB)

He is giving you time just like He gave Judah.

Romans 3:21–24

“But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.” (NLT)

How do we do that?

Romans 10:9–13

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”” (NLT)

Let’s recap what we just learned.

ABC’s of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.

Repentance is what God required of Judah, they did this and will do so in the future. He stands ready to save and ready to make all things new today. It is our choice.

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