

**The Great Reset Has Already Begun!
The Holy Spirit is Going to Be Doing What?
Joel 2:28 – 32**

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So far, after being shown a picture of the Day of the Lord and given graphic evidence that they were living through a type of that, God issues a personal appeal to Judah to return to Him. They did.

There are immediate and clear evidences of the heart change not only reflected in the prayer and spirit of worship that took place in the Temple, but God made promises to His people contingent upon repentance and when they did, He demonstrated His faithfulness to them and restored them completely and then some. The key word was abundance.

In His description of how they would be delivered God made reference to events in the present day for Judah as well as in a future day, when Messiah returns to deliver them from the armies of the Beast. But we see as part of that discussion, not only a pointer to that new day which is coming in the far future, but there are hints about something else too between the then of the Day of the Lord and the now of Joel.

As we look back, we know that the promised King has already come the first time and He has achieved all that was prophesied for Him to achieve in Isaiah 52 & 53 and elsewhere. He is integral to restoration. We have been taken to the Day of the Lord by Joel and have seen the horrors that will take place during it. How can anyone make it through those days?

But here's a question for you, what about the time between the restoration we are seeing now in Joel's day, and the Day of the Lord in the future.

What the Lord is doing for His people in miraculously restoring them from the locust invasion not only is a type of the future restoration in the distant future but is also something currently taking place for them. So, what about between then and now? Are there any hints of anything else here?

The restoration from the locust invasion and having those years restored too, are a blessing for Judah that they did not expect. Isn't it just like our Lord to surprise us. This is a promise Judah could grab ahold of and one we can as well as we discussed last time. But before the Day of the Lord, there is another blessing coming that is truly mind boggling.

God tells His people, "you ain't seen nothing yet." "He prophesies about a climax yet to come in God's redemptive work that exceeds the restoration of the years the locust has eaten.

God promises that with the coming of his great day, he will pour out his Spirit on people from all the nations of the world. That is the greatest blessing he can give. It binds them intimately and inseparably to him, and provides them with unlimited power to serve and glorify him." (Robertson 1995, 80)

Is this a Day of the Lord thing only?

Judah does not know at present, that this type of the Day of the Lord they just went through with the locusts will repeat again. Not with locusts next time, but with the Assyrian Army while Hezekiah is King. At this point in Judah's history, they do not anticipate a future destruction of Jerusalem or any resulting exile which will take place because of their predication to sin.

But that idea is out there in the Torah if they fail to remain faithful. The northern kingdom of Israel is already deep into that track and Judah can visibly see that.

Judah does not know, at present, about the future to come with Babylon or Rome, but they do know about the Day of the Lord in the distant future. So again, what about the between then and now? We began to touch on this last week. This section of Joel is quoted by Peter on the Day of Pentecost when the church was born, and Paul also made use of some of it in his letter to the Romans.

Let's fast forward to Pentecost.

When Peter quoted Joel, he said what was happening in Acts 2 with the Holy Spirit being poured out on around 120 people who then began to speak in tongues, was only the very beginning of the fulfillment of what Joel had prophesied. More to come on that as we need to unpack it.

There is an important point to remember, not one Old Testament prophet saw the church age. They saw things happening in the near future, and then in the far future but it was like standing on one mountain top and seeing the other one 50 miles or so away, but not taking notice of the valley in-between.

Let's look at our text.

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)

From a timing perspective, we know that ““After this” clearly indicates a time subsequent to the more immediate blessings of reversing the locust invasion.” But just how far forward because He starts with the Spirit being poured out and ends with survivors? (Fuhr and Yates 2016, 104-105)

Joel stands at the mid-point between Sinai and Pentecost. He seizes the patriarch Moses with one hand and the apostle Peter with the other, binding the two together. The Lord directed human history across the centuries so that it would come to this point of the outpouring of his Spirit on all flesh. The expectation may be traced as far back as the time of Moses, 500 to 1,000 years before this prophecy of Joel. (Robertson 1995, 81-82)

To better understand what this prophecy is referencing, we need to go back to Moses and that time we read about in Numbers after the nation has been relegated to a death watch while wandering around the wilderness. The current generation cannot enter the land, so Israel remains in the wilderness while that generation dies. Recall this was because of unfaithfulness and a refusal to enter the land on the part of those who just escaped from Egypt.

The book of Numbers is all about that time period and in it is where we find a reference to what it is Joel is discussing here.

Leading up to Numbers 11, Moses has realized, due to the constant and incessant bickering and complaining from the people, that there is no way he can manage governing the nation on his own. He needs help from the Lord and help also from others.

After a discussion with the Lord, God instructs him to gather and register 70 elders who are to be commissioned by God and then filled with the Holy Spirit so they can help govern. The same Holy Spirit that is inside of Moses.

Numbers 11:16–17

“The LORD said to Moses, “Gather to me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know are elders of the people and officials over them, and bring them to the tent of meeting; let them take their position there with you. Then I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take part of the Spirit that is on you, and will put it on them, and they will bear some of the burden of the people with you, so that you do not bear it all by yourself.”” (NET 2nd ed.)

68 of the 70 made it to the meeting, two were still in the camp and busy dealing with ongoing issues presented by the people when the Spirit filled those at the meeting and those who were there prophesied.

Numbers 11:26–29

“But two men remained in the camp; one’s name was Eldad, and the other’s name was Medad. And the Spirit rested on them. (Now they were among those in the registration, but had not gone to the tabernacle.) So they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp!” Joshua son of Nun, the servant of Moses, one of his choice young men, said, “My lord Moses, stop them!” Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for me? I wish that all the LORD’s people were prophets, that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!”” (NET 2nd ed.)

When Moses said that he was reflecting God’s heart. In the Old Testament, “the majority of Old Testament references to the Spirit of God record the way certain individuals were empowered at specific times for particular tasks. As a result, or because of their position, they were all leaders in the community. This empowerment was crucial to be effective in God’s service and, until the time of David, it remained the mark of God’s chosen person.” (Prior 1988, 70)

The Holy Spirit was simply not given to everyone.

Fast forward to the future, this would be in the mind of everyone present in the Temple on the post-resurrection Day of Pentecost as the way things are with the Spirit. The city is filled with all of the people who are there from all over the Roman Empire.

Pentecost is a big deal for the Jew. The law specified that the Feast of Weeks, which includes Pentecost “is one of the three pilgrimage festivals that every Jewish male had to go to Jerusalem to observe. The other two pilgrimage festivals are the Feast of Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles. It is to be the feast of harvest, an agricultural observance marking the harvest of the spring season. Furthermore, it was to be an observance of the first-fruits of their labors in the field; this was the time of the first-fruits of the summer harvest.” (Fruchtenbaum 1983, 9)

The expectation is that all faithful male Jews would be in attendance for this day. It is this day that the Lord chose to begin a new ministry, as part of the birthing the church, He would also introduce Spirit baptism. As we saw in the Numbers passage, the filling of the Spirit only was powerful, but now...

Acts 1:4–5

“While he was with them, he declared, “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait there for what my Father promised, which you heard about from me. For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”” (NET 2nd ed.)

There it is, a new ministry of the Holy Spirit about to be introduced as promised by Jesus. The disciples didn’t have a clue since this was not something seen in the Law or the Prophets but there is this hint of something in Joel 2:28 possibly. But without what Jesus is promising, there is no power to do what must be done for the Lord. A new covenant requires new tools.

Jesus is telling His disciples and the inner group that was in the upper room together, that something they have never studied, seen or experienced is about to take place in a few days. He is warning them that what is about to happen is not something they have ever experienced. They will be traveling someplace they have never been before. He is personally going to give them the power to be able to go worldwide and disciple others. Remember, they were already filled (John 20:22). They have never been here before. No one had.

We need to remember that. In this current culture, we feel like we are in the same place, somewhere we have never been before either.

Jesus tells them this bit of news, then they go out with Him, and He ascends into the clouds and out of sight. They were so stunned by His disappearing, that it took an angel to bring them back to the moment at hand and basically say, “He will be back for you, but there is work to do in the meantime.” So here we are, 10 days later. Nothing has happened yet. Suddenly, what Joel had warned of, and Jesus alluded to, begins to become a reality. This was all very new. Yet even Pentecost is not a complete fulfillment of what Joel speaks of, but a beginning.

When Peter speaks, he is going to take current events happening around him and point specifically back to Joel. Because Peter does this, we must take a look at what is happening here as well and ask “is this the fulfillment of what Joel said?”

Acts 2:1–21

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of

Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.” But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon 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 upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’” (NRSV)

This was new. The Spirit fell upon the whole group and the Jews who were there were, as expected, clueless. Peter though, the same guy who without being empowered denied Jesus, is now a totally different man. He ties Joel’s prophecy directly to this event.

It is a fallacy, as some people teach, that the Church began with Adam or Abraham or that the Church was already in existence in the Old Testament. This is far from the truth. If one clearly understands the relationship of Spirit baptism to the Church, then one can clearly understand when the Church was born. The Church was born when Spirit baptism began. Spirit baptism only began as of Acts 2:1–4. Therefore, the birth of the Church is the fulfillment of the Feast of Pentecost. (Fruchtenbaum 1983, 14)

People had been filled with the Spirit in the past, but they were leaders. This was new. This was very unusual as men and women were all involved in this. The divorce that took place in Genesis 11 with the 70 nations being formed as a result of the rebellion led by Nimrod, is now in the process of being undone. The Kingdom is starting to come together. Full restoration is beginning, already but not yet.

Dr Michael Heiser helps us put together some of what Joel is pointing to, and Dr. Luke is writing about here in Acts. There are several moving pieces.

“There are two key terms in the passage that connect it back to Babel in an unmistakable way. The flaming tongues are described as “divided” (Greek: diamerizo), and the crowd, composed of Jews from all the nations, is said to have been “confused” (Greek: suncheo). The second term, suncheo (v. 6), is the same word used in the Septuagint version of the Babel story in Genesis 11:7: “Come, let us go down and confuse [Septuagint: suncheo] their language there.” The multiplicity of nations represented at Pentecost is another link to Babel.

Each nation had a national language. More importantly, all those nations referred to in Acts 2:9–11 had been disinherited by Yahweh when they were divided.

The other word of importance (diamerizo; v. 3) is also used in the Septuagint, but not in Genesis 11. It is found exactly where one would expect it if one were thinking in cosmic-geographical terms—Deuteronomy 32:8 (Septuagint: “When the Most High divided [diamerizo] the nations, when he scattered humankind, he fixed the boundaries of the nations”).

This is a strong indication that Luke is drawing on the Septuagint, and specifically the Tower of Babel story in Genesis 11 and Deuteronomy 32:8–9, to describe the events on Pentecost. What happened there has some relationship to what happened at Babel—but what is it?

At Pentecost the tongues are “divided” (diamerizo) or, perhaps more coherently, “distributed” among the disciples as they are commissioned to preach the good news to the throngs at Pentecost.

As Jews gathered in Jerusalem for the celebration heard and embraced the news of Jesus and his resurrection, Jews who embraced Jesus as messiah would carry that message back to their home countries—the nations. Babel's disinheritance was going to be rectified by the message of Jesus, the second Yahweh incarnate, and his Spirit. The nations would again be his.” (Heiser 2015, 298-299)

Joel, saw this day as a day yet in the future for Judah. Not only is YAHWEH going to bless Judah by restoring them to pre-locust conditions, not only is He going to restore the years that were lost to them because of their procrastination and sin, but He is going to bring all of the nations back into the fold at a future date when He pours out His Spirit on all mankind. This is part of the restoration of the years lost due to the unfaithfulness of God's people.

This is not possible under the the current conditions of the law, Israel had already failed horribly to be a light to the nations, Judah had just repented but their sin had already had a negative impact on the nations.

Joel 2:17

“Let the priests, the LORD'S ministers, Weep between the porch and the altar, And let them say, “Spare Your people, LORD, And do not make Your inheritance a disgrace, With the nations jeering at them. Why should those among the peoples say, ‘Where is their God?’ ”” (NASB 2020)

Yes, the locust problem will be resolved, and the nation restored, the word is abundance. The word is restoration, and it is the lost years being restored. Part of the years being restored includes reaching the surrounding nations which God is saying here that that will be something He will do.

Because Peter, empowered by the Holy Spirit, directly ties Joel to the event on Pentecost, it becomes impossible to derive any other interpretation for it. The wish Moses had, the prophecy expressed by Joel, was beginning to be fulfilled at the birth of the church.

I say beginning to be fulfilled because much of what Joel refers to here is yet in the future. Dr. Charles Feinberg does a much better job of explaining it than I could.

“Peter distinctly states that he is referring to the prediction of Joel. However, that fact alone does not constitute a fulfillment. In the” first place, the customary formula for a fulfilled prophecy is entirely lacking in Acts 2:16. And even more telling is the fact that much of Joel's prophecy, even as quoted in Acts 2:19-20, was not fulfilled at that time. We cannot take the position that only a portion of the prophecy was meant to be fulfilled at all, because this would work havoc with Bible prophecy. God predicts and He can perform just what He predicted. The best position to take is that Peter used Joel's prophecy as an illustration of what was transpiring in his day and not as a fulfillment of this prediction. In short, Peter saw in the events of his day proof that God would yet completely bring to pass all that Joel prophesied. Joel's prophecy, then, was pre-filled; it is yet (as the Old Testament passages on the outpouring of the Spirit show) to be fulfilled.” (Feinberg 1990, 81-82)

I believe that what we are seeing is the tension of language saying already, but our experience says not yet in total.

Peter did not jump the gun and say – fulfilled. “But the prominent feature of the words which Peter quotes is the prediction of the outpouring of God's Spirit on the whole human race—literally, “on all flesh.” Luke sees in these words an adumbration of the worldwide Gentile mission, even if Peter could not have realized their full import when he quoted them on the day of Pentecost. Certainly the outpouring of the Spirit on 120 Jews could not in itself fulfil the prediction of such outpouring “on all flesh”; but it was the beginning of the fulfillment.” (Bruce 1988, 61)

Joel has been talking about the Day of the Lord. Did that begin on Pentecost? No.

Has the Day begun yet? No but could at any moment contingent upon Jesus coming for the Church.

As we step through the scriptures looking at others which also speak of the Holy Spirit being poured out on all of mankind, we recognize immediately that has not yet occurred. We also recognize that all the scriptures on this topic point to the Day of the Lord as a precondition. (Isaiah 32:15, Ezekiel 36:23 – 27, Zechariah 12:10 and others.)

To say that partial fulfillment occurs in Acts 2 seems reasonable. One factor is that Peter, citing from Joel, directly says “this is that,” not only “this is like that.” Second, Peter uses three Old Testament passages in speaking. Two, from Psalms 2 and 110, are urged to show present fulfillment. So the other citation (Joel 2) in Peter’s pattern, and in unity, probably also is, consistently. Third, Acts 2:33 is quite direct about Jesus Christ receiving the promise of the Spirit and pouring forth the Spirit. This pouring image reminds hearers at Pentecost of God’s promise to pour out, and claims that Christ has done it, or at least begun it. Fourth, partial fulfillment (in certain details in Joel 2) does not require fulfillment in Acts 2 then of all aspects. Some facets can wait for a later time in the unified prophetic panorama of centuries that the promise embraces. (Rosscup 2008, 1327)

Joel 2:28–29

“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.” (NASB 2020)

Was this in the process of being fulfilled at Pentecost, I would say yes.

There is no recorded case in the Old Testament where the gift of prophecy was granted to a slave. (Feinberg 1990, 81)

But we read later in Acts, when Peter goes and visits the house of Cornelius and he and his household, which would include slaves, are listening, “While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word.” (Acts 10:44, ESV)

Has Joel been completely fulfilled, not yet. Peter never said that it had been. So, it remains an expectation of Judah for fulfillment in that future day at the end of the Tribulation when Messiah returns and sets up His Kingdom here on earth. But Pentecost was an example, a beginning of what that would be like.

Peter was talking to Jews who had the same worldview that he had. They were familiar with the prophecies of Joel. These were Jews from all over the Roman Empire being faithfully loyal and returning, as required, for the Feast of Weeks and for Pentecost. “Peter says to them in effect, “Don’t mock, don’t ridicule this thing which you see happening. This is like that which is going to take place in the Day of the Lord as it is told to us by the prophet Joel.”” (McGee 1997, 674)

So, to pull all of what we have just looked at together. Moses wished for and looked forward to a day when everyone would be filled with the Holy Spirit. Joel prophesies that such a day is indeed coming; it is connected to the Day of the Lord, but also has elements that fall after what we are experiencing today with the restoration from the locusts and before that future Day of the Lord. It is a beginning.

Jesus warned His disciples of a new ministry involving the Holy Spirit, a ministry which began on Pentecost. Peter specifically pointed to Joel 2 but never used the language “and this is fulfilled” or anything like that.

He did though say what was happening was a lot like what would happen yet in the future. And he quoted the full context of the scripture he used. I would have done the same.

Back to Joel. We know the experience of the Church in Acts 2 was a lot like what is yet to come in the future for YAHWEH’s people when Messiah comes in power and assumes the throne of the planet. Implying that they too will experience the power of the Holy Spirit as they serve Him in that future day, but

as the church, we are privileged to experience that power in today since we have already recognized the King.

Joel 2:28–29

“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.” (NASB 2020)

The coming of the Spirit (sent by YHWH) is the sign of the New Age, the New Covenant, the Messianic period (cf. Isa. 32:15; 44:3; Jer. 31:31–34; Ezek. 36:22–38; 39:29). (Utley 2008, 71)

It is a sign of the church age which we are in. But it is also a sign of what takes place at the end of the Tribulation when Jesus returns and those of the remnant, who have asked Him to rescue them, are all saved and filled with the Holy Spirit. It is a distinctive of the Millennium and fully enables the remnant to all be evangelists to the nations and finally fulfill what it is God had for instore for them back at Mount Sinai.

The years finally restored.

In order for that to happen, another event must take place, judgement will take place on this lost planet.

Joel 2:30–31

“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.” (NASB 2020)

Yes, this has not happened yet. But for us, this is familiar terminology. The problem I see though is that there have been some over the past few years who take naturally occurring astronomical activity and try and parlay it into something else in order to sell books or to promote their new and unique take on prophecy.

This is all relegated to the Day of the Lord, not before. We need to exercise discernment on all teachings we hear today and use the instructions found in Acts 17:11 as we sort through them. Dr. Luke related this about the people who lived in Berea as they listened to Paul.

Acts 17:11

“The people there were more open-minded than the people in Thessalonica. They listened to the message with great eagerness, and every day they studied the Scriptures to see if what Paul said was really true.” (GNB)

Yes, we are living in the last days. Yes, the convergence of prophecy being fulfilled is amazing, but beware. Peter gave us a warning echoed as well by Jude.

Not everything that folks teach today is necessarily Biblical truth. Discernment is required. Some are in it for the money and will conflate the scriptures with events for their own advantage.

Discernment is required.

2 Peter 2:1–3

“False prophets appeared in the past among the people, and in the same way false teachers will appear among you. They will bring in destructive, untrue doctrines, and will deny the Master who redeemed them, and so they will bring upon themselves sudden destruction. Even so, many will follow their immoral ways; and because of what they do, others will speak evil of the Way of truth. In their greed these false teachers will make a profit out of telling you made-up stories. For a long time now their Judge has been ready, and their Destroyer has been wide awake!” (GNB)

Jude 3–4

“My dear friends, I was doing my best to write to you about the salvation we share in common, when I felt the need of writing at once to encourage you to fight on for the faith which once and for all God has given to his people. For some godless people have slipped in unnoticed among us, persons who distort the message about the grace of our God in order to excuse their immoral ways, and who reject Jesus Christ, our only Master and Lord. Long ago the Scriptures predicted the condemnation they have received.” (GNB)

There are wonderful ministries that are working overtime to provide the truth of the Word and report observations of what is taking place in the world in relation to that Word. Prophecy updates are useful.

There are some things to beware of that I have heard in the past couple of years. This is not an exhaustive list.

“This is a new prophecy that we can only understand today, and the Lord has shown me what it means.” There is some truth in that and some deception as well. Are there things we understand now that were not understood previously, yes, Daniel 12:9 talked about that being the case.

The problem though is when the speaker says it was given only to him, or special knowledge is required to interpret this. That is actually warmed-over Gnosticism which Paul had to deal with.

I have also heard of naturally occurring astronomical phenomena, like a lunar or solar eclipse, which is easily determined by applying orbital mechanics, be conflated as a harbinger of impending judgement or evil.

The reality, judgement is indeed coming to the entire planet, but again, the Day has not started.

Meanwhile seasons continue as do normal astronomical activity.

If an eclipse takes place when it shouldn't, then get very concerned.

There are also those who attempt to take promises and curses made to the Jewish people as part of their covenant relationship with YAHWEH, and apply them to other nations, such as the United States.

I appreciate their attempts to engender revival and obtain the salvation of the lost, but again, those promises, and curses were for Israel, and not us.

Are we subject to judgement? Yes. Are we seeing it begin to take place in this nation? Absolutely, but not just here only.

Again, discernment with what we see, read or hear being taught these days is important. Listen to what is being said, but then search the scriptures and see if what the teacher is saying, is based on what we see in the Bible. Some aren't.

Then there are those who receive and relate a prophecy, but when it does not happen, never show up and apologize for misinterpreting what the Lord showed them but move onto the next prediction. There is indeed real prophecy taking place today, again, discernment.

By the way, there is some spooky scary stuff going on today that does indeed fit that requirement and the scriptures did indeed warn of or speak of.

Speaking of spooky stuff, Joel provides some of the conditions to be seen during the Day of the Lord.

Joel 2:30–32

“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)

Once the rapture takes place, there will be millions who will decide to place their faith in Jesus Christ.

There will be 144,000 Jewish evangelists traveling worldwide and protected by God to be about providing that message. Much of that message could be simply putting together the events of the various judgements outlined in Revelation and pointing out to those on the planet where we are on a very shortened prophetic timeline.

There will also be millions who have made the decision that this planet is their home, and they will reject anything to do with the Lord. Even though judgment after judgement will take place, they will still reject.

Joel is talking predominately to them here. This is echoed in Revelation.

Revelation 6:12–17

“When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”” (ESV)

The wonders in earth are a manifestation of God’s judgment on ungodly men at the pouring out of the seal, trumpet and bowl judgments. (Levy 1987, Joel 2:30-31)

This is a picture of judgement on the nations.

To be sure, the verses do not pronounce judgment on the nations so much as they presume it, but this presumption helps to explain the promise of deliverance on Mount Zion for whoever calls on the name of YHWH (2:32). In short, these verses presume a day of YHWH will come against the entire world, while those who worship YHWH in Jerusalem will be delivered. (Nogalski 2011, 238)

That which was prayed for by Moses (Num 11:29) and inaugurated at Pentecost is to be fully realized in the Day of Yahweh...Peter ‘took the event Joel foresaw and linked it with the beginning of the new age of the Spirit. In other words, Joel saw the end point of the whole process, while Peter fixed his eyes on the onset.’ (Busenitz 2003, 195)

We clearly see here, told to us by Joel, the same things that Zechariah sees and that John sees as they all look at the same events taking place at the end of the Tribulation.

The remnant repents and turns to Messiah for rescue, He shows up in power and with an invasion force.

Those who have repented are filled with the Holy Spirit, and in Jerusalem, have a part in the final destruction of the Beast and his forces. Restoration though has already begun.

The remnant, along with the 144,000 evangelists, are all uniquely qualified and prepared to be central figures in the final restoration of the years promised, as they are now involved in the evangelization of the planet during the millennial reign of Jesus Christ.

What? Remember, there are still human beings on the planet and as they are being born, they still need to be presented the truth and make a decision. Unfortunately, from what we read in Revelation 20:7 – 10, there are those who do not and rebel at the very end only to be crushed along with Satan and his forces to never be a problem again.

Joel is the first to provide this picture for us. He is not done with this topic yet either. But he did outline for us the coming of a ministry of the Holy Spirit that many today seem to believe is not for them. The power of the Holy Spirit being upon them as they are baptized or empowered by Him.

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