

Joel

Joel's message is timeless, all sin brings God's judgement, yet with God's justice there is great mercy.

Joel 1:3 [New King James] *“Tell your children about it, let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.”*

A very important message for all parents who love their children. One of the greatest gifts we can give our children and grandchildren is our own life story to help them repeat any successes we had and avoid our mistakes.

Joel begins his message to people in his day who are very similar to the vast majority of people in every generation. People who physically and morally are asleep to what is really happening, making them oblivious to their personal sins, [Joel 1:5]. **We must never allow material abundance hinder our spiritual awareness of our sin.**

The locust plague [Joel 1:4] can be likened to an invading army [Joel 1:6-7] and is only a foretaste of the final *“day of the Lord,”* [verse 15].

Matthew 24:3, 21-22 [New King James] *“Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?’” ... “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.”*

The same “wake-up” call is being given by true servants of Jesus Christ in this generation as Joel did to his own generation, [Joel 1:13-14].

Those who have **not** personally humbled themselves before the True Creator God, personally accepting His mercy after confession of their sins and repentance, a complete lifestyle change, will stand before God with no appeal, [2 Corinthians 5:10-12].

God is telling every generation, through Joel, to turn to Him while there is still time, for our time is running out, nobody knows when their physical life will end, [Ecclesiastes 8:8] so we need to trust and obey the Creator God now, while we can.

Luke 12:16-21 [New King James] *“Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: ‘The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, “What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?”’ So he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.’” But God said to him, “Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?” So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”*

The same warning is given by our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Joel 2:18 [New King James] *“Then the LORD will be zealous for His land, and pity His people.”*

Joel comes to a turning point in his prophecy, moving from an outpouring of God's judgement to an outpouring of God's forgiveness and blessing.

Joel 2:27-29 [New King James] *“And My people shall never be put to shame. Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the LORD your God and there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame. 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. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.”

This is the key to the change that will eventually happen to all humanity who accept the Creator God as the One and only true God, forsaking all other false and pagan gods.

It is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that will make this possible; first, the knowledge of the true God, [John 16:3] rejecting all false pagan gods, and the development within us of the very character of that only true Creator God, [Galatians 5:22-25].

Joel 3:17-18 [New King James] *“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. 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.”*

Safety and physical blessings come with our acceptance of our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ.

This same prophecy is given to us by Zechariah, [Zechariah 14:4-9].

As you read Joel, catch his vision of the power and might of the One and only Creator God and His ultimate judgement of all sin.

Then choose to follow, obey and worship the One true Creator God, who alone is our salvation from deserved eternal death, [Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23].

1 John 1:5-10 – 1 John 2:1-7 [New King James] *“This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning.”*

The prophecy of Joel is true for all generations, do not ignore it!