

Joel and Amos July 9, 2023

Joel

Introduction:

Joel gives us a picture of Judah living in the land promised to Abraham. They were receiving the curse of the Palestinian Covenant (Dt 29:1) by breaking its condition of blessings (Dt 11:10-17; 1Ki 8:35-40). The word of the Lord through Joel calls them to genuine repentance, an inward rending of the hearts. God promises them revival, refreshing, and restoration through sending rain. This was a shadow of the prophesied outpouring of spiritual rain upon the church. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit is Joel's distinctive link with the New Testament (Ac 2:14-21). Thus, he is called the prophet of Pentecost.

Christ is seen:

As He who sends the promise of our Father.

Lk 24:49 "And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

As the Receiver and Sender of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:33 "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear."

As the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit.

Jn 1:29-34 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30 "This is He on behalf of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.' 31 "I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water." 32 John testified saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. 33 "I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.' 34 "I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God."

Through Messiah salvation will be offered to all mankind.

Joel 2:32 "And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD Will be delivered; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem There will be those who escape, As the LORD has said, Even among the survivors whom the LORD calls."

Rom 10:9-13 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; 13 for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

Messiah will baptize people with the Holy Spirit

Joel 2:28-29 "It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions. 29 "Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days."

The "day of the Lord" fulfilled in Jesus

The apostle Peter quoted from Joel's prophecy on the day of Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection and ascension (Acts 2:17-21), indicating that Jesus' death on the cross was our day of the Lord, when God's judgment for our disobedience was experienced on our behalf by our sinless representative. Joel told God's people of his day that the disasters they were experiencing were the natural result of abandoning God, and their effect was intended to remind them that their life was found in God alone.

Peter explains that in Jesus the "day of the Lord" has taken place - not at the end of history but in the middle of history (Acts 2:16-21). For believers, the end-time judgment has been carried out already - at the cross of Christ.

Believers today live between "days of the Lord." Jesus has already experienced our day of judgment and has enabled us even now to enjoy a foretaste of the restoration of all things that will take place when he returns again on the final day.

Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead. The day of the Lord is coming. Joel sees "multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision" (3:14). Those who decide to turn to God for life through faith in his Son will have nothing to fear on that day. They will be safe and secure inside the stronghold of his love (3:16).

On the coming final day of the Lord, when all nations will gather before the Lord for judgment, the one and only criterion that will hold any sway before the Judge of all the earth will be relationship with him. Those who have such a relationship through faith in Jesus Christ will enjoy the life that flows from that relationship. Those who don't have such a relationship will experience the dire consequences. Jesus experienced those dire consequences so that all who come to the Father through faith in him can be assured of life. He is the one who will do the judging on the day of the Lord, and he knows the sheep that belong to him [Mt 25:31-32].

We may look forward to the day of Christ's return with confidence that he has paid the price for our sin. But more than that, we may look to our Lord for life. If we are trusting in him, we will never be disappointed, and we will never have to fear. Instead of the day of the Lord being a "dreadful" time for us (2:11), it will be a time of rejoicing, of fruitfulness, and of security (2:19-27).

Amos:

Introduction: His name means burden bearer, or one with a burden.

Amos was a herdsman and was not educated in the schools of the prophet, neither was he of the priestly or kingly lines. Nevertheless, he was chosen to be a prophet of God's justice, upholding the righteousness of the Law, and declaring judgment upon the sinful nations. His ministry deals particularly with the relationship between nations, denouncing their sins of inhumanity.

Amos also gives the notable prophecy of the restoration of the Tabernacle of David and the Gentiles coming into blessing under Messiah's times (Ac 15:15-18; Am 9:11-12).

Acts 15:16-18 'After these things I will return, and I will rebuild the Tabernacle of David which has fallen, and I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, so that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by My name,' says the Lord, who makes these things known from long ago.

Christ is seen as our "Burden-Bearer":

Bearing our sins

Isa 53:6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

Isa 53:11-12 As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.

2Cor 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

He also bears the burden of the Word of the Lord

Jn 1:1-2 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.

Jn 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Rev 19:13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

He is the final Judge and Punisher of all nations

2Th 1:6-9 For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

He is the Builder of the Church, the spiritual Tabernacle of David.

Mt16:18-19 "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. 19 "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."

God would darken the day at noon during Messiah's death.

Am 8:9 "It will come about in that day," declares the Lord GOD, "That I will make the sun go down at noon And make the earth dark in broad daylight. (Mt 27:45-46)