

Jesus in Joel
John 7, Acts 2, Joel
15080-D October 11, 2015

God's plan for rescuing the universe, including us, is all about Jesus Christ, and it is on track today. But the world will never save itself.

I. Jn.7:37-39. Jesus promises the Spirit at the Feast of Tabernacles.

- A. A stunning offer that probably mystified the first hearers.
 - A.1. Thus John interprets it for us.
- B. A subtle hint that he is Messiah.
 - B.1. Because the water pouring ceremony associated with Tabernacles represented God's provision for Israel in the wilderness and promise of coming life.
 - B.2. Because Messiah would usher in the age of the Spirit. Water of eternal life.
- C. A promise of God's own life filling and flowing out of a fallen human.
 - C.1. But humans are evil. How can God live in the heart of a fallen human being?
 - C.2. How can a river of living water come from a dead heart? Eph.2:1-3

II. Acts 2:14-24, 36-39. Jesus pours out the Spirit at the Feast of Pentecost

- A. It shows that God's plan is on track. What God has always promised. 14-24 (Joel 2:28-32)
- B. It indicates that Messiah has come. 32-36
- C. It means Jesus of Nazareth is the risen Lord, the Christ. 36-38

III. Why does Peter quote Joel? *Because Joel points to Jesus and God's plan through Him.*

- A. The backdrop is an age of idolatry. Sometime during the divided monarchy (930-586BC)
 - A.1. In the north (Israel) they never really left Baal, they just combined him.
 - A.1.a) Fell in 722 to Assyria, never to return
 - A.2. In the south they vacillated and finally succumbed to idolatry.
 - A.2.a) Judged in 586 to Babylon, returned after 70 years.
- B. The prophet himself is a reminder.
 - B.1. Joel = "The Lord (YHWH) is God" (not Baal)
- C. The theme is "The Day of the Lord."
 - C.1. The phrase used 6 times in Joel's 3 chapters.
 - C.1.a) 1:15. Judgment; 2:1. Judgment; 2:11 Judgment; 2:30 Judgment
 - C.1.b) 3:14 Judgment (eschatological); 3:18 Blessing in that day...
 - C.2. ***A decisive period of time in history in which both judgment and rescue are brought about by God singlehandedly in the same event.***
 - C.2.a) Evil is completely judged
 - C.2.b) Covenant life is rescued.
 - C.2.c) God's people are delivered from evil and become part of a new reality.

IV. **The message of Joel in 5 scenes:**

- A. A wake-up call. The Locust Plague. 1:1-10
 - A.1. Stripping away the stuff
 - A.2. Waking up the world-intoxicated people.
- B. A serious warning. The coming military siege. 2:1-2, 11
 - B.1. The coming war. An army coming against Israel or Judah (Assyria or Babylon)
 - B.2. The Day of the Lord in that generation.
- C. A call to repent. 2:12-13
 - C.1. Rend your hearts and not your garments.
 - C.1.a) Acts 2:37. They were cut to the heart...
- D. A promise of restoration. 2:25-32
 - D.1. Restoring the damage of the judgment (locusts), 25-27
 - D.2. Pouring out the Spirit on all sorts of people. 28-29
 - D.2.a) Beginning fulfillment in Acts 2
 - D.3. Bringing judgment but also offering salvation. 30-32
 - D.3.a) *Amid the darkness God calls us to call on him...*
- E. A prophecy of deliverance. 3:1-21
 - E.1. Judgment of the “nations” = the enemies of God’s people. 1-8
 - E.2. Judgment of God against the world. 13-14
 - E.2.a) The sickle is put in as a final great battle ensues.
 - (E.2.a.1) Zech. 14; Rev.19
 - E.3. Promise of unparalleled blessing for Israel. 17-21
 - E.3.a) This promise is what we are grafted into through faith in Messiah Jesus. Rom.11
- F. **Note: God is doing something in the world, moving history in a direction.**
 - F.1. It is invisible to the naked eye. You need Kardioptics (Eph.1:18)
 - F.2. It is dealing with all human sin and idolatry. (Jn.3:16)
 - F.3. It is redeeming human life and will, result in cosmic restoration. (Rev.20-22)
 - F.4. It is focused on the Son of God, Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. (Eph.1:10)

V. **How does the Lord save us and bring us into His plan for the universe?**

A. He lets the locusts strip the world away.

- A.1. The idols of this age can so dominate our vision that we lose sight of the Lord.
- A.2. The good things of this age can so cloud our vision that they become idolatrous.
- A.3. *The most powerful idols are the good things that become ultimate things. But they are all edible by locusts...*

B. He tears the hearts he intends to bless. A circumcised heart?

B.1. **Two kinds of “repentance”**

B.1.a) **Torn Garment repentance:**

- (B.1.a.1) *Sorrow over being caught.*
- (B.1.a.2) Aimed at getting blessings from God
- (B.1.a.3) Motivated only by fear of punishment and desire for blessing
- (B.1.a.4) Self-propitiated (beating yourself up because you let yourself down).
- (B.1.a.5) This goes on for years because the Self can’t actually forgive.

B.1.b) **Torn Heart repentance: Ps.51; Lk15**

- (B.1.b.1) *Sorrow over actually being evil.*
- (B.1.b.2) Utter bankruptcy about being able to change on our own.
- (B.1.b.3) Complete reliance on grace, even when we are cooperating with it.
- (B.1.b.4) Aimed at loving God for who He is.

B.2. Only one person can rend the heart—the Lord.

B.2.a) The Spirit must bring this repentance, this new reality. Jn.3:1-15; 7:37-39

B.2.b) He pierces the heart. Acts 2:36-37

C. He pours in his life, which heals and equips. 2:28ff

- C.1. This is regeneration and anointing for service.
- C.2. This is what Jesus predicted and provided as the risen Lord. Jn.3; 20:19-23

D. Based on the pouring out of his life as payment for our sins.

D.1. *How does he rescue his people from judgment when the Day of the Lord requires the destruction of all sin, and they have so much?*

D.1.a) It cannot be simply because they repent because the sorrow for sin does not actually pay for it.

D.1.b) It cannot be the blood of the animals because they’re just animals.

D.2. He endured the Day of the Lord at the Cross.

D.2.a) The place in time and space were the judgment of God and the rescue of God both happened through the same man—the ultimate Israel. Jesus Messiah.

D.3. *He was torn for us so that when he pierces us it is for our healing.*

VI. **At the cross we come into the Day of the Lord right now. And become a part of His plan of redemption for this fallen world.**