

# Spoken by the Prophet Joel

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“But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel... — Acts 2:16

Spoken by the prophet Joel!

Who Joel was and when he prophesied is a matter of debate and speculation. It was not important to the Holy Spirit to inform us concerning Joel’s time and history. Our attention must be fixed on what Joel spoke. The man Joel is not important; it is Joel the prophet which demands all of our attention. He was one of the holy men of God; mouth-piece of the LORD was he ....

It is the end of all contradiction and the testing-rod of the reality of the mighty words of God!

Joel is not the author of what *he* said; he was the spokesman of God.

He spoke the prophetic word, which shines as a light in a dark place until the day dawn and the day-star arise in our hearts.

Blessed Word of God; a light in the darkness of our night of sin and death.

Spoken by God Himself through Joel!

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These men are not drunken as ye suppose!

Unbelief cannot and will not understand even when the mightiest signs of God are wrought from heaven. When it is noised abroad in the streets of Jerusalem that Galilean men, disciples of Jesus of Nazareth, are speaking in other tongues the wonderful works of God, cruel unbelief mockingly lifts up its head. The fact cannot be denied, but the true character and origin of this wonder must be denied and contradicted. Unbelief is both blind and deaf. The sounds from heaven it cannot and will not heed, and the flames of fire it cannot see. The gospel of sovereign grace is foreign to unbelievers. They will not put off the shoes from their feet.

These men are full of new wine!

Drunken gibberish is all that they desire to perceive. And in the folly of unbelief they perish. They are not pricked in their hearts for their sins’ sake. The promise of the Spirit they cannot receive. What here transpires is hid from them!

Stupid blindness of sin!

These men are not drunken as ye suppose ....

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Lofty plane of the prophetic Word!

The things foretold by God are come to pass. It might seem that the Word of God to Joel was shrouded in darkness and mystery. And in a sense the Word of God by Joel is apocalyptic. The imagery is bold and strong. The situation in Israel is desperate. The curse of the Lord as the expression of the law is in the land. The armies of God’s fury are sent in the form of locusts. They devour the bread of God’s people; the land of plenty, of corn and wine, is become a vast and horrible wilderness and wasteland. The curses foretold by Moses in the law are present.

The prophetic word calls for a genuine fast of repentance. The congregation, young and old, great and small must all gather in the temple. And they must humble themselves for their sins. They must be pricked in their heart. To call upon the Name of the Lord is the need of the hour. And God in heaven will hear!

To such comes the comforting message of the prophetic Word. Yes, then will the LORD be jealous of His land, and pity His people. Yea, the LORD will answer and say unto His people,

Behold I will send you com and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith ....

Fear not, O land ....

Be glad and rejoice.

For the LORD will do great things for His people!

More sure prophetic word unto which we do well to give heed ....

Until the day dawn ....

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Suddenly there was a sound from heaven!

It was as the sound of a mighty rushing wind. It filled the whole house where the church was gathered, which would be built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets of which Jesus Christ is the chief corner-stone.

Yes, the wind was blowing where it listeth; the Spirit was sovereignly going where the Lord of glory was sending Him.

The church heard the sound of the mighty rushing wind, but did not know whence it really came, although this sound came from heaven. It was from above; it came from the Lord who had been crucified by wicked hands, but who had been raised from the dead, set at God's own right hand, and now shed this forth which they hear.

And the appearance like unto cloven tongues of fire was seen upon each of the church. It was the fire of purification of the Spirit of Christ. It was the church, a little "bush" in the wilderness filled with the strange sight of the fire of the Spirit without being consumed by it. The church is really "under the cloud" here. The cloud of glory, the very Shekinah of God rests upon the church. It is the Spirit of grace and glory resting upon the church.

Jehovah is pouring forth His Spirit upon all flesh. It sat upon each of the members in the church. Were there one-hundred-and-twenty souls presents? Men and women, old and young, children and adults? It was all flesh. It was poured out upon the church in a house. God had removed the tent-of-meeting outside of the camp of Old Testament Israel.

Blessed sound in all the house!

Purifying power to present the church one day to God without spot or blemish or any such thing!

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Upon my servants and my handmaidens!

Selective, sovereign grace of God. It is not for all, this outpouring of the Spirit. Since we are sons we have received the Spirit of the Son, crying, Abba Father. He cries this in the hearts of all the "servants" in such a mysterious way, that we cry, Abba, Father. Yes, it is but the first-fruits which we have now. But it is eating already of the new wine and com, the plentiful supply of grace which faileth never.

Is not the feast of Pentecost the feast of harvests? Was not this feast one of the three great feasts to be celebrated in Israel? And was not this feast a reaching out in hope to the year of Jubilee, the complete liberation from the slavery of sin and death, guilt and corruption?

Grace without measure, it is.

The Spirit is poured out. It is bountiful grace. Where sin abounds, grace will much more abound. It is the only hope for God's servants. Dead in trespasses and sins, under the curse and damnation of the law, the only hope for Abraham's seed is the promise of the Father; the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Yes, He takes it out of Christ and gives it unto us. He comforts us and leads us into all the truth. He dwells in the church with this infinite riches and blessedness, never to leave her. And always the supply of grace from the throne of God is there, grace for

grace. All the spiritual blessings in heavenly place are for the servants even as they were elected in Christ from before the foundation of the world.

Grace for grace. Rivers of waters flowing from the mouths of the faithful servants.

Sovereign grace of the Holy Spirit . . . .

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Spoken by God through Joel, the prophet!

In the midst of the dark of the emptied sun, and the awful spectacle of the blood-red moon, there is deliverance. Yes, the great and notable day of the Lord has come. But the servants are safe.

The Name of the LORD is a strong tower. The righteous flee thither and escape.

The Spirit-filled saint calls upon the Name of the LORD; he alone escapes. He shall be saved, whether he be Jew or Greek, bond or free, male or female. None that comes to the Lord called by the Spirit, regenerated, called, justified, will be cast out.

Listen to Joel's beautiful feet upon the mountain.

God spoke through Joel of old. He spoke at Pentecost in the sound of the wind and in the cloven tongues like as of fire. He gave utterance to those who preach the Gospel. Tens of thousands have preached this fulfilled word of God through Joel.

Heaven and earth shall pass way.

But the Word spoken through Joel is timely and fitting forever ....

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