

SPRING QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2017
THEME – SURVEYING THE MAGNITUDE OF GOD’S LOVE
UNIT I – THE FOUNDATION OF GOD’S LOVE

“GOD’S LOVE LIFTS AND BRINGS RESTORATION”



Sunday School Lesson No. III - March 26, 2017

Lesson Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III - Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Joel 2:12-13, 18-19, 28-32

Required Reading: Joel 1 – 2

Lesson Motto Text: Joel 2:13 (KJV), *“And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.”*

Joel 2:13 (NLT), *“Don’t tear your clothing in your grief, but tear your hearts instead.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He is eager to relent and not punish.”*

Reliable Resources: Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Precepts for Living by UMI; Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Children’s Ministry Research Bible; Understanding the 66 Books of the Bible by David Jeremiah; Analytical Bible Expositor; Bible Exposition Commentary–OT; Life Application Study Bible

LESSON INTRODUCTION

I John 1:9 says, *“If we confess our sins, He (God) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us of all unrighteousness.”* This verse summarizes the immeasurable love of our God who lifts and brings total restoration to His repentant children. Dr. David Jeremiah declares to us, “In these days when we fear a coming global economic apocalypse, it’s important to be familiar with the message of Joel, a prophet who dealt with economic calamity and its aftermath. In Joel’s day, the monetary devastation was caused by locusts, which could destroy a nation’s economy overnight. When swarms of locusts descended on an area, they darkened the sky, sounded like a fleet of helicopters, and consumed every plant in their path. They appeared overnight and were gone the next day, obliterating a year’s income and left devastation behind.”

According to Deuteronomy 28:38, locusts were a major mark of God’s judgment on sin. So it became Joel’s mission to tell people they were experiencing God’s judgment. He also said the locusts foreshadowed something yet to come—the Day of the Lord, the culmination of history in which God’s final judgment will occur. The plague of the locusts was a sign post for the future. But there’s another theme in Joel – restoration. Joel 2:25 says: *“So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten.”* Beloved, let us now focus on **“God’s Love Lifts and Brings Restoration.”**

Anticipated Power Points:

- **God’s Loving Request for Judah’s Repentance. Joel 2:12-13**
- **God’s Loving Response to Judah’s Repentance. Joel 2:18-19**
- **God’s Loving Restoration of Judah’s Relevance. Joel 2:28-32**

OUTLINE

I. God's Loving Request for Judah's Repentance. Joel 2:12-13

The preceding verses 1-11 paint the picture of what appears to be an invincible treacherous army. This army is that of locusts, which destroy everything green in their path, and were used by God to inflict chastening upon His people. Deuteronomy 28:38, *"Thou shalt carry much seed out into the field, and shalt gather but little in; for the locust shall consume it."*

The question is, "Does God enjoy seeing the suffering of His people?" Remember II Peter 3:9: *God is not willing, nor enjoys in any way, the destruction of His people.*

Beloved, the locust army is only a symbol of a more imposing army of Israel's enemies that would crush them and impose their wicked will upon the rebellious people of God! Beloved, read the treachery as pronounced in verses 6-11. All of this is because of the hearts and practices of God's rebellious people. Beloved, who should be able to stand against the day of the locust army? But what shall Judah do? Repent! Repent! Repent! Let all the people repent; from Priest to Prophet; man and woman; rich and poor! Vss. 12-13 disclose that God is willing to relent if His people repent! Deuteronomy 4:29-31 says, *"But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul. When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; (For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he swore unto them."*

II. God's Loving Response to Judah's Repentance. Joel 2:18-19

A. Jeremiah 29:13 declares God's Word, *"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."*

B. Warren Wiersbe declares God's loving response to the people's repentance led to restoration: "God promises to drive away the army of locusts and restore the pastures again."

(Read Joel 2:25-27)

III. God's Loving Restoration of Judah's Relevance. Joel 2:28-32

Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator shares these closing thoughts as we consider Judah's relevance. Her relevance shall bless all people. "At first glance, the last section of this week's lesson text appears very strange and somewhat cryptic. However, further examination shows that Joel was divinely prophesying the future. This would come to fruition partially at Pentecost, as recorded in the opening chapter of Acts. And certainly Scripture's theme of redemption is echoed in the call for everyone to call on the name of the Lord and be saved." (pg. 59)

CLOSING

Closing by Warren Wiersbe concerning 2:28-32 in Joel: "This passage is quoted by Peter on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:16-21); so read that quotation carefully. But notice that Peter does not say 'Joel's prophecy is fulfilled.' Rather, he says, *'This is that which was spoken...'* In other words, 'This is that same Holy Spirit that Joel spoke about.' The full prophecy of Joel, with its dramatic signs in the heavens, will not be fulfilled until the last days." The word is still waiting for the Jews...**HALLELUJAH!** God's Loving Covenant People. Remember Romans 1:16, *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."*

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LOOKING AHEAD:

April 2, 2017

Psalm 23:1-6

Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway as Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School lesson.

