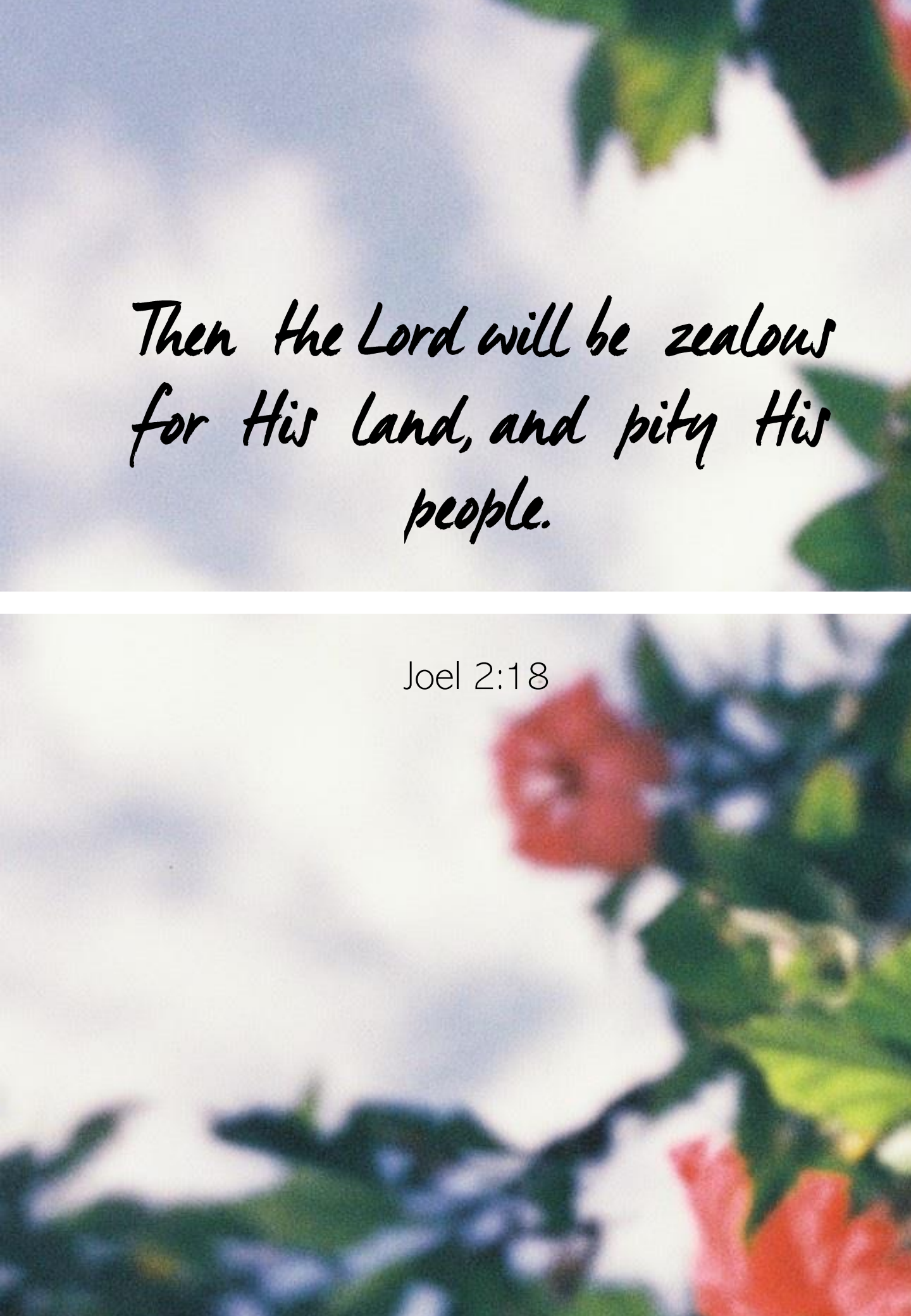


Week 41

Joel 2 Lifestyle



*The Zeal of God's
heart for Israel*



*Then the Lord will be zealous
for His land, and pity His
people.*

Joel 2:18

A transition in the book of Joel occurs at the mention of one small word in Joel 2:18 — “then”. Joel says, “Then the Lord will be zealous for His land and pity His people.” In other words, when the people gather in solemn assemblies to cry out to God, God will hear and respond. He will be zealous for the land, and will have compassion on His people. It is this wholehearted response that causes Him to answer.

Joe 2:12–17 makes it very clear that God’s zeal is aroused as a response to the prayer movement. The first half of the book of Joel is about crisis and the need for wholehearted response in order to receive God’s mercy. The second half of Joel, beginning with this word, “then” (Joel 2:18) is about the divine release of salvation for the people who cry out to God in a wholehearted way.

Here we see the Biblical principle of “if’ and “then” at work. God requires that His people respond on their part, then He will move His hand.

The part we play is normally so small compared to the magnitude of what He desires to do for us and with us. We only need to do our tiny part, and His heart will be moved to act on behalf of His people.

Salvation and triumph over enemies is the primary theme of the rest of the book of Joel. God vindicates those who actually come before Him with wholeheartedness in fasting and prayer.

The Lord cares deeply about vindicating His people. When He does so, it is to display His very nature to all the nations.

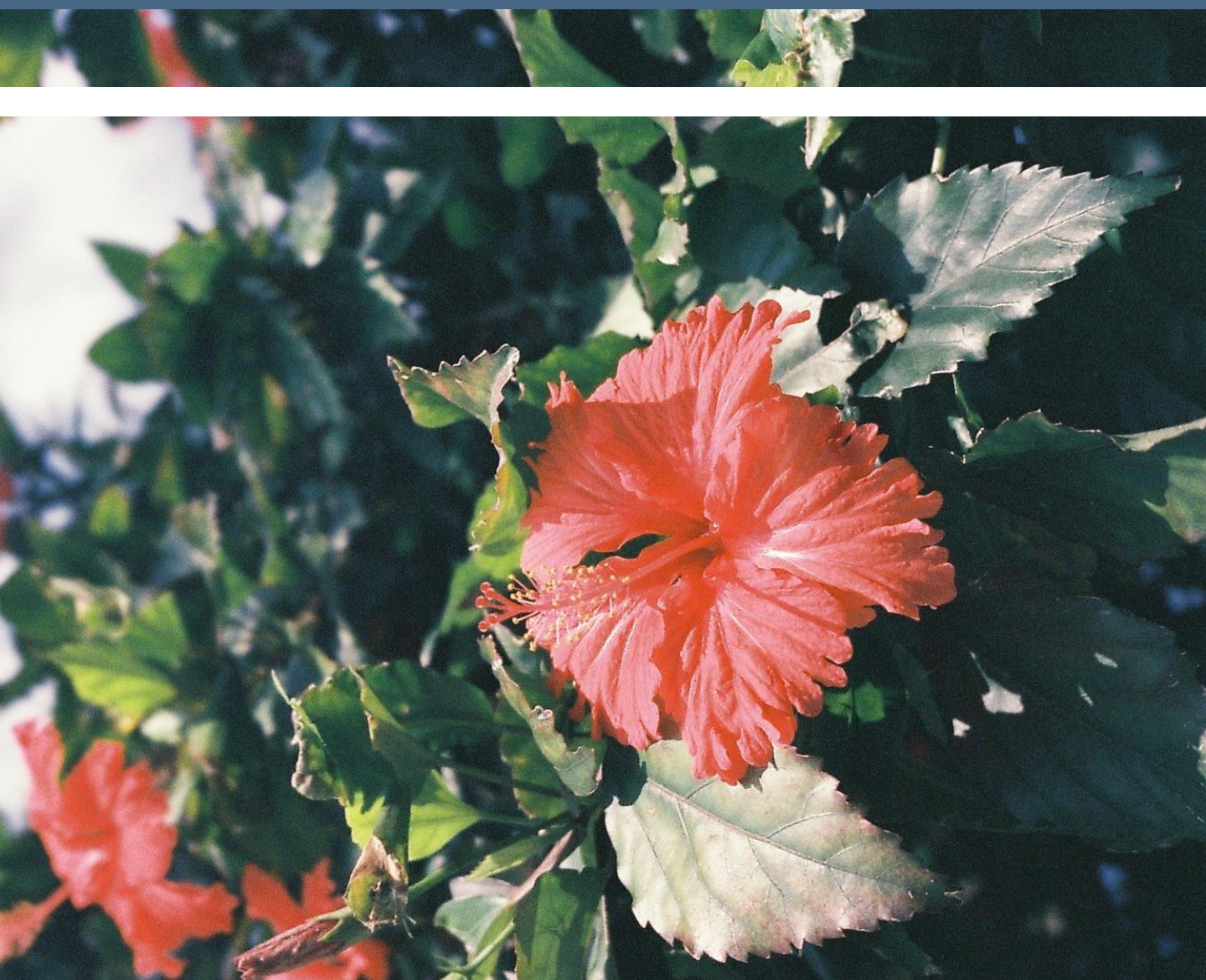
He does it for His namesake.

He does it because He is a covenant-keeping God.

He desires to show the nations how He keeps His promises.

This victory that Joel describes is specifically and literally speaking
of Israel

— God's triumph over her enemies
in response to her wholeheartedness
and prayer.



What is the
importance of
knowing

God's zeal in
vindicating
Israel?

Almost all End-Time prophecy is focused on this small geographic area of Israel. The land of Israel is important to God. Zech. 8:2 says God is zealous for Zion with great zeal. He has deep emotions for this little piece of land. The whole earth is the Lord's, yet Israel is His particular geographic inheritance.

As His Church, we need to fully understand the zeal of God's heart for Israel so that we can be steadfast in standing with her in prayer.





It is not that God cares only about Israel. Even as God remembers His covenant people and keeps His covenant with them, He will also bless the spiritual children of Abraham, i.e. His Church in all the nations.

He has given Israel as *His witness to the nations* (Isa. 43:10). What is written in the Scriptures for the Israelites is the standard and example for us to follow. His admonitions to Israel are the same admonitions He gives to the nations (1 Cor. 10:11). The way He leads the Israelites is how He leads all of His people.

What happens to Israel in the End Times, both in blessing and judgment, will also happen to the Gentile nations “in like kind, but lesser degree.” Yet, regardless of the fact that the rest of the nations will experience a lesser degree of both revival and judgment, the dimensions will still be substantial for peoples all over the world.

Only when we understand God's zeal and blessings for Israel, and how He leads her, will we have the right understanding and confidence in how God will lead and direct us. This confidence will be crucial at the End of the Age.

May we understand the zeal of God's heart concerning Israel.





Readings and Prayers for the week

Readings for Week 41

Read Joel 2:18 -32 about the promises God has for Israel and for His Church. Ask the Holy Spirit to stir your heart, and help you see how you can be part of the most glorious time in Church history.

Prayers for Week 41

Pray Col 1:9 -10, asking God to awaken the Church to our finest and most glorious hour in history. Pray for wisdom for us to know how to prepare ourselves to be part of this mighty End-Time move of God.