

Week 44

Joel 2 Lifestyle



*The Restoration of
Gladness and Joy of the
LORD in the land*

Fear not, O land; Be
glad and rejoice, for the
Lord has done marvelous
things!

Joel 2:21



Even as Israel is surrounded and invaded by a northern coalition of armies seeking her destruction, the prophet Joel is exhorting her to rejoice in the Lord and not to fear even before victory is realized.

In the midst of Satan's rage and God's judgment, there will be worldwide famine, droughts, earthquakes, all kinds of disturbances in the weather and horrifying military invasions. The dangers, threats and even the wars are real. God has allowed it for a season because of sin and wickedness and because His people had turned away from Him.

But there is a staggering truth that Israel and the Church need to see to have confidence in the midst of the Great Tribulation.

A decorative graphic consisting of four colored rectangles: a large yellow one at the top, a light grey one on the left, a light blue one on the right, and a dark grey one at the bottom center.

*The Lord's
message to
Israel and to
all the nations
is that He is
totally in
control.*

God will bring restoration to Israel. He will suddenly bring about a global and historical reversal. When Jesus returns, He will restore all things to His people. He will rebuild desolate cities and restore the land. The final victory is theirs!

Not only is the Lord saying this to Israel, He is also saying this to all the nations of the earth. This evil world dominion will also affect our lives and the Lord is inviting us to put our trust in Him. Just as He is in control of Israel, He is in control in every other place of the earth.



The two prominent emotions in the earth will be fear and gladness.

Jesus said that in that Day, the nations of the earth would become faint from fear. Fear will be the dominant emotion (Luke 21:26) as the world witnesses disasters, traumas and billions dying.

Without the grace of God fear will be the main response of hearts.

Yet gladness and rejoicing will fill the whole Body of Christ.

The Body of Christ will see a worldwide worship and prayer movement, filled with praises even before the manifest victory happens (Isa. 24:14 – 16).

Joy and gladness will be the emotions experienced by the Bride of Christ even in the midst of the painful, final hours of natural history before the Lord returns (Ps. 149; Rev. 19:7)!

Why?

Why?

Why?





Because she sees the end, she sees the victory of Israel and the triumph of the saints! She sees the wholehearted Bride arising, yearning and calling out for Jesus to return.

She sees the fullness of Israel's salvation as they call on His name! She sees Jesus' triumphant procession back to Jerusalem to take back what is rightfully His. And she stands, rejoicing and agreeing with Him in worship and intercession, awaiting His return.

Promise of the former and the latter rain

As she turns back to the Lord, Israel will see her fortunes turn. God will turn her years of disaster to years of unprecedented harvest.

In Joel 2:23, prophet Joel prophesies that the Lord will bless Israel with the former and the latter rain. The former rains are the autumn rains that come in October and November. They are the heaviest rains and they prepare the ground for plowing and sowing.

After these former rains, it would rain lighter and more periodically from December to April. These were the latter rains, or the spring rains, right before the harvest. These rains would bring the crop to maturity, preventing drought and bringing about the harvest.

The Lord promises to restore to Israel the years that the swarming locust had eaten. He assures them that there will come a time when they will have plenty to eat (Joel 2:25-26). More than that He will pay back all the years of destruction with abundance of blessings – giving double for what had been taken (Isa. 40:2).

This refers not just to Joel's time but to the fullness of all suffering, drought, famine and military invasions that Israel had undergone in history and those they will undergo in the days ahead.

God promises that in the thousand years beyond this age, He will make it up to them far beyond anything they could imagine!

He will pay double with vast abundance of blessings. This is our God, and it is in His nature to give in such extravagance to all who call on His name!

The wondrous dealings of God in the Millennium Kingdom

Joel 2:26 – 27 refers to the Millennium Kingdom where the people will experience that wondrous dealings of God on their lives (Joel 2:26). The wondrous and the marvelous work of God will far surpass the monstrous work of the evil one.

It is through these extravagant actions of wonder and marvel, that His people and the nations of the earth will know that He is the LORD (Joel 2:27).

The history of Israel reveals many seasons when the nation and her people have been put to shame, largely because of their own turning away from God.

Yet in His sovereignty, and His covenant keeping nature, there will come a day when the tables will be turned around for good. Israel will fully turn back to the LORD with all their heart, mind, soul and strength

And from that day forth, Israel will never again be put to shame. More than that, God will turn this weakest of all nations to be the leader over all of the earth. She will disciple the nations in the ways of God. God will show the nations of the world that He alone is God and He is supreme over His beloved nation

(Isa. 25:1, 8 – 9; 26:12 – 15).



Readings and Prayers for the week

Readings for Week 44

- Take some time to read Joel 2:21-26 and Isaiah 25 and 26:1-15. Ask the Lord to open your eyes to see His sovereign hand at work in Israel.

Prayers for Week 44

- Using Romans 10:1, pray for the salvation of Israel and the Jewish people all across the world.