



*Understanding the
Biblical Principle of
“Blessing or
Destruction” that
comes from God*

Romans 11:22

*Therefore consider
the goodness and
severity of God: on
those who fell,
severity; but toward
you, goodness, if you
continue in His
goodness...*

God is good. It is always God's desire to release blessing upon His people. These blessings, however, do not come unconditionally. They are only released when His people live in agreement with Him.

If we continually live in sin, disobedience or compromise, it means we neither want his presence or blessing nor want to obey Him. This would lead to God removing His hedge of protection and blessing over us.

Worse still, if we continue to persist in sin, God will allow destruction to come upon us.

Why?

You see, God honors the free will of His people. If we do not want mercy, we will receive justice without mercy. In other words, God offers mercy, but if we refuse to repent, we will get what we rightfully deserve.

In Deuteronomy 28:42 – 57, Moses prophesied about the coming judgment of God on Israel. This was a very well-known prophecy in Joel's time. The judgments were to be understood as a prophetic sign to Israel (Deut. 28:46). The events that happened in the time of Joel followed the progression of this judgment.

Moses prophesied a locust plague (Deut. 28:38, 42) which was to be followed by a military invasion (Deut. 28:47 – 57). Babylon was the only nation that destroyed all the fortified walls throughout all Israel. Babylon did this over a 20 year period (606 – 586 BC) which included 3 major invasions occurring in 606, 587 and 586 BC.



Moses' prophecy in Deuteronomy 28:52 was only partially fulfilled by Babylon. It will ultimately be fulfilled by the Antichrist in the End Times (Zech. 12 – 14).

This principle holds true in our days as in the time of Joel. God uses His coming judgment as a sign to mankind. It is devised to alert the hearts of men through the supernatural work of God.

It serves to reveal who God is, His righteousness and His desire for man to walk in His ways.

In the days ahead, God will allow shakings to awaken men to the evil that is in their hearts, so that they will turn away from sin and turn towards Him.

The disasters prophesied in the book of Revelation are more than natural calamities taking place.


They are specific activities of God's hand, given for the purpose of communicating His prophetic message

Even in the midst of disasters, God will also provide places of refuge, distinguishing His hand of protection on those who are loyal to Him from those who have turned to wickedness.

In the days of Amos, God caused rain to come on one city and held back rain from another. He released “pockets of mercy” in places that were seeking Him by sending rain and withholding rain from those that were not. To one city, the rain was a sign of supernatural blessing. To the other, it was a sign of supernatural judgment (Amos 4:7).

This will be a witness to many on the goodness and the severity of God; goodness for those who seek Him and His ways even at a cost, and severity for those who choose to follow the foolishness of their own hearts.

Sadly, even with this crisis sent by God, the people in the time of Amos did not understand what God was doing, and they did not return to the LORD (Amos 4:8). They blamed it on the devil or on the natural cycles of weather. They totally missed God’s sign. They totally missed His divine message.



*May we not miss what
God is saying. May we
understand the Biblical
principles of blessing or
destruction.*

*May we know God's heart
and have confidence in
who He is, so that we may
arise as His voices even in
our days.*



Readings and Prayers for the week

Readings for Week 20

Read the Book of Amos, to gain insight into God's supernatural activities. What was He trying to tell His people when He held back rain from one place and released His blessings on another?

Take time to understand the book of Revelation. Gain understanding of this book. Revelation 1:3 tells us we are blessed if we read it, hear it and keep the words of this prophecy. There is one generation who will live out this prophecy and we could well be this generation.

Prayers for Week 20

Pray 2 Peter 1:2-4 that the Church will know how to live lives that will be pleasing to the Lord, turning to Him with all our hearts and walking in His righteousness even as darkness gets darker.

Use Colossians 1:9-10 to pray, asking for wisdom and spiritual understanding for the Church, that she will understand the times we are living in and the things are coming, and know how to live circumspectly as the ones who are wise and watchful.