

Joel 2:28-32 – The Rain from the Holy Spirit

TSK, HebrewLexicon, Delitzsch, Handfuls, Armstrong, JFB, Geneva, Poole, Clarke, Henry, Expositor, INT, Calvin, Barnes?

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ: A Charismatic once told me Reformed Christians do not believe in the Holy Spirit. Because we did not speak in tongues and loudly praised God in worship, she concluded we were devoid of the Holy Spirit. The reality is, Reformed Christians believe in the Holy Spirit much more than any Charismatic-waaaaay more!

We believe the Holy Spirit must awaken the sinner, draw him to God (only he could do that), and work faith in him so he can accept the Gospel and the work of Jesus. Without the Holy Spirit there is no salvation. Charismatics only partly believes this.

We believe the Holy Spirit inspired and delivered to us the complete revelation of God. Charismatics believe the Bible is good, but man needs and gets new revelation, some of which is contrary to the Word of God, or adds to the Word of God. To them the Bible is incomplete!

We believe the Holy Spirit never leaves us for one second but seals us as the property of the Savior till we enter into glory.

Charismatics believe the Holy Spirit can come and go, and does not secure us for eternity, so we can lose eternal life.

So as you can see, we have a fuller, richer, and more praiseworthy view of the Holy Spirit and his work.

You will hear today more of the work of the Holy Spirit. You will see this in light of God's promise to restore the Jews after captivity and even to expand them!

Our headings are:

The Holy Spirit will come on all God's children

The Holy Spirit will condemn those who reject God

The Holy Spirit will convey salvation to the world

Our goals are: **That you will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to convey the message of hope to the world, even in the face of opposition.**

The Holy Spirit will come on all God's children

28 "And it shall come to pass afterward That I will **pour out My Spirit on all flesh**; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. 29 And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

1. God promised the Jews in the future he would pour out...not drip-out...his Holy Spirit on all flesh.

2. Why would the Holy Spirit come later? Wasn't the Holy Spirit there in the Old Testament?

Yes, **he always was there**. No one is saved without the Holy Spirit in the Old and New Testaments. From Adam to the ends of the earth there was no other way to be saved! Look at some examples:

Micah 3:8 - But truly **I am full of power by the Spirit of the LORD**, and of justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression And to Israel his sin.

Isaiah 63:10, the Jews grieved the Holy Spirit. Genesis 6:3, the nations fought with the Holy Spirit. Ezekiel 37:1, the Holy Spirit was on Ezekiel. David pleaded with God not to take his Holy Spirit from him. Psalms 51. Bezalel was filled with the Spirit of God. Exodus 31:3. The Holy Spirit was on Moses and the 70 rulers. Numbers 11:17. The Holy Spirit was on Joshua.

Numbers 27:18. The people would be effective because of the Spirit of God. Zechariah 4:6. There are more!

The difference here is **the Holy Spirit is being poured out**, meaning he would come in a **greater, richer, and fuller** manner.

3. On whom would the Holy Spirit be poured out?

The Holy Spirit would be poured on all kinds of people, not just the Jews. (Greater, richer, fuller!) Peter confirmed Joel.

Acts 2:17...in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams...

The Holy Spirit would come on all believers...regardless of age, sex, slaves, freedmen!

Isaiah 44:3 For I **will pour water on him who is thirsty**, And floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring;

So God's people would have gifts and grace in abundance...

Isaiah 40:5 The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, **And all flesh shall see it together**...

This surely was Moses' desire for all God's people.

Numbers 11:29 Then Moses said to him, "Are you zealous for my sake? Oh, that all the LORD'S people were prophets and **that the LORD would put His Spirit upon them!**"

4. What would be the result of the Holy Spirit being poured out on God's people?

The people would get the complete revelation of God and they would speak under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Children would prophesy. Old men would see visions. But these were only listed to further prove that **God was going to reach people from all the nations!** This was not intended to teach women could be teachers or prophets. It was an extraordinary time.

Acts 10:45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the **Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.**

Notice how the Lord did not take **his disciples from the tribe of Levi, but from all the tribes.**

Notice how he took **fishermen, tentmakers, tax collectors, carpenters, and even slaves,** and gave them his Holy Spirit.

And notice the final result: **The people on whom the Holy Spirit was poured would become productive.**

Isaiah 32:15 Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, **And the wilderness becomes a fruitful field,**

And the fruitful field is counted as a forest.

These teaching gifts were explained in Psalm 68, and Ephesians 4. Among the gifts, some are teachers, evangelists, and pastors.

5. Lessons:

a. Is the Spirit of God directing all the affairs of your life, or are you fighting him? Is he causing you to be bold and speak God's Words or are you ignoring him and becoming afraid to speak? You can't win the lost by remaining silent!

b. Are you playing your part in spreading this blessing to the world, as God promised would happen?

Isaiah 11:9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of **the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.**

The Holy Spirit will Condemn those who reject God

30 "And I will **show wonders** in the heavens and in the earth: **Blood and fire and pillars of smoke.**

31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great **and awesome day of the LORD.**

1. The Holy Spirit would condemn those who reject the material and spiritual blessings of God.

Some Jews would become self-confident and act like God did not help them. As a result, **they would be filled with devilish opposition to God.** They would persecute Christ, killed him, deny he was raised from the dead, and persecute those who testified to it! **It was only logical and just for God to go after those who go after his Son and his adopted sons.**

Luke 12:47 "And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. 48 "But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. **For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.**

2. How would God condemn the Jews that rejected him?

a. He would put wonders in the heavens and on earth: Blood, fire, and pillars of smoke. This would draw Jewish minds back to Egypt when God put these plagues on Egypt, but protected his people. Some Jews would become like Egyptians.

Exodus 7:17 "Thus says the LORD: "By this you shall know that I am the LORD. Behold, I will strike the waters which are in the river with the rod that is in my hand, and they shall be turned to blood.

Exodus 9:24 So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, so very heavy that there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.

Later, before AD70, the Romans slaughtered many, many Jews, even causing the Sea of Galilee to turn red. The Romans rained fire on the Jews and burned the temple and destroyed their leaders. Eusebius and Josephus testified this was exactly what Titus, son of Vespasian, the Roman Caesar did!

b. Specifically, the sun will become dark, the moon would turn to blood (with earthquakes, etc.).

Exodus 10:21 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, darkness which may even be felt."

The celestial bodies represented the religious and political leaders. Heaven and earth represented the religious and political systems. We know this because **this was the language God used to describe his judgment on empires, nations, and even small cities,** like the language for the destruction of Babylon, other nations, Egypt, and Jerusalem.

Isaiah 13:10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not give their light; **The sun will be darkened in its going forth,** And the **moon will not cause its light to shine.**

Isaiah 34:4 All the **host of heaven shall be dissolved,** And the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll; **All their host shall fall down** As the leaf falls from the vine, And as fruit falling from a fig tree.

Ezekiel 32:2 "Son of man, take up a lamentation for Pharaoh king of Egypt, and say to him... 6 **"I will also water the land with the flow of your blood,** Even to the mountains; And the riverbeds will be full of you. 7 When **I put out your light, I will cover the heavens, and make its stars dark;** I will cover the sun with a cloud, And the moon shall not give her light.

Matthew 24:29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days **the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven,** and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

So the spiritual and political systems and the Jewish leaders would be disrupted and destroyed because they rejected Jesus!

3. These things will come before the great and awesome day.

When was that great and awesome day? This described the destruction of Jerusalem in AD70. Let me show you this.

Malachi 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of **the great and dreadful day of the LORD.**

Who was "Elijah?" John the Baptist was! He died shortly before Jerusalem was destroyed. If Malachi was speaking of the end of the world, how would John the Baptist mark the end? **How would he be a sign for an event more than 2000 years away?**

4. Lessons:

a. God is gracious, but God is also just. Those who reject his grace, and those who persecute his sons, will face his justice.

b. Nations and false religions of the world who oppress Christianity would do well to take notice of God's threat. They ought to be afraid, very afraid!

The Holy Spirit will convey salvation to the world

32 And it shall come to pass That **whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.** For in **Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance,** As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.

1. After the Holy Spirit would speak through Christians, and after he confirmed his words with many signs and wonders, many would then call on God.

They would recognize that God was the true God of heaven and earth and not the gods they served before, and call on him.

2. The Holy Spirit would call those who hear the Gospel to come to Mt. Zion.

Mount Zion is another name for the church of Jesus Christ. It was here Jesus preached. Here he was crucified. Here he commissioned his disciples to go into all the world and preach. He then left for heaven, after completing his work. So people were called to join the church of Jesus-all people-Jews and Gentiles.

Romans 10:13 For "**whoever** calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

God wanted the lips to say what was in the heart.

3. To call on God presupposes knowledge and confidence in him, and the help of his Holy Spirit.

4. Lessons:

a. God's salvation is not limited to any people group, not limited to age, and not limited to gender.

Praise God his kingdom is open, and was always open, to the world. He brings them into his family and gives them a name and an inheritance.

Acts 2:39 "For **the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off,** as many **as the Lord our God will call.**"

b. Those who like independence from the church don't understand the nature of God, salvation, and the church. Imperfect though the church is, you should join it, and work with it.

c. It is your duty (and your desire) to tell your neighbors about the work of the Savior so they will be moved to call on the Lord and be saved.

John 10:16 "**And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring,** and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

Conclusion:

After repentance, God promised to restore the Jews to Jerusalem and bring back physical prosperity. They would have bread and wine! They would have peace. But that would only be the beginning of blessings. The Lord promised them the nation would expand to the ends of the earth and bring more glory to Judah and to God, glory that was beyond their comprehension. Those who rejected God's blessing would face judgment.

Brother and sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. For full glory to come, the Gospel has to be preached. It is not about passing good laws and having good politicians. That may come in time, but the foundation of Christ's kingdom is the preaching of the Holy Gospel!

2. For you to preach this message of salvation, you need to be emboldened by Holy Spirit. And you need him to bless the words you speak. Your words are ineffective without his work. Pray for his help.

3. If you can't go, send! Send others with money, encouragement, and prayers. It is hell without the Gospel.

Finally, if you are not a Christian, call on God for salvation. Say to him: I am hopeless without the blood of Jesus counted as mine. Liberate me from my slavery. Give me hope! I ask in Jesus name!