

The Timing of God (Joel 2:11-32)

Understanding the End Times – Part 5
Life Church St. Louis – November 23, 2014
Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Joel 1:4 (NIV) *What the locust swarm has left the great locusts have eaten; what the great locusts have left the young locusts have eaten; what the young locusts have left other locusts have eaten.*

Joel 2:11 (NIV) *The LORD thunders at the head of his army; his forces are beyond number, and mighty are those who obey his command. The day of the LORD is great; it is dreadful. Who can endure it?*

1. Respond correctly to God's _____

1A. _____ to the Lord

Joel 2:12-13 (NIV) *'Even now,' declares the LORD, 'return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.' Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.*

1B. Pray _____ for God's mercy

Joel 2:15, 17 (NIV) *Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly. ... Let the priests, who minister before the LORD, weep between the temple porch and the altar. Let them say, 'Spare your people, O LORD. Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?''*

2. Expect God's _____ on His people

2A. The Lord will give an _____

1. Joel 2:19, 24 (NIV) *The LORD will reply to them: 'I am sending you grain, new wine and oil, enough to satisfy you fully; never again will I make you an object of scorn to the nations. ... The threshing floors will be filled with grain; the vats will overflow with new wine and oil.*

2B. _____ the Lord for His blessing

Joel 2:26 (NIV) *You will have plenty to eat, until you are full, and you will praise the name of the LORD your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will my people be shamed.*

3. Seek the Lord's _____ in the last days

Joel 2:28a (NIV) *'And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.*

3A. God desires to release _____ gifts

Joel 2:28b-29 (NIV) *Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.*

3B. God desires the lost to be _____

Joel 2:32 (NIV) *And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the survivors whom the LORD calls.*

3C. Be ready for the _____ day of the Lord

Joel 2:30-31 (NIV) *I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.*

The Timing of God (Joel 2:11-32) Study Guide

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Intro. What examples in the Bible are there of God's judgment on nations?

Do you think that God still judges nations for evil? Why or why not?

What effect would an enormous locust invasion have had on the agricultural Jewish society (Joel 1:4)?

Joel describes the Lord as being behind the locust judgment in Joel 2:11. What do you think would prompt God's judgment on nations today?

- 1A. When bad things happen to people or nations, what are the possible causes?
- 1B. When God's judgment falls on people or nations, how should they respond (Joel 2:12-13)?
- 1C. Why is it important for people to pray and repent together in the face of God's judgment (Joel 2:15-17)?
- 1D. In what ways is God's judgment coming on America? How should the church respond?

- 2A. How will God respond when His people repent and return to Him (Joel 2:18-20, 23-25)?
- 2B. How should believers respond to God's abundance in their lives (Joel 2:21, 26)?
- 2C. How could you let your light shine during this Thanksgiving season?
- 3A. Why is the outpouring the Spirit in the last days so important (Joel 2:28, Acts 2:16-17, 32-33)?
- 3B. Why are prophetic gifts essential for the believer and the church in the last days (Joel 2:28b-29)? Why do many, especially in America, not seek spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 14:1)?
- 3C. How is the Holy Spirit essential in the work of evangelism (Acts 1:8)?
- 3D. In what ways is salvation deliverance (Joel 2:32)?
- 3E. How is the final day of the Lord different than the previous days of the Lord (Joel 2:30-31)? How can you be ready for the final day of the Lord?