

**Remnant Life Church**  
March 10, 2024  
**I Will Pour Out My Spirit on All People**  
Joel 2:28-32

The prophet Joel is writing to the southern kingdom of Judah some 100 or so years since the nation of Israel divided into two kingdoms

- He wrote in response to 2 natural disasters
  - One the invasion of a massive swarm of locusts
  - Two a severe drought that, together, guaranteed famine throughout the land
- There was also the imminent potential of a foreign invasion, specifically a northern army (**Joel 2:20**)
  - There are those commentaries and biblical scholars who believe this is another swarm of locust
  - The language and context, however, make this argument less than convincing
    - Israel was used to armies coming to invade from the north
    - The Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks and eventually the Romans
    - It is not possible to state with certainty who Joel is referring to
    - But he makes it clear that an invading army is coming
  - This prophetic word proves true as in 586 – 244 years later, the Babylonians would conquer Judah, and the people would be scattered or taken captive

But there is a particular phrase I would like to examine this morning that Joel utilizes speaking of a time yet to come

## READ – Joel 2:28-32 (Roxanne Crawford)

Let's begin with the first two words Roxanne read...

- *And afterward*
  - This marks a transition from what Judah's struggle had been in the natural, one that God restored in 2:25-26 to a new thing that will happen to all of humanity at a future time
    - Important point: God is a restorer of all things
      - His love is shown by His desire to see us restored
      - It began in the Garden of Eden
        - Even as the curse for the sin is being pronounced, God is speaking of a time when evil (the serpent) will be defeated
        - That was fulfilled when Jesus died for us on the cross (bruise His heel) and Satan/sin/death was defeated (He will crush your head)
        - It continues through the Scriptures as God again and again provides for His people even when they continue to turn their backs on Him
        - And that restoration continues today
  - On December 9, 2007 at New Life Church in Colorado Springs, there was a shooting not long after the service concluded. Several people in the church parking lot and building were shot leaving three dead and three wounded. The young man who had done the shooting then killed himself after being shot and

wounded by a security guard. Prior to coming to the church, he had entered Youth With A Mission Headquarters in suburban Denver, shooting four and killing two. His name was Matthew Murray, and he had been raised in a Christian home.

Recounting in an interview not long after regarding the events of that day, the Senior Pastor, Brady Boyd, said he called Murray's parents and asked if they would like to come to New Life and see where 'their son had passed away.' They were also asked if they would be willing to meet with members of the family who had lost two teenage daughters that morning. They said they had wanted to but had refrained from reaching out because of their concerns for the church. After showing the Murrays around the church where the tragic events took place, they met with the families in Boyd's office. "What happened there in those two hours in my office...was the most significant ministry moment I've ever experienced," Boyd said. When they first entered the office, the two families embraced. They sat and talked, they wept, and cried together, Boyd said, for "I don't know how long." Then they prayed.

Later Jeanne Assam, the security guard and former police officer who shot Murray was invited to join them. When Jeanne, who had undoubtedly saved many lives but had been forced to shoot the Murray's son, walked into the room, the Murrays embraced her, hugged her, and released her from any guilt and remorse. The dad looked at Jeanne and said, "Please

know we're so sorry that you had to do what you did. We're so sorry.”

The article concludes with Pastor Boyd's words: “We can talk philosophically about repentance and redemption and going forward with God, but what I saw in my office that day was the greatest testimony of forgiveness and redemption I have ever seen. It was a clear and powerful testimony that God really can restore and redeem.”

- Joel then writes of what will happen when God says, *I will pour out my Spirit on all people.* (2:28)
  - Joel is conveying a promise of God that the Holy Spirit would be given and poured out on all people
    - What do we see in this single sentence?
      - First, God is the giver of the gift of the Holy Spirit
        - To operate or live your life in the power of the HS is not something that you manufacture
        - Which is why humility of the individual is vitally important for the gift to operate properly
        - Caution against those who claim this for themselves
        - “I prayed/laid my hands on them, and they were healed.”
        - Anything that promotes the instrument of the healing and not the Healer is not of God

- Second, God's power is demonstrated in the time it would happen
  - God is not bound by the restrictions of our minds and bodies
  - Our life is contained within a flowing, lateral movement of time
  - IOW, we cannot go forward or back within the timeline of existence
  - God can – it is the definition of the word omnipresent which, in part, describe the nature of God
  - He is present not only in all times – past, present, and future – but He is present in them all at the same time
  - God says in this verse what will occur will be at a later time
- Third, the gift will be poured out
  - When you pour water out of a container onto the ground, does it stay in one place?
  - No - it splashes and runs in all directions
  - So too, God's gift of the Spirit would not be contained in one city, one region, one nation – it would spread everywhere to everyone
  - **Isa 44:3** - *For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.*

- The prophet Isaiah is writing this as an encouraging word from God to the people of Israel, His chosen people
    - And because of Jesus we too are His people and His words then are for us today
  - **Matt 28:19-20** - *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*
- Finally, the outpouring will be over all people
  - This simply means that it will not be for the Jews only
  - It will not be only for those who comply with the law
  - It will be for both Jew and Gentile – IOW – everyone!
  - In the original language, ‘all people’ translates to every living being
  - Just as God’s love and salvation through Jesus Christ is for all people, so too this outpouring of the Spirit would be
- Because this is a word for the future, how did it play out over time?
  - To see the fulfillment, we turn to **Acts 2:14**

○ **READ** – Acts 2:14-21

The words of Joel were fulfilled at the time of Pentecost when the coming of the Holy Spirit, promised by Jesus before He left the disciples to return to the Father, came to pass