***“Whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered”***

***Joel 2:28-32 & Acts 2:14-21***

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Introduction: This morning we did an overview of the Book of Joel, asking the question: “How do you respond to disaster?” The lessons for us from the Day of the Lord are to listen to the voice of God (He is “shouting”), listen to the Word of God (He is Sovereign), & listen to the warnings from God (He is Savior). Wiersbe outlines the Book of Joel uniquely: (1) the immediate Day of the Lord in 1:1-20; (2) the imminent Day of the Lord in 2:1-27; & (3) the ultimate Day of the Lord in 2:28-3:21. He then suggests that 2:28-32 is dealing with “before the ultimate Day of the Lord” (& suggests “during that day” where judgment is poured out in 3:1-16; concluding with “after that day” where blessing is poured out in 3:17-21). Our attention tonight is just upon this prophecy of Joel in 2:28-32 that is quoted by Peter in Acts 2:14-21. Note first of all Peter’s familiarity with the O.T. prophets (even though he was by trade a fisherman). And then consider Peter’s application of the prophecy to his day.

I. The **interpretation** of Joel’s prophecy in his day.

A. The immediate context > *“afterward”*

1. After the Assyrian invasion (capture of the Northern Kingdom of Israel & the deliverance of

the Southern Kingdom of Judah under Hezekiah).

2. Analysis of *“in those days”* (2:29 & *“last days”* of Acts 2:17):

a. The *“last days”* began with Christ’s ministry on earth– Hebrews 1:1-2.

b. The *“last days”* continue until the Day of the Lord (Tribulation & Second Coming of

Christ).

B. The ultimate fulfilment of > *“I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh…”*

1. It is foreshadowed in Acts 2:14-21.

2. It is fulfilled in Revelation 4-19.

II. The **application** of Joel’s prophecy in Peter’s day (Acts 2:1-40):

A. Peter’s defense of what took place on Pentecost (2:1-13) >

1. The acclamation: *“the wonderful works of God”* proclaimed in 15-17 different languages.

2. The amazement: *“What meaneth this?”*

3. The accusation: *“These men are full of new wine”* (they are drunk).

B. Peter’s description of what took place on Pentecost (2:14-20) >

1. The partial fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy? (2:16).

2. The practical illustration from Joel’s prophecy?

a. The Spirit of God is in Peter’s day poured out on all men who will be saved.

b. The Spirit of God from then until now indwells the believer (cf. Romans 8:9).

C. Peter’s deduction from what took place on Pentecost (2:21-40) >

*“And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*

1. Consider the declaration of the Gospel by Peter (2:22-36).

2. Compare the invitation of the Gospel by Peter (2:37-40). [& cf. Romans 10:13.]

III. The **fulfillment** of Joel’s prophecy in the *“last days”*:

A. There will be tribulation (see Revelation 4-19).

B. There will be exaltation (see Isaiah 2:1-5 & Micah 4:1-5).

Conclusion: So what does this prophecy have to do with us? Whether Acts 2:14-21 is a partial fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy in 2:28-32 or if it is a practical illustration of that prophecy, the important truths for us are the **pouring** out of God’s Spirit upon all people & the **promise** that whosoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved. The believer today is already indwelt by the Spirit of God (I Cor. 6:19-20 & Rom. 8:9) yet needs the daily infilling of the Spirit (Eph. 5:18). To be *“filled with the Spirit”* is a present & continual command, daily to be yielded & controlled by the Spirit in everyday life. Why is this so important? We need the power of the Spirit to witness (Acts 1:8, *“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: & ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, & in all Judea, & in Samaria, & unto the uttermost part of the earth”*). We need the illumination of the Spirit to understand God’s Word (John 16:13, *“Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth…”* & cf. I John 2:27, *“But the anointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you, & ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, & is truth, & is no lie, & even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in Him.”*). We need the intercession of the Spirit in order to pray in God’s will (Romans 8:26-27, *“…And He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”*). And we need the fruit of the Spirit in order to develop Christian character (Galatians 5:22-23, *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law…”*).

Wiersbe concludes, “We need to be praying for revival, a deeper working of the Spirit in His people, leading to confession of sins, repentance, forgiveness, & unity.” How about you tonight? Is the Spirit of God dwelling in you? Do you know for sure you have been born again? If so, are you yielding to the Spirit’s control each day to enable you to live the Christian life? Are you depending upon Him for power to witness, for illumination to understand Scripture, for intercession to pray in God’s will, & for fruit to be evidenced in Christian conduct? I ask in the words of the song writer: “Do you really want revival?”