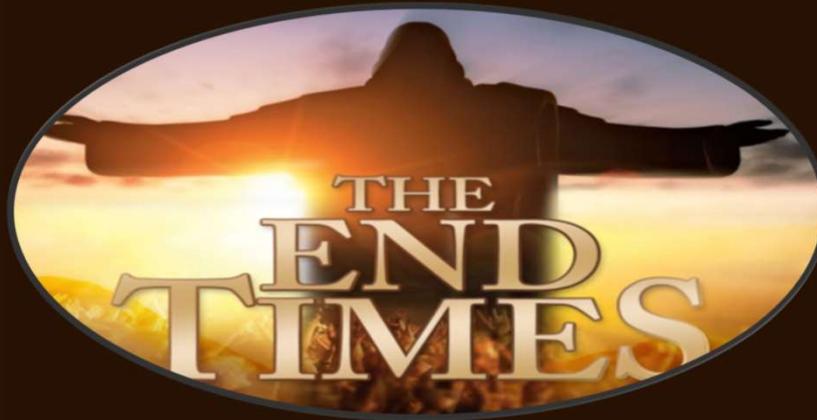


SRMBC FAMILY BIBLE STUDY



Practical Heavenly Mindedness

SOLID ROCK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

8000 Derry Street (Rear)

Harrisburg PA 17111

1

Study Schedule Apr – May 2020

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lesson Title</u>	<u>Scriptures</u>
4/15/2020	The Last Days Are Here!	Acts 2
4/22/2020	He Will Come Back	John 14:1-27
4/29/2020	Waiting With Hope	Matt. 25:1 -13; 31 – 46
5/6/2020	God's Timing—and Ours	Joel 2:12-32
5/13/2020	The Future of the Human Person	1 Cor. 15:12-28, 35-44, 58
5/20/2020	Investing in Heaven	1 Thess. 4:13—5:11; 2 Thess. 3:6-18
5/27/2020	Going to the Lamb's Wedding	Rev. 7:9-17; 19:1-10; 21:1-9



2

This Week's Lesson – May 6, 2020

The End Times:

Practical Heavenly Mindedness

Lesson 4: **God's Timing—and Ours**

Joel 2:12 – 32



3

"What is Christian Eschatology/Last Days?"

Eschatology - is the study of what the Bible says is going to happen in the end times.

Last Days – Refers to the period of Grace (after the death, burial & resurrection of Christ) before the final Judgement.

End Times - The series of events – leading up to the Final Judgement.



4

Introduction to The Book of Joel

Author: The “Minor” Prophet Joel (Joel 1:1).

Date of Writing: between 835 and 800 B.C.

Purpose of Writing: Joel s highlighted by 2 major events: 1) Invasion of locusts in Judah 2) the outpouring of the Spirit.

Practical Application:

- Without repentance, judgment will be harsh, thorough, and certain.
- God at times may use nature, sorrow, or other means to draw back to Him.
- God has provided the definitive plan for our salvation—Jesus Christ



The Prophet
Joel



5

What Is Repentance?

Repentance in the Bible means a complete change of mind, heart, and actions – a turning away from sin/self to God.

6

The Timeline Of The Book Of Joel

Divisions	The Day Of The Lord		The Judgement of the Nations	The Blessing of God's People
Topics	Chapters 1 – 2		3:1 - 3:17	3:18 – 3:21
	Locusts Invade	Locusts Described	Valley of Decision	
	Joel Speaks		Jehovah Speaks	
Place	Judah and Jerusalem			



7

Read Joel 2:12 – 27

8

Joel 2:12 – 15 (NKJV)

12 “Now, therefore,” says the Lord, “Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.”

13 So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the Lord your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm.

14 Who knows if He will turn and relent, And leave a blessing behind Him— A grain offering and a drink offering For the Lord your God?



15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly;

9

Joel 2:16 – 18 (NKJV)

16 Gather the people, Sanctify the congregation, Assemble the elders, Gather the children and nursing babes; Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, And the bride from her dressing room.

17 Let the priests, who minister to the Lord, Weep between the porch and the altar; Let them say, “Spare Your people, O Lord, And do not give Your heritage to reproach, That the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’ ”



18 Then the Lord will be zealous for His land, And pity His people.

10

Joel 2:16 – 18 (NKJV)

19 The Lord will answer and say to His people, “Behold, I will send you grain and new wine and oil, And you will be satisfied by them; I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations.

20 “But I will remove far from you the northern army, And will drive him away into a barren and desolate land, With his face toward the eastern sea And his back toward the western sea; His stench will come up, And his foul odor will rise, Because he has done monstrous things.”



21 Fear not, O land; Be glad and rejoice, For the Lord has done marvelous things!

11

Joel 2:22 – 24 (NKJV)

22 Do not be afraid, you beasts of the field; For the open pastures are springing up, And the tree bears its fruit; The fig tree and the vine yield their strength.

23 Be glad then, you children of Zion, And rejoice in the Lord your God; For He has given you the former rain faithfully, And He will cause the rain to come down for you— The former rain, And the latter rain in the first month.

24 The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, And the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil.



12

Joel 2:25 – 27 (NKJV)

25 “So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, The crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you.

26 You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, And praise the name of the Lord your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; And My people shall never be put to shame.

27 Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the Lord your God And there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame.



13

1. On what characteristics of God does Joel base his promise that God will alter his present course of total judgment (vv. 12-17)?

- Loving/Just – God has a love for His creation – balanced by a Love for His righteousness.
- Gracious – God is willing to give His creation blessings we do not deserve.
- Merciful – God is willing to not give His creation the judgment we do deserve.
- Slow To Anger – He continually gives us “another chance” (not license to sin).



14

1. On what characteristics of God does Joel base his promise that God will alter his present course of total judgment (vv. 12-17)?

- **Great Kindness** – God knows our weaknesses instead of pushing us down he will lift us up.
- **Good** – God can be trusted to always do what is good toward us and for us.
- **Availability** - Even if we turn from God – He is always available/near to us and will hear us when we call.



15

2. What sins of a people or a nation would require such a dramatic change of direction?

- **Worldliness**: Bringing the World's ways and thinking into the house of the Lord.
- **Prayerlessness**: Refusal to Seek God's will for our lives (doing our own thing).
- **Lasciviousness**: Living by fleshly desires (sexual sins, greed, gluttony, gossip, selfishness...).
- **Lawlessness**: Breaking of God's laws (Murder, Theft, Injustice, Mistreatment of the poor, elderly, children...).



16

3. What material blessings wait for the Lord's people if they repent (vv. 18-27)?

- Protection – God will fight Our battles and beat back our enemies (vv. 20, 22).
- Provision – what we need – figs, oil, wine, grain, rain (vv. 19, 22 – 24).
- Restoration – Time/opportunity, relationship to God, faith and joy (vv. 19, 25 – 26).
- Celebration – Reasons to rejoice – seeing who God is and what He has done (vv. 21, 23, 26).



17

Read Joel 2:28 – 32

18

Joel 2:22 – 24 (NKJV)

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.

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



19

Joel 2:22 – 24 (NKJV)

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.

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.



20

5. What supernatural benefits will come to Israel “afterward”?

- **Spiritual Visitation** – The Holy Spirit in the hearts and minds of God’s people (vv. 28 – 29; Cf. Acts 2).
- **Scriptural Proclamation** – All people will be empowered to proclaim the Word (v. 28).
- **Supernatural Demonstration** – Signs in the earth that God is shaking the world (vv. 30 - 31).
- **Sustainable/Obtainable Salvation** – Worldwide Evangelism via faith in the Lord. (v. 32; Cf. Jn. 12:32)



21

6. In what ways does Joel’s prophecy of an Old Testament “Pentecost” go beyond the normal experience of the people of God before Christ?

- In the OT, The Holy Spirit only manifested on people certain times – The Spirit would now be on everyone.
- The Word/Visions of the Lord would not just come from the Prophets but from everyone (even the women).
- Salvation would not just be available to the Jews – but to everyone (Incl. Gentiles).



22

7. Why are repentance and calling on the name of the Lord (Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21) so essential at the time of God's intervention?

- **Preparation** – Getting our hearts, and lives ready for the next season of God's move.
- **Position** – To be in the right place and at the right time - in line with God's Will/Word.
- **Participation** – To in step/partnership with God's Purpose and plans.



23

8. What answer can you give to the person who wonders whether God will restore in their life "the years the locusts have eaten" (v. 25)?

- We must understand that the prophecy includes relief from judgment for God's people.
- Apart from Christ, a person can only anticipate the terror of God's judgment.
- We need to trust that God's timing overrides seasons, clock and calendar time.



24

9. What practical steps can you take to be ready, like the righteous, for the coming of Jesus – The Son of Man?

- **Reflection** – Ask the Lord to search our hearts and bring sin to our attention (Ps. 139:23 - 24).
- **Confession** – Agree with God about our sin and receive forgiveness (I Jn. 1:8 – 9).
- **Consecration** – Recommit our lives to the work of the Lord (Tit. 2:11 – 14).
- **Anticipation** – Live in light of the Lord’s Coming again (I Pet. 1:6 – 9).



25

Keys For Living

- Because God is Holy and Just, He must bring Judgment against sin. But, because He also full of Grace and Mercy He will restore when we call out to Him.
- Just as He promised in OT God has poured out His Spirit upon all who put their faith in Christ as down-payment for our full and future restoration.
- When God’s people confess and repent of their sins, God can be trusted to forgive, cleanse and restore (II Chron 7:14, I John 1:9).



26



27